
AG SAFETY S.T.A.T. – *SAFE TACTICS FOR AG TODAY*

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THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR – ***New Year’s Resolution for Safety***

Dee Jepsen - State Agricultural Safety and Health Leader

It’s the start of 2014, and many people like making New Year’s resolutions. Along with making those typical statements about having better health, a better diet, and more quality time with loved ones, how about making a few safety resolutions to improve your home, work, or farm? Here are just a few ideas to get you started:

1. Change the smoke detector battery during the spring and fall time changes. But in-between those seasons, be sure to have a charged fire extinguisher in your home, garage, and farm shop.
2. Invest in good Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). Purchase a box of disposable ear plugs to wear while snow blowing, cutting firewood, or hunting. Purchase an N-95 respirator (it has the appearance of a two strap dust mask, and will be labeled “N-95”) for unloading grain or working in dusty feed rooms.
3. Use power tools that are properly grounded or double insulated. Check all cords for any nicks or frays – and discard those that are damaged. This same rule applies for extension cords.
4. Replace any faded or damaged Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblems. Roadway safety is important throughout the year.
5. Restock the first aid kit in the shop or garage. Having smaller kits in the vehicles and tractors are good places to keep Aspirin, bandages, and hand warmers too.

Look around your home, worksite, and farm. Maybe there are other ideas you can add to your new year’s resolution to maintain a safe and healthy place in 2014.

MONTHLY SAFETY SLOGAN

Making safety FIRST, should be SECOND nature.

HOST A 2014 FARM SAFETY ROUND-UP (DAY CAMP)

We are currently seeking counties to host a Farm Safety Round-Up Day Camp in 2014!

These camps provide youth an opportunity to learn about agricultural hazards and injury prevention. The mission of the day camp program is to teach youth about rural dangers; however the campers do not have to be farm children to benefit from the educational sessions. Injuries from horses, livestock, ponds, lawn mowers and electricity can occur to anyone, not just farm kids. Campers learn in a fun, interactive way the consequences of poor judgment around power machinery, flowing grain, and livestock. Heading into our 17th year, approximately 20,500 youth have enrolled in this statewide program!

These events serve as ideal conduits between businesses and community organizations interested in the health and safety of local youth. Many agencies use the Round-Up program to benefit their own outreach education efforts. For example, local electric co-ops have dynamic electric safety presentations, the YMCA has excellent water safety/water rescue programs, and health departments have a variety of health programs targeting younger audiences.

For more information about hosting a day camp, including the benefits and sponsorships available at the state level, please contact Kathy Mann, OSUE Agricultural Safety & Health Program Coordinator, at mann.167@osu.edu or 614-292-0622. Deadline to become a day camp host is March 3rd, 2014.

AVAILABLE ROADWAY SAFETY RESOURCES for AMISH COMMUNITIES

Kathy Mann – Agricultural Safety and Health Program Coordinator

Are you looking for educational information to share with the Amish in your community? We have Amish buggy driving workbooks available for **FREE**. These workbooks contain useful information about driving a buggy on the roadways and understanding the laws. If you have horse-and-buggy operators in your community that you would like to share these workbooks with, please contact Kathy Mann at mann.167@osu.edu or 614-292-0622 and she will ship them to you. Thanks!

SAFE STORAGE OF BULK AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION PRODUCTS

Dewey Mann – Safety Research Associate

This time of year, many farm operations have placed orders for, and have already or will soon be receiving orders of bulk products such as seed, fertilizer and pesticides. This is a good time for your operation to review some rules and recommendations for safe storage of bulk agricultural fertilizers and pesticides. Throughout this article, these materials will be generically classified as 'plant protection products'.

The farm manager should identify an isolated, secured area for plant protection product storage. The storage area can be a fenced outdoor area, storage building for year-round storage or bulk tank storage inside an earth or concrete dike of non-permeable material. Design the storage area to prevent

unauthorized entry, use or theft, and protect from temperature extremes. Proper agrichemical storage protects workers, visitors, children and animals from unknown or accidental exposure to these products.

