

# LESSON 7 – CASE STUDIES

## 7.1 Collision claims two lives

### *Gearing Up Daily News*

*Scoatesville* - Two Scoatesville men were killed over the weekend on U.S. 132 in a collision between a motorcycle they were riding and a large farm tractor.

The driver of the motorcycle, Christian Avery, 36, of West Point, was pronounced dead at the scene of the 11:53 p.m. Saturday accident. A passenger with Avery, Wally Pool, 34, of West Point, was transported to Union Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 12:46 a.m. Sunday from massive internal injuries.

The accident occurred approximately 450 feet west of County Road 500 E. on U.S. 132. The motorcycle collided with the back of a westbound farm tractor driven by Danny Lee of

Scoatesville, according to the report by Chief Deputy Rob Billings with the Logan County Police Department.

Billings said Lee's tractor was halfway off the road and was allowing vehicles to pass when the collision occurred. The tractor was fully lighted and Billings said it was not clear why Avery hit the tractor.

Billings said motorists need to be cautious of farming vehicles on the roadway, especially during planting and harvest periods.

"People need to realize that, this time of year, farmers are out all times of the night," Billings said.

Both passengers on the motorcycle were ejected from the bike upon impact. Pool was reportedly thrown 50 feet from the accident scene.

Lee was not injured in the accident.

Local ambulance services assisted at the scene.

## 7.2 Men hurt when van hits tractor

### *Gearing Up Daily News*

*Union City* - A van collided with a tractor leaving two men with minor injuries early Thursday morning.

Trey Wallace, 32, Rt. 8, suffered minor lacerations to his head. Alan Mitzdarfer, 42, Clay City, complained of pain.

Both men were taken to Union City Medical Center where they were treated and released.

Wallace was driving his 1989 model tractor east on U.S. 30, hauling a large round hay bale when his tractor was hit in the rear by a 1997 model van driven by Mitzdarfer.

After impact, the tractor went off the right side of the road, over the bank and into a tree, a distance of about 80 feet, according to Newton County Police officer Aaron Owens.

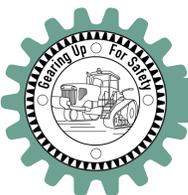
Mitzdarfer's van spun around half a turn and came to a stop in the east bound lane about 43 feet from impact, Owens said.

Mitzdarfer told police he didn't see the tractor in time to avoid the collision, and when he did notice the tractor, all he could see was the amber lights on the top of the tractor's cab.

Factors contributing to the accident were that Mitzdarfer was coming over a crest in the road, it was dark, the pavement was wet, and there was a lack of reflective material on the tractor, Owens said. In addition, the large bale obstructed the view of the required SMV emblem on the tractor's rear.

Damage to the van was estimated at \$5,000 to \$10,000 and damage to the tractor was estimated at \$10,000 to \$25,000.

Assisting at the scene were NCPD Capt. James Kirkpatrick, Major John Maske, Pleasant Valley Volunteer Firefighters, and the Union City ambulance crew.



### 7.3 Roger Field escapes serious injury in farm tractor mishap

#### *Gearing Up Daily News*

*Spalding* - Well-known Route 4, Spalding resident Roger Field can consider himself a very, very lucky man as the result of a potentially fatal farm accident Wednesday, March 31.

Field, working on the Harry Milner farm west of Spalding, was operating a wide front-end tractor pulling a two-wheel trailer to deliver baled hay to cattle.

One section of his route was on a steep hill and, thanks to heavy rain, the road on the hillside was extremely slick. As Field climbed the hill he started to feel the tractor wheels spinning. He attempted to back up but the trailer jack knifed, pulling the tractor down the hill-side. The tractor and trailer slid between two trees in a fence row then dropped about 5 feet to a farm roadway. Both the tractor and trailer stopped upside down, just a few feet from the bank of the rain-swollen Cat Claw Creek.

Field found himself partially trapped under the tractor with the engine continuing to run despite being upside down. The accident site was a long way from help and Field, somehow, was able to rock back and forth enough to free himself and walk to find help. He was transported to Spalding Urgent Care and treated for minor injuries and released.

### 7.4 Man in hospital after car hits tractor

#### *Gearing Up Daily News*

*Edinburgh* - A Harlingen man remains in fair condition today at Methodist Hospital in Kansas City after running his car into the back of a tractor Sunday.

Darren Martinez, 25, was taken to the hospital after his car ran into the back of a tractor driven by Gerald Wattle, age 15, of Edinburgh.

Wattle was driving his father's tractor south on U.S. 52 when Martinez's compact car struck the tractor, the Ripley County sheriff said. According to the report, Wattle's tractor had a slow-moving vehicle sign correctly posted on the back of his tractor. He was uninjured.

Damage to Martinez's car is estimated at \$5,000; damage to Wattle's tractor was estimated at \$1,000.

### 7.5 Man seriously injured after hitting manure wagon

#### *Gearing Up Daily News*

*Richland* - Police believe a blinding glare from the setting sun Friday prevented a Richland man from seeing a tank-wagon of manure parked in the road before crashing into it.

Jimmy Townsend, 18, was flown by helicopter to Sacred Heart Hospital in Columbus. His condition was not available by deadline this morning.

Townsend was headed west into the sun about 6:26 p.m. when he approached the wagon full of manure in the 12000 block of 156th Street, said State Trooper Seymour Rader.

Leon Ortiz, 36, of Richland had parked his tractor and wagon halfway in the westbound lane of 156th Street, just down the street from his house, Rader said.

Ortiz was off his tractor and in the field working on a broken fence running along side the road, Rader said.

Ortiz said he didn't notice Townsend's car approaching until seconds before the crash. "I didn't really see him coming from way down the road," he said.

Townsend crashed head on into the rear of the tank-wagon.

Police didn't know if Ortiz had the proper lighting and signage on his wagon at the time of the crash, Radar said. No charges have been filed at this time.

"The sun may have made the wagon nearly impossible for Townsend to see; there was a tremendous glare," Rader said.



## 7.6 Child helping with blueberry harvest dies after being run over by truck

### *Gearing Up Daily News*

*Richland* – It was the first day working in this field in Campside Hilldale, Alabama, and the weather was hot and sunny. By early afternoon, pickers had placed plastic containers filled with blueberries along the field road. Milton's (father) job was to load blueberries onto the growers' cargo truck and drive them to the growers' packing shed located about 150 yards from the field. He asked his 8-year-old son and ten-year-old nephew to help load the containers onto the cargo truck.

The father drove the truck forward along the flat single lane dirt road that extended around 3 sides of the 5-acre blueberry field and stopped periodically to work with the boys loading the plastic blueberry containers on the truck.

Once he had completed picking up berries he put the truck in reverse and traveled the same route in reverse because there was no room to turn the truck around. The Father assumed the boys were fine in the back, but could not see them because the stacked blueberry containers obscured his vision.

While backing up the younger boy fell off the truck and made an attempt to jump back on, slipped and fell face forward (prone) onto the road and the truck's rear tire rolled over his torso. The 11-year-old boy saw what happened, and yelled for the driver to stop. The driver heard something, stopped the truck, drove the vehicle forward, and ran over the boy again. He got out of the truck, walked to the back to check what had happened, and found his son lying in the road. Within 5-7 minutes of receiving the 911 call, EMS arrived, assessed the victim, found no vital signs present, and began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). He was pronounced dead about an hour later at the local hospital.

