

Innovative and Digital Training Materials to Foster Land Mobility Initiatives

Module 4 – Farm Management



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Farm management

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I. Introduction

Agriculture is an essential sector in the European Union as it produces an enormous amount of food products. Additionally, it is preserving the environment, protected areas, and rural districts. According to the International Labor Organization, agriculture has been characterized as covering all activities directly associated with growing, cultivating, harvesting, and primary processing of agricultural products, animals, and livestock breeding.

Transport in the agricultural sector is specific both because of cyclicity and transport routes (often field) as well as the transported cargo (livestock, perishable items). When determining the mean of transport, farmers must pay attention to the safety of the transported products (e.g. pigs or massive elements). The mechanization is particularly visible on these large farms, where many machines replace the work of human hands while helping to increase production and, consequently, profits.

II. General information

Many studies have been evaluated to check the role of tractor accidents in the past years concerning occupational safety in the agricultural sector. In the majority of them, the conclusion was that around 30% of the farmers were involved in an accident during the last five years. The main reasons for these events have been described to be rollovers, hits, and collisions. It was also marked that the farmers had a lack of knowledge considering the safe use of tractors. In some of them, the leading reason has been reported as the operator's carelessness.

As a consequence of the progressive mechanization in agriculture, it is not unusual to have daily contact with pesticides and other chemical plant protection products (e.g. sprayers connected to the tractor), which have a significant impact on the health of farmers and their families. Moreover, mechanization increases workers' exposure to noise and plant dust.

To reduce the risk of accidents, the machines are equipped with guards and housings. Machines used on the farm should be equipped with complete and undamaged guards. This will help to protect the operator from stroke or being caught by moving parts. All drive mechanisms, motors, pulleys and sprockets, belts, chains, shafts, gears, and many others should be covered.

III. Learning objectives

This module aims to train farmers along with agricultural authorities and, what is most important, raise awareness and on health and safety in agriculture. Main objectives are:

- Building up a bottom-up solution based on constant learning experiences, to support the development objections of the health & safety authorities and specialists in agriculture. This will enlarge the capacities and structures of agricultural experts, trainers, and most importantly, farmers on health and safety education.
- Supporting organizational development of the associates who have an opportunity to acquire new knowledge and know-how.
- Forming a network including farmers and farmers' associations considering more initiatives concerning health and safety. It would trigger an explicit and instant decrease in occupational risks at their farms.
- Giving guaranteed access to a network of relevant materials, international experts, professional trainers, and an information centre relevant to risk prevention in agriculture and health and safety.

SESSION 1 – FARM REGULATIONS

1.1. Farm regulations in EU

Health and safety is regulated all over Europe and is governed by national and European Community law (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.html> and http://osha.europa.eu/en/legislation/index_html/directives).

European Community law sets the minimum requirements which each Member State adopts or can expand accordingly. A number of European directives have been issued on health and safety dealing with:

- minimum standards for workplaces
- vibration
- electromagnetic fields
- manual handling
- biological, chemical and physical agents
- pregnant workers and young people
- work equipment
- visual display units
- personal protective equipment
- noise
- signs
- asbestos
- mobile sites (construction)

Health and safety legislation aims to improve working conditions, reduce work-related accidents and diseases and make workplaces safe and healthy for persons at work.

Although the underlying concept is the same in all EU Member States, national law and regulations may vary depending on the needs, characteristics and experiences of individual Member States.

Governmental responsibility related to health and safety lies with the Labour Inspectorate, Health Service or an equivalent body. It is important that you know your own national authority for occupational health and safety. Contact your local office for guidance and for further information on your responsibilities.

