# A screen shot of a computer  Description automatically generatedTractor Safety

# Rollover Prevention and Safe Practices

Rollovers are a leading cause of tractor fatalities and can happen in the blink of an eye. There are two types of rollovers, a rearward rollover and a sideways rollover. A rearward rollover occurs when a tractor flips toward the rear due to actions such as accelerating too quickly on an incline or being over loaded in the rear. A sideways rollover can happen when a tractor turns too sharply or is operated on too steep of an incline. The wider the wheel base of the tractor, the more stable the tractor. In either type of rollover, a crucial piece of equipment that can mean the difference between life and death is a Roll-Over Protection Structure (ROPS). ROPS are operator protection structures, usually forming the cab or cab frame, on a tractor. The Roll-Over Protection System, which includes the structure and proper seat belt use, can eliminate nearly all fatalities caused by rollovers. If you have an older tractor model that does not have a cab or frame, a ROPS can be retrofitted to your tractor. There are many companies that provide engineer-certified Roll-Over Protection Structures for purchase and installation. Below are several tips to prevent a rollover:

* Properly stabilizing the tractor with counter weights. Weight systems for the frontend and wheels are available options that add greater stability.
* Avoid driving up very steep inclines. If a steep incline is unavoidable try slowly backing the tractor up the incline.
* Accelerating in a gradual, smooth manner. Avoid abrupt accelerations such as “dumping” the clutch at a high rpm.
* Properly loading the tractor by the correct usage of the draw bar. Always follow manufacturer recommended loading capacities.
* Avoid driving laterally on hillsides especially while pulling an implement such as a brush mower.
* Avoid operating the tractor too close to the edge of a road, ditch, ravine, etc.
* Ensure the tractor being operated has good tire tread for adequate traction.
* Avoid traveling on a road or highway at excessive speeds as this greatly increases the chance of a high speed rollover.

These tips are not the only safe working practices surrounding tractor operation and rollover prevention. However, they are critical considerations for all types of tractors and should be reviewed before operation. It is critical to keep your tractor outfitted with adequate safety features to protect both family and employees.

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