General Information
Power Take Off, or PTO, is the shaft that connects a power source (usually tractor) to a piece of equipment.

Injury Statistics
- 40 fatalities occur each year due to PTO entanglement.*
- 150 amputations and/or serious injuries occur each year due to PTO entanglement.*
*estimates from federal government statistics

Facts
- PTOs can spin at 540 or 1000 RPM (rotations per minute) when at operating speed.
- 540 RPM is 9 rotations per second and 1000 RPM is almost 17 rotations per second!
- Even at an idle, the PTO rotates at approximately 3.5 times per second!
- You will not have time to react or let go if you get caught in the PTO.

Injury Prevention
- Ensure all shields are in place.
  o There should be a chain to keep the shield from spinning.
  o Report damaged/missing shields to your supervisor and do not use equipment until it is repaired.
- Do not wear baggy or loose clothing around PTOs.
- Keep long hair tied up or back.
- Disengage PTO before leaving operator seat.
- NEVER step over, cross, or lean over PTO while it is running.

Photo Source: Creston News Advertiser