| S/N | Theme | Title | Ref. No |
|-----|--|---|---------------|
| 1 | Work equipment | Council Directive 89/656/EEC of 30 November 1989 on the minimum health and safety requirements for the use by workers of personal protective equipment at the workplace | 89/656/EEC |
| 2 | Work equipment | Council Directive 95/63/EC of 5 December 1995 amending Directive 89/655/EEC concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for the use of work equipment by workers at work | 95/63/EC |
| 3 | Work equipment | Directive 2001/45/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 amending Council Directive 89/655/EEC concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for the use of work equipment by workers at work | 2001/45/EC |
| 4 | Visual display units | Council Directive 90/270/EEC of 29 May 1990 on the minimum safety and health requirements for work with display screen equipment | 90/270/EEC |
| 5 | Vibration | Directive 2002/44/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2002 on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (vibration) | 2002/44/EC |
| 6 | Signs | Council Directive 92/58/EEC of 24 June 1992 on the minimum requirements for the provision of safety and/or health signs at work | 92/58/EEC |
| 7 | Pregnant workers | Council Directive 92/85/EEC of 19 October 1992 on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health at work of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding | 92/85/EEC |
| 8 | Physical agents | Directive 2006/25/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2006 on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to risks arising from physical agents | 2006/25/EC |
| 9 | Personal protective equipment | Council Directive 89/656/EEC of 30 November 1989 on the minimum health and safety requirements for the use by workers of personal protective equipment at the workplace | 86/656/EEC |
| 10 | Noise | Directive 2003/10/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 February 2003 on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (noise) | 2003/10/EC |
| 11 | Mineral extracting — drilling | Council Directive 92/91/EEC of 3 November 1992 concerning the minimum requirements for improving the safety and health protection of workers in the mineral-extracting industries through drilling | 92/91/EEC |
| 12 | Mineral extracting | Council Directive 92/104/EEC of 3 December 1992 on the minimum requirements for improving the safety and health protection of workers in surface and underground mineral-extracting industries | 92/104/EEC |
| 13 | Manual handling | Council Directive 90/269/EEC of 29 May 1990 on the minimum health and safety requirements for the manual handling of loads where there is a risk particularly of back injury to workers | 90/269/EEC |
| 14 | Ionising radiation | Council Directive 96/29/Euratom of 13 May 1996 laying down basic safety standards for the protection of the health of workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionizing radiation | 96/29/Euratom |
| 15 | Health and safety — minimum requirements | Council Directive 89/654/EEC of 30 November 1989 concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for the workplace | 89/654/EEC |
| 16 | Health and safety | Council Directive 89/391/EEC of 12 June 1989 on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work | 89/391/EEC |
| 17 | Fishing vessels — medical treatment on board | Council Directive 92/29/EEC of 31 March 1992 on the minimum safety and health requirements for improved medical treatment on board vessels | 92/29/EEC |
| 18 | Fishing vessels | Council Directive 93/103/EC of 23 November 1993 concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for work on board fishing vessels | 93/103/EC |
| 19 | Exposure limit values — second list | Commission Directive 2006/15/EC of 7 February 2006 establishing a second list of indicative occupational exposure limit values in implementation of Council Directive 98/24/EC and amending Directives 91/322/EEC and 2000/39/EC | 2006/15/EC |
| 20 | Exposure limit values — first list | Commission Directive 2000/39/EC of 8 June 2000 establishing a first list of indicative occupational exposure limit values in implementation of Council Directive 98/24/EC on the protection of the health and safety of workers from the risks related to chemical agents at work | 2000/39/EC |

| | | | |
|----|---|---|------------|
| 20 | Exposure limit values — first list | Commission Directive 2000/39/EC of 8 June 2000 establishing a first list of indicative occupational exposure limit values in implementation of Council Directive 98/24/EC on the protection of the health and safety of workers from the risks related to chemical agents at work | 2000/39/EC |
| 21 | Explosive atmospheres (ATEX) | Directive 1999/92/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 1999 on minimum requirements for improving the safety and health protection of workers potentially at risk from explosive atmospheres | 1999/92/EC |
| 22 | Employment relationship | Council Directive 91/383/EEC of 25 June 1991 supplementing the measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health at work of workers with a fixed-duration employment relationship or a temporary employment relationship | 91/383/EEC |
| 23 | Electromagnetic fields | Directive 2008/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2008 amending Directive 2004/40/EC on minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields) | 2008/46/EC |
| 24 | Electromagnetic fields | Directive 2004/40/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields) | 2004/40/EC |
| 25 | Construction sites | Council Directive 92/57/EEC of 24 June 1992 on the implementation of minimum safety and health requirements at temporary or mobile constructions sites | 92/57/EEC |
| 26 | Chemical, physical and biological agents | Commission Directive 91/322/EEC of 29 May 1991 on establishing indicative limit values by implementing Council Directive 80/1107/EEC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to chemical, physical and biological agents at work | 91/322/EEC |
| 27 | Chemical agents | Council Directive 98/24/EC of 7 April 1998 on the protection of the health and safety of workers from the risks related to chemical agents at work | 98/24/EC |
| 28 | Carcinogens and mutagens | Directive 2004/37/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work | 2004/37/EC |
| 29 | Carcinogens | Council Directive 90/394/EEC of 28 June 1990 on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens at work | 90/394/EEC |
| 30 | Biological agents | Directive 2000/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 September 2000 on the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to biological agents at work | 2000/54/EC |
| 31 | Asbestos | Council Directive 83/477/EEC of 19 September 1983 on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work | 83/477/EEC |
| 32 | Young people | Council Directive 94/33/EC of 22 June 1994 on the protection of young people at work | 94/33/EC |

