
AG SAFETY S.T.A.T. - SAFE TACTICS FOR AG TODAY

Vol. 7 No. 5 June 2014

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR – *Summer Safety*

MONTHLY SAFETY SLOGAN

ANNOUNCEMENTS – *Grain Rescue Programs and Safety Curriculum for Local Programs*

MACHINERY MAINTENANCE - *Hay Equipment Safety Communication And Preventative Maintenance*

INJURY PREVENTION – *Tips for Spraying Pesticides Safely*

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP OF THE MONTH – *Safely Burning Outdoors*

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR – Summer Safety

Dee Jepsen – State Agricultural Safety and Health Leader

Summer is an interesting season for safety. Many outdoor activities increase with better weather. These include recreational sports, gardening and yard work, pedestrian and bicycle traffic, as well as an increase of motorcycles and motor vehicle on the road travelling to fairs, festivals and tourist events in rural areas. Even outdoor grilling and nights around a campfire are good summertime social events that require a mind for safety.

Following safe work practices on the farm is also an area of concern. Summer farm activities often include hiring seasonal labor forces that may include youth, family members, and retirees. Many of these workers do not have the occupational training to recognize farm hazards. Seasonal workers would benefit from a short training program about these hazards before they begin work. They would also benefit from a refresher course on equipment operation and chemical exposure if their job entails pesticide or fertilizer handling. This type of training is not limited to farmhands, but can also apply to yard and garden hands.

Our OSU Ag Safety and Health website contains safety and health factsheets for a variety of farm and garden chores. These articles could be helpful for an employer to share with their employees, or helpful to a parent to teach their young workers about safety practices. The direct link to the website resource is:

<http://agsafety.osu.edu/resources>

As the weather heats up and gets everyone outdoors for work or play, it is important to be mindful of the associated risks of those activities.

MONTHLY SAFETY SLOGAN

Accident Prevention – Your Number One Intention.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Grain Bin Awareness Programs and Grain Rescue Trainings

The Grain CART (Comprehensive Agricultural Rescue Trailer) is now being scheduled for spring and summer programs. This 40-foot trailer is equipped with a fully functional grain bin, grain leg and gravity flow wagon to simulate several scenarios when grain is stored on the farm. The Grain CART was developed by OSU students in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering in partnership with the Ohio Fire Academy and other private donors.

There are two types of classes using the Grain CART. A 6-hr course conducted by the Ohio Fire Academy (course # 1954) is specifically for firemen and other first responders to learn and practice rescue techniques. A Grain Bin Awareness program is taught by the OSU Ag Safety Program and is designed to teach farmers, farm families, community members and first responders about the many hazards associated with stored grain. Each class has separate fees.

To learn more about the program, and how to schedule the Grain CART for your community safety program, please contact Dave Torsell, Program Manager for Emergency Management and Agricultural Rescue, at Torsell.5@osu.edu or 614-292-9455.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Seeking Opportunities to Pilot Test Safety Curriculum

Does your county office or agricultural partners have responsibility for conducting annual safety programs to meet Workers Compensation requirements? Or do you have a summer program that could use a jolt of safety? If so, there are curriculum kits available to help you. There are 12 different topics for you to choose, each one with Power Point presentations (with speaker notes) and evaluations for your audience to give us feedback about the content. Please contact the Ag Safety Office to learn more about these pilot programs and how they can be used at your local safety event. Kathy Mann, Program Coordinator, at 614-292-0622 or mann.167@osu.edu

MACHINERY MAINTENANCE - Hay Equipment Safety Communication And Preventative Maintenance

Dewey Mann – Safety Research Associate

By early June, it is estimated that 40-60% of the first cutting hay crop in Ohio will be harvested. This provides a good time for hay producers to complete some preventative maintenance tasks, and communicate safety considerations with employees. Younger or less experienced employees may not know how to safely complete tasks that some experienced operators would consider 'common sense'.

Hay crops are often grown on ground too rough, steep or unsuitable for row crops. Taking safe measures in these areas is especially significant for safe operation. It is important to take the time to discuss with employees how to accomplish work objectives safely (get it done, but do it safely).

Usually baling must be done quickly and efficiently. Changing weather conditions can devalue the crop. However, no crop, no matter how large or valuable is worth an unnecessary injury or death. Careless operation that saves time but endangers workers is foolish. Be sure to communicate safe practices on a DAILY BASIS (we all need reminded), slow down and use 'common sense'.

