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| Revision #:  Written by: | Date: Month DD, YYYY  Approved by: |

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| **Related Documents:** | Refer to tractor operation SWP and the SWP of the implement being used. | |
| **When to use this WWP:** | This safe work practice is designed to be used when attaching an implement to a tractor. While certain pieces of equipment may require some specific practices, this should be used as a general guideline only. | |
| **Hazards & Risks:** | * Pining * Pinch points * Hazards to feet * Runover * Rollover | |
| **Personal Protective Equipment:** | CSA Approved   * Steel-toe footwear * Hearing protection * High Visibility Clothing | |
| **Training Requirements:** | * In-house training on implement hitching * Class 8 or higher Driver’s License, if operating tractor | |
| **Communication Process:** | When working with another person hitching a tractor implement, be sure everyone understands the hand signals used. If working alone, be sure to be familiar with the Working Alone Policy. | |
| **Equipment & Supplies:** | * Cell phone or 2-way radio | |
| **Practice:**   1. Read and follow the operator’s manual for both the tractor and implement to be hitched. 2. Ensure the implement and tractor are appropriately matched. An implement that is too large for the tractor could cause a serious incident. 3. Check the area for hazards and implement controls. 4. Perform a pre-operational check of both the implement and the tractor, as per manufacturer’s specifications prior to hitching equipment. 5. Ensure all proper safeguards and safety devices are in place and in working condition. 6. Ensure the pin used is the correct size for the implement and tractor combination. 7. The implement should be positioned so it is aligned with the tractor, adjust the height accordingly. 8. The tractor should be backed up slowly towards the implement hitch with the tractor “square” to the implement.    1. If you are alone       1. Establish a call-back procedure with someone       2. When close (1ft), stop the tractor and engage parking brake and turn-off tractor       3. Dismount and adjust the implement if misaligned       4. Return to tractor and align the tractor to the implement       5. Once aligned, insert the hitch pin and install the pin positioning lock.    2. If you have a helper:       1. Ensure the helper remains safely outside the path of the tractor       2. Back up slowly       3. Once you are close (1ft) from the implement put the tractor in park, set the parking brake and signal for the helper to check the alignment       4. Once the helper is safely out of the way, back up slowly until the implement is completely aligned       5. Put the tractor in park, insert the hitch pin and install the positioning lock.   Hitch pins are made of special materials for maximum strength, toughness and durability. Never use bolts or another substitute.   1. Connect the safety chain    1. Minimum chain strength should be at least the weight of the implement being towed.   Three-Point Hitch Connection   1. Ensure the lower hitch points are positioned correctly for the implement. 2. Use the proper category bushing for the tractor and implement connection. 3. When close to the implement, assess the alignment and adjust the control arms and/or implement position accordingly. You should not have to lift the equipment in place. 4. Once aligned, slide the lower arm holes onto the pins and fasten lock clips. 5. Align the top link hole with the top pin (can usually be done by manually turning the threaded adjustment. Be sure to adjust evenly). Insert pin and fast lock clips. 6. After the connection is made, slowly raise and lower the implement to check for any interference between the tractor and the implement.   Power-Take-Off Connection   1. Never operate the PTO while someone is near. Always wear tight fitting clothing. 2. Ensure drawbar is positioned appropriately for the implement. Turn off the tractor. 3. Ensure the proper PTO shaft is on the tractor for the implement (e.g. 540rpm vs. 1000rpm). 4. Ensure the master PTO shield is in place. 5. Ensure the driveline and shaft are in good condition. 6. After the equipment is hitched to the drawbar or hitch, attach the PTO shaft. 7. Slide the PTO driveline onto the shaft making sure that it is properly aligned. Verify the implement driveline has locked onto the shaft by pulling back and forth. 8. When disconnecting the PTO, park and turn off the tractor. Release the PTO lock and slide the shaft back. Be sure to position the PTO so that it will not fall when stored.   Hydraulic Connections   1. Always wear gloves and safety glasses. 2. The implement should be hitched to the tractor prior to connecting the hydraulics. 3. Clean both fittings prior to connecting. Inspect the fittings and hoses to ensure they are not damaged, kinked or showing signs of abrasion. 4. Do not relieve built up pressure by impacting the tip of the male coupler. 5. When checking for hydraulic leaks use a piece of paper/cardboard to locate the leak. Fluid penetration through the skin is a risk. 6. When transporting a piece of equipment with hydraulics, ensure the safety locks/stops are engaged to ensure the hydraulic component does not accidently move during transport. 7. When disconnecting hydraulics, lower the implement to its working position or engage the safety locks and relieve the hydraulic pressure.   Electrical Connection   1. Ensure the tractor and implement plug match. 2. Check plug and cord for wear. If damaged, have a competent person make repairs. 3. Lineup the mating slides and slide connections together. 4. Ensure connection and cord are secure. 5. Ensure all electrical components are working properly before moving the equipment. | | |
| **Emergency Procedures:** | | In case of emergency, contact 911 and your supervisor immediately. Remove yourself from harm’s way and ensure no one else is at risk. |