Source: *Protecting health and safety of workers in agriculture, livestock farming, horticulture and forestry*; European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, August 2017.

1.1.1. Farm regulations in Poland

In Poland, a farmer is a person or a group of persons whose holding is located on the territory of the Republic of Poland and who conducts agricultural activity. For the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture it is also important to have a group of farmers, i.e. a group of persons conducting agricultural activity, who were granted an identification number under the provisions of the national system of register of producers, register of agricultural holdings and register of applications for the granting of payments. A farmer may become a manager – a person who does not carry out agricultural activity and owns 1 ha of natural areas and which was given an identification number on application for entry in the register of producers.

Polish law provides that only an agriculturally qualified person may become a farmer. Polish law According to the Act on Formation of the Agricultural System, a person is deemed to be agriculturally qualified if he/she has obtained:

- basic vocational, secondary or higher agricultural education, or
- a qualification or professional title or master's degree in a profession useful for agricultural activities and have at least 3 years of professional experience in agriculture, or
- non-agricultural higher education and at least 3 years' experience in agriculture, or non-agricultural higher education and post-graduate studies relating to agriculture, or non-agricultural secondary education and at least 3 years' experience in agriculture, or
- a level of primary, secondary or basic vocational education other than agricultural and have at least 5 years' experience in agriculture.

SESSION 2 – HEALTH AND SAFETY ON THE FARM

2.1. Automatic agricultural vehicles

The agricultural industry has reduced its workforce and costs by introducing larger and more complex machinery on bigger farms. Workers are now often operating machines that are on the limits of their ability to control them.

Such automation may be relatively simple in a factory but in an agricultural setting, the inconsistency of the terrain, the irregularity of the product, and the open nature of the working environment result in complex problems of identification, monitoring, and control. Problems can also include unauthorized individuals entering the working area, or ground conditions varying with the weather causing changes in wheel slip.

Recent technological advances have led to a renewal of interest in automating farm vehicles. There are now:

- cost-effective task-independent navigation systems
- cheap, efficient embedded vehicle computing components
- affordable Farm Management Software & Tools
- practical robotic, telepresence & artificial intelligence methodologies

Currently, some of these technologies are being applied successfully to what has come to be known as Precision Farming for tasks such as yield mapping and spatially variable herbicide or fertilizer application. Robotics is also finding success in farm applications as diverse as digging or fruit picking.

2.2. Children on the farm

Child labor means the employment of children at regular and sustained labor. This practice is seen as exploitative by many international organizations and is illegal in many countries. Children working in agriculture are exposed to agricultural production hazards not only through work activities but by living on a farm. There are over 200 million children engaged in child labor around the world, the majority are working in agriculture.

Young agricultural workers frequently work for long hours in heat, are exposed to toxic pesticides, haul heavy loads of produce, and are often injured from sharp knives and other dangerous tools. Another factor that may be the cause of an accident is leaving the kids unsupervised near machinery such as tractors or other vehicles.

