Operating a Tractor

Can youth do this job safely?

Youth must be able to do/have all of the following to perform this job safely:

- Reach and operate controls while wearing a seatbelt
- Strength to repeatedly operate controls
- Tall enough for good field of vision when seated on tractor
- Understand and consistently repeat a 10-step process
- Recognize a hazard, problem solve, and respond appropriately
- React quickly to hazards
- Mature enough to consistently do what is expected
- Think through actions and consequences before acting
- Avoid loose clothing, clothes with strings, tie up long hair
- Comply with the working outdoors guideline
- Safely demonstrate the job 4 to 5 times
- Maintain two-way communication link



Adult Responsibilities

- Ensure tractor is mechanically sound and safety features are in place, including ROPS
- Review developmental guidelines to verify youth's ability to operate tractor
- Demonstrate how to safely drive tractor
- Provide appropriate training
- Educate youth to mount tractor using 3 points of contact
- Ensure work area is free from as many hazards as possible
- Educate youth on avoiding/addressing remaining hazards
- Ensure youth does not operate tractor after dark/in bad weather
- Train youth to call an adult if equipment malfunctions

Supervision

Note: Ensure tractor is sized appropriately for youth. Youth must be 16+ years to drive an articulated tractor. See Tractor Operations Chart for guidance.

14-15 yrs	Intermittent supervision progressing to periodic
16+ yrs	Periodic supervision

Hazards



High speed | Extra riders | Rollover | Run-over | Collision with objects

Protective Strategies



Seatbelt | Non-skid shoes | Operator's manual | Hearing protection (if needed) | Respiratory protection (if needed)

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