Sociocultural Factors & Tractors

Sociocultural Influences for Youth

- Children's behavior is influenced by a range of sociocultural influences that may impact their safety while operating tractors.
- Children use technology frequently, and devices such as smartphones can distract them while operating tractors.
- Children need more sleep than adults, and adolescents have a circadian rhythm that makes it difficult to awaken early. Fatigue can influence safety.
- Children may prefer attire and hair styles that create risk while operating tractors.



How Sociocultural Factors Can Influence Youth Safety on Tractors

Tendency Towards Distraction

- Children frequently use smartphones and other electronic devices to communicate, play games, and listen to music.
- Technology can distract youth when they need to focus on a different task, such as operating a tractor.

Fatigue and Sleep

- Youth in North America rarely get the sleep their bodies need.
- Adolescents often have a biologically-driven circadian rhythm that leads them to stay up late and sleep late.
- Fatigue, both chronic and acute, can lead to inattention, risk-taking, poor concentration, and simple mistakes.
- Fatigue is a significant risk for tractor operation safety.

Clothing and Hairstyles

- Children and adolescents prefer to look fashionable, sometimes to the point that they ignore safety.
- Wearing loose or tattered clothing can create risk when operating a tractor.
- Loose drawstrings or hair that is not pulled up can create risk when operating a tractor.
- Dangerous choices in fashion and hairstyles can be reinforced through peer pressure.

See Operating a Tractor to determine if a youth is capable of safely operating a tractor.

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