

Life Changing Agriculture Injury Stories from Farmers

Russell's ATV Fatality

(audio transcripts) Rev. 6/2011

http://depts.washington.edu/pnash/ag_storycorps

Eric: Back in 2003 when my uncle Walt had his accident, what was Walt doing when the accident occurred?

Russell: He was going to back his ATV around the truck and back into a corner of the steel building. It was a large Honda ATV, had a sprayer and a hose roller on the back of the sprayer. The tank was mounted at seat level, but now we have since lowered the position of the tank and put it in the front to lower the center of gravity. He backed up the ATV, he was looking backwards, turning the handlebars so his right hand on the throttle was extended clear out because he was backing to his left. As he got back into the corner of the building I could see probably his mind was on the spraying and not on backing the ATV up. I believe he came down on the throttle instead of letting off on the throttle. It suddenly surged back and he half realized what he was doing, and so he came further down on the throttle. The ATV shot backwards. The hose roller hit the steel wall and it took the back end of the ATV right straight up the wall. It threw my brother forward down onto the floor of the building. He was laying there face down. The ATV came on over, and the rear fender of one of the rear wheels came right down in the middle of his back, and it pushed the air right out of him, and he died right there. I found my brother after he had had the accident, I found him under the ATV. One of the things a person should learn from his accident—when he got in a vulnerable position, backing up, I believe he had his mind on the spraying and not on backing the ATV up. My brother's accident, that kind of changed the life of our family forever.

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