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Monthly Safety Blast
Hay! Watch Where You Are Going!
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Transporting hay is a necessary and fairly common task for farmers and ranchers. It is the type of task we do often enough to take for granted. However, a round bale can weigh between 1,200 to 2,200 pounds. If handled incorrectly, a bale could land on a person and have fatal consequences.

Keep these rules in mind to keep you, your workers and your family safe.

- Check that the couplings between tractors and trailers are properly secured.
- Do not move partly loaded trailers over slopes or areas of rough ground which could cause bales to be dislodged.
- Determine and inspect driving routes over pasture land in advance and instruct drivers accordingly.
- Plan road travel to avoid overhead obstructions, such as trees and low bridges.
- When transporting bales by tractor and attachment, carry the bale as low as practicable to the ground.
- Tractor stability may be affected if carrying bales at raised heights over uneven terrain or turning too sharply.
- If stopping to open gates, lower the load to the ground before getting off the tractor.
- Ensure people in the vicinity are clear of the driving route during transportation.
- Travel at a safe speed.
- Ensure that no one rides on any machinery, particular the drawbars of trailer units.

References:

Check out these tips and more information on safe hay handling at <http://www.osh.govt.nz/order/catalogue/pdf/haybales.pdf>.



For more information, contact the SW Ag Center by phone at 903-877-5998 or by email at agcenter@uthct.edu.

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