Children are fascinated with big vehicles which can lead to accidents. Under no circumstances should it be allowed for them to ride or play on tractors and other pieces of farm machinery. One of the most known hazards is letting a child ride on farm machinery that is not designed for passengers. Children should also not operate machinery until they are completely safety trained. Unremoved ignition keys from parked equipment and unlocked brakes may lead to serious consequences.

2.3. Basic concepts of agricultural health & safety

Agriculture is known to be one of the most important sectors worldwide - in terms of supplying foods - but also in terms of employing many workers. Agriculture is one of the sectors with a high risk of exposure to factors or work conditions that influence health. Agriculture employs about one billion workers and is considered one of the most hazardous sectors in both developing and developed countries. It has extremely high rates of accidental deaths, work-related illnesses, and injuries.

2.3.1. Tractor hazards

Tractors are a primary source of work-related injury on farms, however, not all of the injuries happen while the tractor is being used for work.

Tractor overturns are one major hazard group and account for the most farm-work fatalities. Approximately 50% of tractor fatalities come from tractors turning over either sideways or backward.

There are three popular types of tractor runaway incidents:

- when a passenger (extra rider) on the tractor falls off. Extra rider incidents happen because there is only one safe place for a person to be on a tractor, and that is in the operator's seat.
- when the tractor operator either falls off the tractor as it is operating or is knocked out of the seat by a low-hanging tree branch or another obstacle. This most often happens on older tractors that do not have a Roll-Over Protection Structure and have an older seat that has no arm or backrest.
- when a person who is on the ground near a tractor gets run over. This may include the tractor operator who tries to start a tractor from the ground while the tractor is in gear. This usually involves an older tractor that can be started in gear or a newer tractor when an operator attempts to bypass a newer tractor's safe start-up design.

2.3.2. Rototiller hazards

Walk-behind rotary tillers are electric or gas-powered machines designed to cut and blend the soil by power-driven rotary action. The cutting power necessary for these machines to break hard ground or cultivate loose soil is enough to do serious harm if not used properly.

Most accidents happen when the operator does not clear away rocks, sticks, and other loose foreign items that can be hazardous. Another situation is when they leave sod mixed in with the soil. The grass can become tangled and may cause an accident while removing it.

Another hazard is not wearing protective goggles or safety glasses with side shields to protect eyes from possible objects thrown from the tiller tines. To improve footing on slippery surfaces safety shoes with non-slip soles should also be worn. It is forbidden to use the machine wearing open-toe shoes or while barefoot. Short pants and bare hands, as well as no ear protection, are another risk factor.

2.3.3. Harvester hazards

Safe completion of any task depends on knowledge, hazard awareness, and alertness. It is natural for us to take pride in our ability to work long hours in pursuit of a goal. Nowhere is this more evident than in harvesting operations. However, fatigue, drowsiness, and illness frequently contribute to mishaps in the field.

Harvester operators often do not recognize when they have "had enough" and rely on stimulants to keep them going or take depressants to calm their nerves. Drugs and alcohol are also used to work against the keen awareness.

Furthermore, operators should be dressed for comfort and safety, yet sometimes they forget about protective footwear and close-fitting clothes when working in and around machinery. Also, they are exposed to risks by not wearing appropriate safety gear such as noise, dust, or toxic materials protection.

2.3.4. Trailer hazards

Driving a tractor-trailer requires special training and expertise. When truck drivers fail to operate their vehicles safely, the results can be catastrophic for the drivers and passengers in the vehicles around them.

Commercial truck drivers, like all motorists, have blind spots that make it difficult to see certain areas around the car while at the controls. These "no-zones," as they are commonly referred to, include the dangerous areas around trucks where accidents most frequently occur. Additional zones exist on either side of the truck, however, the exact boundaries on either side are undefined.

Large wind gusts created by large commercial vehicles are common factors in many tractor trailer-involved accidents. Keeping both hands on the steering wheel while passing or getting passed by a tractor trailer helps motorists maintain control of their cars despite these heavy gusts. It is also recommended to travel at a slower speed when passed or passing a tractor trailer as well. Doing so makes it easier for the driver to maintain control of the vehicle should the car be hit or affected by a sudden gust of wind.

