Agriculture & Landscaping: Machinery, Terrain and Weather Risks Stats and Facts

FACTS

1. Rollover Hazard: Tractors, mowers, and utility vehicles can overturn on slopes, uneven ground, or soft soil, crushing operators or bystanders.
2. PTO & Moving Parts Exposure: Power take-off shafts, belts, and rotating blades can entangle clothing, hair, or limbs within seconds.
3. Terrain Instability: Ditches, embankments, irrigation channels, and hidden holes increase tip-over and fall risk during field operations.
4. Struck-By Equipment: Workers on foot face high risk when operating near loaders, skid steers, or backing vehicles with limited visibility.
5. Weather Exposure: Heat, lightning, high winds, and sudden storms increase slip risk, equipment instability, and heat-related illness.
6. Chemical Contact: Pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers can cause skin, eye, or respiratory injury during mixing, spraying, or drift exposure.

STATS

- Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting consistently rank among the highest fatal injury rates in the United States, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2022–2023).
- Tractor overturns account for over 100 U.S. fatalities annually, remaining a leading cause of farm deaths (NIOSH agricultural injury surveillance).
- The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

reports that agricultural workers have a fatality rate over 7 times higher than the average U.S. worker.

- In Canada, agriculture remains one of the most hazardous industries, with dozens of traumatic fatalities each year, summarized by the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.
- Tractor rollovers remain a leading cause of farm fatalities in Canada, accounting for ~17% of work-related deaths; in the US, powered haulage (including tractors on slopes/terrain) contributed to 4 of 10 mining/ag-related deaths in early 2025.