

Circle checks save lives

Every year the OPP investigates devastating incidents involving young children being injured by family members operating farm machinery or vehicles.

In West Region alone, we have already investigated 2 such incidents this year. The OPP urges every driver, of any type of vehicle, to always to perform a "walk-around" circle-check of your vehicle prior to putting it into motion. The circle-check helps to ensure that your vehicle is ready for the road and more importantly ensures there are no persons or obstacles in the way. Police warn drivers whose vehicles are equipped with back up cameras and alarms, not to rely on them. They are an added safety feature; however there are blind spots that they cannot detect.

Nothing can replace the importance of doing a circle-check around your vehicle to make sure it is safe to put into motion. "It only takes a couple extra seconds to perform a circle-check and it can literally mean the difference between life and death," said Sergeant David S. Rektor.

With spring upon us, the OPP is urging the farming community to be extra careful to keep young children away from farm vehicles and machinery during the forthcoming planting season. Circle-checks around farm equipment are vitally important as the bigger equipment has more blind spots to contend with. Predictable is preventable!