2.4. General types of risk

Hazards connected to land mobility in agriculture may be divided into **three basic groups**:

- **fall,**

While walking towards a vehicle or getting off of it there is a risk of slippery and fall. Special boots may limit the hazard and prevent possible injury. Falls can cause broken bones, like wrist, ankle, arm, and hip fractures but also head injuries.

- **fall from heights,**

Stepping down the tractor seems to be easy but when you do it too confidently, you may miss a step and fall on the ground. Fall from height can be a major cause of personal injury, and in the worst scenario - cause of accidental death.

- **noise and vibrations,**

Exposure to vibrations occurs when the body is in contact with a vibrating element such as handles, seats, or floors. Low frequencies such as in the movement of vehicles such as tractors, forklifts, etc. can damage the inner ear and slow down the response time.

2.4.1. Specific hazards

- **tools**

Faulty tools, low-quality tools, misuse of tools are only a few examples of main risks related to the usage of tools that can happen on the farm. Inappropriate or even no training on how to use particular instruments may cause a serious accident, as there are not only basic, everyday tools but also some more advanced ones.

- **rotating elements**

Rotating motion can be threatening; even smooth, slowly rotating shafts can grip clothing and cause much harm. There are many rotating parts in the farm vehicles and injuries due to contact with them can be severe.

- **maintenance, adjustment, and repairs**

Regular inspection and service of agricultural vehicles are important to ensure continuity of farm work and to prevent accidents in the field and the workshop. However, workers can be seriously and even fatally injured while performing simple maintenance tasks and repairs to agricultural vehicles such as tractors. Particularly, the repair of vehicles out in the fields presents a great challenge and should be carried out with particular care.

- **electricity**

When operating machinery, the electric motors, switches, fuse-sockets, light points, switchboards, and other electrical connections shall be protected against dust, diesel, moisture, gas, and other factors that can be the cause of electric shock. It should also be kept in mind to be aware when driving under the electrical supply lines to not catch the vehicle on them.

Only **qualified electricians** should be employed to design, install, maintain, and repair electrical installations. Otherwise, the worker or the user of the facility runs a serious risk of electrocution and death.

- **fire**

The sources of fire hazards of agricultural machinery can be different but among the most common are damaged parts of the exhaust system, worn and frayed drive belts, which are a source of heat produced by friction, escaping flammable liquids, oils, fuel, and careless and unprofessional handling of open flames and flammable substances.

2.4.2. Workers prone to land mobility risks

Young workers very often lack experience and tend to be impulsive. Young workers need training and supervision until they become competent enough to drive a tractor or any other vehicle on the farm.

Elderly workers are more vulnerable to some conditions, like the weather. They may have also some limitations because of their age, or they may suffer from some chronic illnesses. Elderly farmers' strength, eyesight, hearing, reflexes, speed of movement, productive capacity may be diminished. Elderly workers need to be given work that is suitable for them and be provided with special supervision, especially when operating a machine.

Pregnant workers must be considered as not each work activity may be appropriate for them. Work must be safely carried out without exposure to any risk for the mother or the fetus.

Disabled workers must do only the job that is proper to their capabilities.

Family members might be also exposed to risk, especially when they are untrained. It should be forbidden for them to drive a vehicle on the farm as they are not competent nor trained for the task.

Also, **immigrant workers** often need to be taken into additional consider. Communication difficulties between seasonal workers may arise from the use of different languages and they may lead to misunderstandings and even to accidents. To lower the risk of hazard, critical safety and health information must be translated into the proper language of workers.

SESSION 3 – RISK ASSESSMENT

3.1. Risk assessment & prevention

The primary objective of risk assessment is to help understand farmers' exposure to risk and to provide a basis for developing appropriate solutions for transferring, mitigating, and dealing with agricultural risks. Risk management is a process that should be periodically reassessed as the basic conditions (e.g. risk dynamics, sensitivity levels) change over time.

Periodical risk assessments can provide valuable guidance to help design new plans and improve the existing ones.

