

# What's the Risk?

## Distracted Driving of Farm Equipment



### THE ISSUE

Driving farm equipment on the road can be dangerous for both the farm equipment operator and for operators of other vehicles. Speeding and lack of attention are issues we all must deal with regarding traffic however, the danger is far greater when the operator of the farm equipment is distracted. A split second of inattention caused by answering a call or text message when driving a piece of farm equipment on public roads, can spell disaster and unfortunately it happens far too often.



### WHAT'S THE RISK?

Farm equipment is generally much larger and heavier than other vehicles on the road and with more moving parts. Pulling gravity wagons or towing other equipment increases the risk due to the length of the equipment and the blind spots created. When you couple this with distracted driving, the risk of an accident increases greatly.



### WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Know the rules. Distracted driving rules for farm equipment vary by province.

Remember, the absence or presence of distracted driving rules for farm equipment does not absolve you of liability if you negligently operate farm equipment on the road.

Some tips you can use to avoid being distracted while on the road are:

- Turn off your phone or switch it to silent mode before you get in the cab of a tractor, combine, or other farm equipment.
- Block incoming calls and texts while you are on the road; or set your phone to send automatic replies to people trying to call or text you while you are driving.
- Silence notifications that tempt you to check your phone and place your phone out of reach.
- Watch for distracted drivers who may not see you.
- Be aware of driver fatigue. Working long hours then driving while you are tired is a risk you shouldn't take.
- Don't let high-tech operating systems or anything else inside the cab distract you while driving. Always be alert!

