Slow Moving Vehicles
And
Agricultural Vehicle Operation on Public Highways

Revised Feb13, 2017 BWK
SMV Crashes

- In New York State in 2007 there were 59 collisions involving Slow Moving Vehicles
- 17 were personal injury crashes
- 15,000 crashes each year in the US (National Safety Council)
- More than 2/3 of the collisions involved being struck from behind
- 90% took place in the daylight
- Farmer usually the fatality
### Farm Crashes – NYSP data only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Property Damage</th>
<th>Personal Injury</th>
<th>Fatal</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The table above provides an overview of the number of slow-moving vehicles involved in crashes reported by a police agency for years 2011 to 2015. The counts are strictly based on the vehicle body types agreed upon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fatal Crash</td>
<td>PI Crash</td>
<td>Property Damage</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Fatal Crash</td>
<td>PI Crash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Terrain Vehicle</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Equipment</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Tractor</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand or Agricultural</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Processing Machine</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Speed Vehicle</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Speed Vehicle - Truck</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Vehicle</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Vehicles</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: AIS
Prepared by ITSMR: 1/11/2017
We share the road with the 4 D’s

- Drunk
- Distracted
- Drugged
- Just plain Dumb!
Closure Time

55 mph → 400 feet → 45 mph

Truck will reach back of SUV in approximately 27 seconds.
Closure Time

55 mph

400 feet

15 mph

Truck will reach back of tractor in less than 7 seconds.
Closure Time

55 mph

400 feet

7 mph

Truck will reach back of buggy in 5.7 seconds.
What is Farming?

- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration section 309.5 defines “Farmer”

- Any person who operates a farm or is directly involved in the cultivation of land, crops, or livestock which:
  
  (a) Are owned by that person; or
  
  (b) Are under the direct control of that person
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Section 301 – 11 defines “Farm Operation”

“Farm Operation” means the land and on-farm buildings, equipment, manure processing and handling facilities, and practices which contribute to the production, preparation and marketing of crops, livestock and livestock products as a commercial enterprise, including commercial horse boarding operations, timber processing, compost, mulch or other biomass crops and production, management and harvesting of farm woodland. Such farm operation may consist of one or more parcels of owned or rented land, which parcels may be contiguous or noncontiguous to each other.
Definition of a Motor Vehicle

VTL section 125

- Every vehicle operated on a public highway which is propelled by any power other than muscular power.

- EXCEPT – Electric wheel chairs – used by a person with a disability, electric personal assistive mobility devices, trains, snowmobiles, and All Terrain Vehicles.

- NOTE – For the purposes of title four (registrations) and title five (licensing) the term motor vehicles shall exclude farm type tractors and all terrain type motor vehicles used exclusively for agricultural purposes, or for snow plowing, other than for hire, farm equipment, including self propelled machines used exclusively in growing, harvesting or handling farm produce, and self – propelled caterpillar type equipment while being operated on the contract site.
Farm Vehicle Licensing Requirements

- VTL 125 – Motor vehicles – For the purpose of title five (Licenses) - excludes farm type tractors and all terrain type vehicles used exclusively for agricultural purposes, or snow plowing other than for hire.

- New York VTL does not denote a minimum age for operation
Motor Vehicle Financial Security Act
Article 6 - VTL

- Farm equipment, including self-propelled machines used exclusively in growing, harvesting or handling farm produce, tractors used exclusively for agricultural purposes, or for snow plowing other than for hire, do not require insurance to be operated on the highway.

- Consider a farm policy to protect yourself.
Agricultural Vehicle Equipment Requirements

- VTL 375-36 – Farm machinery and implements of husbandry and other machinery including road construction and maintenance machinery designed to operate at twenty-five miles per hour or less, traveling on a public highway during day or night, whether self propelled or used in combination, shall each **separately** display a Slow-Moving Vehicle emblem as specified in paragraph (a) of this sub division

- Slow Moving Vehicle Sign Specification are defined in Part 68 of the Commissioners Rules and Regulations

- Limited to vehicles traveling at a speed of 25 mph or less

- Shall be mounted, point up, perpendicular to the direction of travel, mounted in the center of the vehicle, un-obscured and 2 to 6 feet above the ground, measured at the bottom edge.
Agricultural Vehicle Equipment Requirements

- Should be mechanically fastened (hardware or adhesives), sturdily supported and secured
- If can’t be centered, mount left of center line but not over or beyond left edge of vehicle
- If a vehicle using a slow moving vehicle sign is being transported by another vehicle at a speed greater than 25 mph, the SMV sign must be covered
- Must be kept clean (Visible from all distances 600 feet to 100 feet away – daylight / high beams)
- Illegal to use in any other manner – VTL 375-36 c
- NOTE: The use of the Slow Moving Vehicle emblem shall not replace such warning devices as tail lamps, reflectors, flashing lights, warning flags or flare and is not to be used as a clearance marker for wide loads or equipment. – See VTL 385 -1 in it’s entirety
Display of Unauthorized Signs
VTL 1114 –a,b,c

- Prohibits unauthorized signs, signal's, markings or other devices

- Such prohibited signs, signals, markings and other devices are declared a public nuisance and can be removed by any police officer or public authority without notice.
Lighting

- **Lighting Requirements** – VTL 376 – Agricultural Vehicles and Equipment must be equipped with lamps of the type approved by the commissioner which are lighted and in good working order when such equipment is operated, driven, or parked on any public highway or street during the period of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise and during such times that visibility for a distance of one thousand feet ahead or behind such agricultural equipment is not clear.
Regulations of the Commissioner
PART 43  Motor Vehicle Lighting

43.9 Lighting requirements on Agricultural Equipment

(a) Self-propelled agricultural equipment shall be equipped in accordance with Table V.