3.1.1. General safety recommendations

Each hazard has its own rules to obey, but some recommendations can be applied in various situations. General recommendations for farmers are:

- purchasing high-quality tools
- periodic maintenance
- turning off all power sources when working with electricity
- checking the wear of belts, chains, and their replacement

3.1.2. Material transport prevention

When transporting material on public roads, the local traffic law must be obeyed. Most importantly, the total weight of the vehicle, trailer, and load must be consistent with the restrictions. It is not permitted to combine trailers into double sets. Tipping the load platform on one pin or with a total angle greater than 50 degrees is forbidden. It is unacceptable to exceed the vehicle's load capacity.

Furthermore, each vehicle must be technically suitable for road transport and marked with a special, triangular differentiating sign. It should also have work lights, designed to light up the workplace. Protruding parts, which may affect the stability of the vehicle or endanger the safety of other road users, should be disassembled, or collapsed while driving.

3.1.3. Roll-Over Protection Structure

Earthmoving machines are particularly prone to loads resulting from accidents such as rollovers or hits by falling objects. Structures protecting the machine operator during roll-overs are mandatory. In an accident scenario, the structure of the cabin, apart from protecting the operator, should transmit

the forces connected with machine rollover and absorb a certain amount of energy. Depending on the needs, the cabin may have adjustable height, which facilitates transport and increases the field of view of the machine operator when doing farm work.

Heavy vehicles operated on an uneven surface frequently roll over to the side. Such an event is defined by law. The requirements for the operator protection structure on the machine during rollover are specified in the standard PN-EN ISO 3471:2009“Earth-Moving Machinery. Roll-Over Protection Structures. Laboratory Tests and Performance.”.

The term Roll-Over Protection Structure (ROPS) defines a system of structural elements located on a machine that significantly reduces the threat to the operator in the case of machine roll-over. Structural elements include frame, mounting, cantilevers, support cells, screws, wrist pins, suspension, or an elastic device that absorbs vibrations, etc.

IV. Case Studies

1. Tractor accident near Krasnik

There were four people in the tractor – two brothers aged 26 and 27, and two boys aged 7 and 15. All of them sitting in the tractor that rolled over while driving. The farmer did not maintain safety at work. Nevertheless, there will be an investigation to expose people to immediate danger of loss of life and health because there were more people in the cab than there should be.

The penal code for this act provides for a prison sentence of up to 3 years. The men who drove the tractor were sober.

2. Accident at work which caused serious injury

They had an older sewage truck on the farm. During the last 2 monitoring visits, the inspection of the pressure equipment evaluated the condition of the tank: "I recommend using the pressure vessel only as a pressureless storage tank due to weak technical state".

The employees decided to fertilize the rapeseed with urea. To fill the sprayer, they used a faecal car on which they had to run a compressor through the PTO shaft, which created pressure in the container, and thus filled the sprayer through a hose. During the pumping, the employees stood about 7 m from the sewage truck and were turned their backs on it. One of the employees heard only a muffled sound, while the second one was hit by a faecal hatch.

3. A minibus crashed heavily into a tractor, which broke in two

The Red Response Plan was activated following a serious accident on Thursday afternoon in Ceptura, Prahova County, on National Road 2C. A minibus carrying several passengers collided with a tractor on the road linking Buzău and Slobozia. A car was also involved in the event.

The personal transport truck and multiple casualties from Buzau Inspectorate for Emergency Situations took over two victims for transport to Buzau Emergency Admission Unit. An 18-year-old woman, 5 months pregnant, was picked up by a Mobile Emergency, Resuscitation and Extrication Service (MERDS) helicopter for transport to Bucharest University Hospital: the person is conscious but has polytrauma in the abdomen area. It is not known whether the fetus suffered from the mother's injuries. "Initially, 10 victims were reported, the red plane went off. There are six victims with multiple injuries, more than six emergency crews have been deployed to the scene," Buzau Inspectorate for Emergency Situations spokesman, sub-lieutenant George Cretu. A third vehicle, a car, was also involved in the accident. According to the Inspectorate General for Emergency Situations, the first

information shows that there are 12 people who are victims of the accident (10 adults and 2 children), all of whom are conscious but have various injuries. There were no incarcerated people. A multi-victim truck, 2 (MERDS) first aid crews, a de-incarceration truck, a fire extinguisher and four ambulances from the County Ambulance Service were alerted. The collision occurred when the tractor left the field for the national road without the driver giving priority to the minibus. As a result of the impact, the tractor was broken in half and its driver fled to the field and is being searched at this time by the police.

