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

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THOUGHTS from the EDITOR

Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader

As I thought about how to share regular safety messages from the Extension State Safety Office, and the format it should appear, I thought about the reluctance one feels when they hear or read the word SAFETY. I'm not sure exactly why humans have associated this word with negative feelings, or why safety messages are thought as actions that prevent a person from having fun.

"Safety is not negative, it is a positive! To be safe, is to have a better quality of life so that more things can be enjoyed!" And you can quote me on this! So, as you receive the first issue of *Ag Safety S.T.A.T.*, don't be so quick to hit the delete button. There just may be some information you can use, both on the job and in your personal life. While the title has "Ag" in it, don't be fooled. This monthly newsletter will contain a diversity of safety messages that All-Extension can find a benefit.

JUNE is NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

The National Safety Council has designated June as National Safety Month. Their Web site offers valuable safety information and ideas for promoting safety. Each week of June, they will host a webinar relating the weekly theme. Topics include: Emergency Preparedness - Week 1, Distracted Driving - Week 2, Poisoning Prevention - Week 3, and Falls Prevention - Week 4. Check them out at <http://www.nsc.org>.

RESOURCES for PETS DURING EMERGENCIES

The American Veterinary Medical Association has resources for helping families prepare for disasters with both small and large animals. You can get a copy of their booklet at local veterinarian offices or online at: <http://www.avma.org/products/disaster/savingfamily.asp>.

RESOURCES for LARGE ANIMALS and ANIMAL AGROSECURITY

A hard copy book is now available for Animal Agrosecurity and Emergency Management Course Instructor Guide, published by the University of Kentucky. The book also contains a CD with all the course materials on it. Contact Kathy Henwood in the State Safety Office for your copy, henwood.13@osu.edu

MONTHLY ARTICLE: PLAYING IT SAFE AROUND WATER

Tim Butcher, OSHA Coordinator

As the weather warms our thoughts turn to outside work and fun. If you have a pond or stream on your property these can be excellent sources of water for livestock, irrigation, fire fighting or recreation. However if children or unprepared adults live on or visit the property, these same water resources can be the source of tragedy if you don't take steps to manage the danger.

Adults often underestimate the curiosity of children or think verbal warnings are enough to keep children safe around water. Because you can't make the water less attractive, you have to make having it safer.

Consider fencing the approaches to the water on your property; not only will this control livestock access and have environmental benefits, but will help keep children from wandering into the water. Fencing can also limit your liability if someone is hurt in the water on your property.

Signage is also a useful warning to people intent on entering the water. The wording can be general such as prohibiting swimming without adult supervision, or more specific such as a warning of sloping unstable banks or the potential presence of agricultural chemical residues.

If swimming is something you are either going to allow or don't think you can prevent, it's a good idea to provide life saving equipment. A rescue post with an attached weatherproof lifeline and buoy can be used instead trying to rescue a struggling swimmer. A rescue pole should be available to assist victims out of the water.

Of course none of these measures are of any use if someone gets into trouble by himself or herself. No one should swim alone in a farm pond or stream regardless of his or her level of skill because of the unknowns in the water. Drop offs, temperature shock and the risk of entanglement are too common.

Children should be taught at an early age how to swim, and about water safety. Finally, anyone can benefit from First Aid and CPR training. Contact your local Red Cross chapter or YMCA to see when the very next class will be offered.

This summer, play it safe around water.

SAFETY TIP of the MONTH

When performing house repairs, make sure that your windows are not painted or nailed shut. You must be able to open them to escape in an emergency.

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
