



# Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs' Association

Together We Can Make A Difference

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Education • Prevention • Safety • Supression • EMS

October 10, 2012

Matthew Keifer, MD, MPH  
Director - National Farm Medicine Center  
National Farm Medicine Center ML-1  
1000 N. Oak Ave  
Marshfield WI, 54449

Dear Mr. Keifer:

On behalf of the members of the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs' Association, I would like to thank the National Farm Medicine Center (NFMC) for the creation of the Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) program. Clearly, this program is a proactive approach to the prevention of injuries or deaths from tractor rollovers in Wisconsin.

As you know, tractor accidents are the leading cause of deaths on farms. In addition, more than half the tractors in Wisconsin do not have the appropriate protection (operator compartment structures, usually cabs or frames, intended to protect farmers from injuries caused by overturns or rollovers). Unfortunately, the standard for ROPS did not become effective until 1985 and there are many tractors in use today that are older than the effective date and thus far in 2012, there have been seven fatalities from tractor rollovers in Wisconsin.

The good news is that ROPS, when used with seatbelts, are 99 percent effective in preventing injury or death in the event of an overturn. Thanks to the generous financial support of and commitment by the NFMC ROPS program, there is now enough funding to offer the retrofitting of 50 ROPS units on affected tractors.

In closing, the members of the WSFCA and area fire department personnel are often times one of the many emergency responders responsible for treating Wisconsin farmers in the often times preventable and tragic results from a tractor rollover. Like the NFMC, we see the value and necessity of doing what we can to help prevent such tragedies and proudly provide our public endorsement for the NFMC ROPS program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn M. Linzmeier".

Glenn Linzmeier  
President  
Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs' Association

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