Following preventative maintenance suggestions can reduce stress from down time and ensure safe working conditions for employees. Consider these aspects when completing maintenance:

- Replace broken or worn parts:
 - A baler with broken or missing pick-up tines, loose belts/chains, and other damaged parts will not feed material properly into the bale chamber.
 - Bent or loose blades on rotary cutters are more prone to thrown objects.
 - Ensure proper clearance between crimping rollers on mower conditioners.
- Always lubricate sprockets and chains when the machine is turned off.
- Whether in the shop or out in the field, always ensure the PTO is disengaged and the engine shut off before dismounting to service or adjust the equipment.
 - With mowers and square bales, wait until all components have stopped moving.
- Always lock and block the rear gate if you must be underneath it.
- Be prepared for a fire. Carry a Class ABC fire extinguisher on ALL tractors. Ensure that all are charged and in working order.
- Keep all shields and safety guards in place. Replace immediately after maintenance is complete (don't wait until you are ready to go to the field).

Summer also provides some great opportunities for youth to get involved in tasks around the farm. Employers should be aware that youth 14 years of age and younger are not legally permitted to operate tractors and machinery UNLESS doing so for their

parent/guardian OR after successfully completing a tractor and machinery certification program: <http://www.extension.org/pages/67882/nstmop:-student-information#.U4YxeV6CYxg>

INJURY PREVENTION – Tips for Spraying Pesticides Safely

Andy Bauer– OSU AgrAbility Program Coordinator

Pesticides can be dangerous when handling, mixing and applying them for use either on the farm, in the garden, or around the yard. Pesticides can enter your body in many ways, including contact through skin, inhalation of mist, dust, or fumes.

Always use safe practices when using pesticides and follow these steps to protect your health:

- Always maintain the label on each container so everyone can see what it contains and its safety precautions.
- Read the label on the product you are using. The label will identify the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) you need to wear when handling the product and the hazards of using that product.
- Always follow the application rate as directed on the product label. Always wear eye protection, gloves, long sleeve shirt and long leg pants when handling chemicals and take your time when mixing them.
- Triple rinse empty pesticide containers and do not reuse them, dispose of empty containers properly after rinsing.
- Immediately wash with clean water and change your clothes if pesticides are sprayed or spilled on you. Wash your work clothes separately from other clothing after mixing and using pesticides to prevent cross contamination of yourself and family.
- Wash your hands before eating, drinking, chewing gum, using tobacco, or touching your nose and mouth.

Remember, do not rush to get the job done. Be safe and protect your health.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP OF THE MONTH: Safely Burning Outdoors

Dave Torsell – OSU Program Manager for Agricultural Rescue and Emergency Management

Over the past weeks many of you have worked feverishly to get things ready for the moment good weather hit. There is a lot of clean up to do after our long winter and mother nature did a wonderful job of throwing her debris around yards, on roofs tops and about every other place imaginable. It is important to keep areas around buildings, barns, Tack sheds, implement buildings, and your home, free of debris. Some debris can

be burned, including tree limbs, stockpiles of firewood and rubble carried onto your property by flood waters. It is tempting to simply pile and burn this debris. If you do decide to do so, follow these safety precautions.

- Accumulations of brush, tree limbs, and other legal items found in storm debris should be piled in an area where it is safe to burn. Place these items away from vulnerable crops and buildings that may be in the path of destruction should the fire get out of hand.
- Never burn on a windy day and burn in an area that is away from buildings and animals that could be in the path of an out of control fire. Make sure the smoke does not cross roadways or blow in you neighbors open windows.
- Get a burn permit if one is required. You can apply on line from the EPA. Its free and the right thing to do to stay out of trouble.
- Have a water source such as a hose or a tank with a pump ready to control any fire that moves out of the control zone.
- Make sure that the materials you want to burn are allowed under Ohio law. For example, burning off certain grasses will require a permit.
- Notify your local fire department. They cannot give you permission to 'open burn' but letting them know the area where the burn is taking place can help them be prepared for the worst. If the fire does get out of hand, call early for help because fire spreads quickly.

Ohio has strict laws when it comes to open burning. Read and know what the laws are. For more information about Ohio's Open Burning Laws, connect to the Ohio EPA web site at: epa.gov/dapc/general/openburning.aspx

For more information about Emergency Management contact Dave Torsell, Program Manager for Emergency Management and Agricultural Rescue, at Torsell.5@osu.edu or 614-292-9455.

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