The following statements should be considered for safe storage of plant protection products:

- Should NOT be stored in a manner that could result in contamination of animal feeds
- Post signs outside of the storage facilities to indicate what types of hazards might exist. Example signs might include "Pesticide Storage" or "No Smoking"
- Read the product label. Certain formulations or products have special storage requirements that will be found on the label
- Make certain that the label is in good condition in order to know what is in the container and have directions for safe, effective and legal use
- Write down the purchase or delivery date on the label. Use older or opened products first. Products several years old may not be effective
- Keep an up-to-date inventory of products to assist in purchase decisions and in case of emergency
- Usually storage temperatures should not go below freezing nor above 100 degrees F. Ventilation is important for storage of most pesticides. Keep products dry and out of direct sunlight

When referring to plant protection products used in agriculture, exactly how large is 'bulk'?

According to the Ohio Revised Code, any container greater than 55-gallon liquid or 100-pounds net dry weight is considered bulk storage. (<http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/901%3A5-11>)

Large bulk storage containers (referred to as 'non-mobile') should meet the following requirements:

- Be placed within a secondary containment
- If secondary containment constructed after August 1, 2011, containment should have capacity equal to:
110% of single largest storage container, plus the capacity of all other storage vessels located within the secondary containment
- Should not contain a drain, unless it is plugged to prevent release of any spillage

This time of year is a good time to review product labels, ensure you have the facilities and management plan to properly store products in a manner that will be safe for employees, children and the environment.

INJURY PREVENTION – Warning Signs for Age - Related Vision Problems

Kent McGuire – Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator

As you grow older, regular eye exams are the best way to avoid vision problems. Being aware of certain warning signs also can help you take appropriate steps to maintain your eyesight, particularly if vision symptoms occur suddenly. While many eye problems can occur at any age, they often are more common in older individuals, and aging also increases your risk for certain types of sight-threatening eye conditions that can lead to blindness. The following signs and symptoms can indicate a vision problem that should be checked by your optometrist immediately.

- A flood of spots and floaters in your field of vision.

- A sensation that a dark curtain has settled across your field of view.
- A gradual (or sudden) narrowing of your field of vision, leaving you with the ability to see only directly in front of you.
- A gradual loss of central vision, including distortions such as seeing wavy instead of straight lines.
- Cloudy and blurred eyesight, "halos" around lights at night, loss of bright color vision.
- Unexplained irritated or "scratchy" eyes, with eye surface pain and tearing.
- Double vision, double images or "ghost" images.
- Blind spots in your field of view or sudden blurry vision.
- An increased amount of time it takes the eyes to focus when changing from well-lighted areas to darker areas.

For more information about the Ohio AgrAbility Program, visit www.agrability.osu.edu or contact Kent McGuire, OSU Agricultural Safety & Health, at mcguire.225@osu.edu or 614-292-0588.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – Severe Winter Weather Preparedness

Kent McGuire – OSU Ag Safety and Health

As Ohio continues to experience severe winter weather conditions, there are several measures people can take to ensure their safety during winter storms. According to the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, recommendations to prepare for winter severe weather emergencies include:

Prepare your home for winter. Cut and remove low-hanging and dead tree branches. Ice, snow and strong winds can cause tree limbs to break and fall. Have your gutters cleaned. Snow and ice can build up quickly if gutters are clogged with debris. Have auxiliary heaters, furnaces and fireplaces maintenance checked or serviced before using. If using a portable generator, read instructions thoroughly to guard against carbon monoxide poisoning. Review your homeowner's insurance policy; consider your need for flood insurance.

Prepare winter disaster kits for the home and vehicle. Refresh stored nonperishable foods and bottled water. Change the batteries in your smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and radios. Winter emergency kits should include warm clothing, blankets, flashlights, new batteries, coats, hats, gloves, a battery-operated or hand-cranked radio, first aid kit, and enough nonperishable food and water (one gallon per person, per day) to sustain every family member for several days. Have stored food, bottled water and supplies for your pets, as well.

Invest in a NOAA Public Alert/Weather Radio. Every home, school and business should have a tone- alert weather radio with a battery back-up. Weather and public alert radios are programmed to automatically sound an alert during public safety and severe weather events. Click on www.weather.gov/nwr/ for additional information.

For more information about Emergency Management contact Kent McGuire, OSU Agricultural Safety & Health, at mcguire.225@osu.edu or 614-292-0588.

Ag Safety S.T.A.T. - Safe Tactics for Ag Today is an e-mail newsletter prepared by Dee Jepsen, Extension Agricultural Safety Specialist and team members from the State Safety Office, in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering at OSU. The primary goal of this monthly newsletter is to help you stay connected to everyday safety news and activities that may be used in your own newsletters or programs. If you have safety-related questions or program ideas that you would like to share, please contact Dr. Jepsen at jepsen.4@osu.edu