Table V – Required Lighting Equipment for self-propelled Agricultural Equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Number and color</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headlamps</td>
<td>two, white</td>
<td>front, same level, as far apart as practicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tail lamps</td>
<td>one, red</td>
<td>rear, as far to the left as practicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined hazard</td>
<td>two, amber</td>
<td>at least (42 inches) high, same level, as far apart as practicable, visible front and rear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>warning and turn signal lamps</td>
<td>two, amber</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rear reflectors</td>
<td>two, red</td>
<td>rear, same level, as far apart as practicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) Reserved for towed, mounted or semi-mounted agricultural implements.

(c) This section shall apply only when the agricultural equipment is used on the public highway from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise. At other times, no lighting equipment is required on agricultural equipment.

(d) Nothing in this Part shall be construed as effecting the requirement of Vehicle and Traffic Law, section 375, subdivision 36 and Part 68 of this Chapter that agricultural equipment display the slow-moving vehicle emblem.
The term “All Terrain Vehicle” or ATV shall not include any vehicle used for agricultural purposes or for snow plowing not for hire. (Registration and Insurance is not required).

Allows operation on the highway if used EXCLUSIVELY for Agricultural purposes or snow plowing not for hire.

Must follow all of the SMV / Lighting requirements of self-propelled farm equipment

Must follow the rules of the road

Must be used as a TOOL, not a TOY
All Terrain Vehicles
VTL Section 2281 – 1 (a)

- Self propelled vehicle for operation primarily on off-highway trails or off-highway competitions and only incidentally operated on the public highways

- Shall not exceed seventy inches in width

- Shall not exceed one thousand pounds dry weight
UTV’s and RTV’s

- UTV’s or RTV’s, commonly referred to as Utility Vehicles, Recreational Vehicles or Side-by-Side’s
- Similar to ATV’s except they are either more than 1000 pounds or wider than 70 inches or both
- Referred to as ATV’s on steroids!!!!
- Can not be registered in New York State
Lighting Requirements
Commissioners Rules and Regs – Part 68

- Every vehicle drawn by animals shall display on the rear either:
  - (1) – A slow moving vehicle emblem: OR
  - (2) – A lighted lantern with a red lens at least four inches in diameter, the center of such lens to be 42 inches above the ground, the lantern to be near the left edge of the vehicle, AND at least 72 square inches of a high quality white or whitish-gray reflective tape.
Farm Equipment and Horse Drawn Equipment Operating on a public highway must follow the rules of the road.
Road Signs Must be Obeyed
Must obey Right of Way Rules (Red lights, Yellow Lights, Blue Lights, Green Lights, School Buses, Pedestrians).

- Must obey rules on passing
- Must signal turning movements to all highway users
- Obey speed limits
- Must obey cell phone laws
- Violators of Drug / Alcohol laws can be arrested
- Prohibited from Controlled Access highways / Thruway
Must Obey Traffic Signals
Must obey Lane Markings

- **MUST STAY IN LANE**
  - Left arrow
  - Right arrow

- **NO PASSING**
  - Left arrow
  - No passing

- **PASSING PERMITTED**
  - Right arrow

- **NO PASSING**
  - Left arrow

- **PASSING PERMITTED**
  - Right arrow
RIGHT TURN
LEFT TURN
Throwing refuse on highways and adjacent lands prohibited – VTL 1220

(a) No person shall, throw, dump, deposit or place, or cause to be thrown, dumped, deposited or placed upon any highway, or within the limits of the right of way of such highway, or upon private lands adjacent thereto, any refuse, trash, garbage, rubbish, litter or any nauseous or offensive matter.
(b) Nothing herein contained shall be construed as prohibiting the use in a reasonable manner of ashes, sand, salt, or other material for the purpose of reducing the hazard of, or providing traction on snow, ice or sleet.

(b-1) Nothing herein contained shall be construed as prohibiting the use of any highway or private lands adjacent thereto for the transport or transit of agricultural trucks, machines or implements or dairy or domestic animals or agricultural stock with any accompanying reasonable or unavoidable deposit of nauseous or offensive matter.
Injuries to Highways

- Whoever shall injure any highway or bridge maintained at the public expense, by obstructing or diverting any creek, water-course or sluice, or by dragging logs or timber on its surface or by drawing or propelling over the same a load of such weight as to injure or destroy the culverts or bridges along the same, or of such weight that will destroy, break or injure the surface of any improved state highway, county road or town highway, or by any other act, or shall injure, deface or destroy any mile-stone or guide-post erected on any highway, shall for every such offense forfeit treble damages. – New York State Highway Law - 320
QUESTIONS

Thank You

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