Witnesses say he may have been intoxicated. The minibus driver said the tractor driver was speeding when accessing the National Road and only stopped when the minibus collided. The Police and the prosecutor's office are now investigating the exact causes of the road event. Traffic in the area was stopped for more than two hours during the search. Update: The tractor driver involved in the accident in which ten people were injured, fled the scene. The man accused of causing the road event has been searched by police all evening. A few hours later, he was identified and brought to the hearing, who was under the influence of alcohol. The tractor driver was detected following the activities of the police officers of Pogoanele, Buzau County, and of the Special Action Service of the Police Inspectorate of Buzau County and was taken to the hearings. He is about 40 years old and under the influence of alcohol (over 0.80 mg/l in the exhaled air). The tractor driver is most likely to be responsible for the event in which ten people were injured, all passengers in the minibus of Rushețu, including two children and a 5-month pregnant woman.

4. Two injured in crash caused by inattentive tractor

A road accident resulting in two victims occurred on 21 September 2018 on the European road E85, in the area of Posta Câlnău, Buzau County. A car crashed into a tractor and two people were injured as a result of the collision, one of whom was incarcerated. The accident occurred at around 11.00 a.m. on National Road 2E85 at Posta Câlnău. While driving a car towards Buzau, a 19-year-old from Bacau drove his car into the trailer of a tractor driven by a 30-year-old man from Buzau. The driver remained incarcerated and it took the intervention of a de-incarceration crew from Buzau Inspectorate for Emergency Situations to remove him from the severely damaged car. The young man was later transported to hospital. That's where a passenger of the same age arrived. Traffic in the area was halted to allow rescue and on-site search. According to the police, the accident occurred because of the tractor that did not adequately secure itself when leaving the scene, suddenly appearing in front of the driver in Bacau.

5. Serious accident on a road in Timis County: Two people injured

Serious traffic accident on Monday night (28 October 2019) on a road that connects the localities of Sanmartinu Sarbesc de Peciu Nou, Timis County. Two people were injured after the car they were in crashed into the trailer of a roadside tractor, which was unmarked. The driver of the car did not notice that there was a faulty tractor on the right side of the road and it crashed heavily into the trailer. The hood of the car was simply ripped off and got caught in the trailer. As a result of the impact, both he and the passenger on the right were injured. Immediately, fire and police crews arrived at the scene. Law enforcement officials have opened a criminal case against the driver for bodily harm from culpability.

6. Fall from height

Eight-year-old Marta Vlcek broke both wrists and sustained a head injury after falling from height at her parents' dairy farm in Zahorovice. With no training in first aid, her father Pavel could only alert the emergency services and make his daughter comfortable until the air ambulance landed at the farm.

Marta, who had been playing in a loft with her brother, Honza, happily made a full recovery, but had her injuries required emergency first aid, the outcome could have been different, Mr Vlcek fears. "At that point I didn't have a clue what to do," he admits. "Farming is an industry that is dangerous, and accidents do happen. This accident made me realise how important it is to know what to do and what not to do." Mr Vlcek, who farms at Zahorovice, near Uherské Hradiště, has since completed a first aid course, tailored specifically to farmers, accompanied by his son Honza. "I was never sure how to perform CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and I never knew what a defibrillator did, so I wanted to be aware," says Mr Vlcek. "It has made me much more confident that I could deal with an emergency and give first aid. "For instance, I was taught that the simple action of tilting a patient's head back could stop them choking on their tongue, a basic thing which could make the difference between life and death in some situations."

Mr Vlcek says personal experience had taught him that everyone should know what to do in an emergency. He has also installed what3words on his smartphone – an app which gives every 3m x 3m of the globe a unique three-word code and is also used by emergency services to locate casualties. The app does not need a phone signal to tell someone their three-word location; and these three-word addresses are as accurate as GPS coordinates.

"If I had an accident in a field, the emergency services would be able to locate exactly where I was, because the three-word code for that location would be available on the app," says Mr Vlcek.

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