



Yuma County Sheriff's Office

Leon N. Wilmot
Sheriff of Yuma County

141 S. 3rd Avenue, Yuma, AZ 85364
Tel: (928) 783-4427 • Fax: (928) 539-7837
www.yumacountysheriff.org

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Tania Pavlak
Phone: (928) 783-4427
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Farm Equipment on Roadways

Location of Incident: Yuma County, AZ

As Harvest season approaches, The Yuma County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) would like to emphasize the importance of farm vehicle and rural road safety. YCSO encourages drivers to be mindful, slow down, and share the road, which will not only ensure their safety, but also the safety of our farmers.

Motorists should also pay special attention to stationary farm equipment on the side of the road while farmers are working nearby. Drivers should remember that farm vehicle operators have limited visibility to the rear. Anyone passing such a vehicle needs to use extreme caution.

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office recommends that motorists:

- Be patient and make sure it is safe before attempting to pass slow-moving equipment.
- When approaching farm equipment, slow down and use caution.
- Watch for debris dropped by trucks. It is safer to brake or drive through debris than to veer into oncoming cars or off the road.

Farmers can also do their part to help improve the safety of their equipment on the roadway by ensuring that all warning lights, reflectors, and slow-moving signs are in place, clearly visible, and working properly. It's also important to remember for operators of the slow-moving vehicles to use turn signals and visually check before making turns to ensure that nobody is passing. Farmers should make sure to use amber warning flashers when driving slow-moving farm equipment on the roadways after dark.

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office recommends that farm equipment operators:

- Use lights and flashers to make equipment more visible.
- Do not leave vehicles and/or equipment unattended on the roadway
- Use slow-moving vehicle emblems on equipment traveling less than 30 mph.
- Consider using a follow vehicle when moving equipment, especially at night.



Example of unsafe use of roadway by leaving vehicle with farm equipment unattended.

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to keeping the roadways safe for both motorists and those in the agricultural community. While slow-moving farm equipment can be considered a nuisance to some motorists, remember that farmers are working hard to produce the food we all enjoy to eat. Everyone needs to do their part to be safe and get to their destination or farm without being involved in a collision.

For more details on Arizona Laws related to agricultural activity, please visit:

<https://www.yumacountysheriff.org/PDFgallery.htm>

Information Released By: Tania Pavlak, Public Affairs Specialist