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

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THOUGHTS from the EDITOR

Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader

I recently returned from my favorite professional development conference. It was the annual meeting of the National Institute for Farm Safety. While there, it was great to re-connect with other safety colleagues around the U.S. and discuss topics that most people don't spend much time discussing ... SAFETY.

I certainly recognize that my area of expertise is a bit different from others, but nonetheless, it is an important topic. As I think about the diverse topics that our State Safety Office addresses, I realize the important services we provide to others in the state when the need for safety arises.

In just the last three weeks, here are the main programs we have worked on:

ATV safety, livestock safety, grain engulfment, chemical safety, lawn and garden safety, roadway safety, the new Speed Identification Symbols (SIS), Amish buggy safety, sun safety, tractor safety, youth working on farms (and the types of activities they should or should not be performing), farm equipment safety, business continuity planning, safe practices of aerial lifts used for picking fruits, pond safety, agricultural rescue techniques, silo fires, and dangers in manure storage facilities.

I share these with you only to get you thinking about how you may benefit from the programs we have, or the information you may be able to provide to those in your local community. I understand that safety isn't always the most requested topic, but sometimes it just needs to be there!

Feel free to contact any of us in the State Office for your specific concerns or ideas for a better safety program. Our ultimate goal is to reduce injuries and improve the quality of life. We can't do this alone, but will work with you to make it happen.

ATV SAFETY

The latest information from the Consumer Product Safety Commission (1982 to 2006), reported Ohio 12th in the nation for the number of ATV-related deaths. In an effort to change this statistic and make Ohio a safer state, the Ohio 4-H ATV Safety Program has received funding from the National 4-H Council to conduct Rider Course trainings for youth.

These Rider Courses are a hands-on, 4-hour training session conducted by licensed ATV Safety Institute Instructors. The course offers participants an opportunity to increase their safety knowledge and to practice basic riding skills in a controlled environment under the direct supervision of a licensed instructor. The Rider Course participants will learn about protective gear, machine maintenance, local regulations, public places to ride and environmental concerns. Taking an ATV Rider Course:

- Improves riding skills
- Builds confidence
- Gets kids started right
- Is a great way to meet other riders
- Teaches how to Tread Lightly!

For more information about how to enroll youth in the program OR to host a training course in your area, contact Kathy Henwood 614-292-0622 or Randall Reeder (614) 292- 6648. Fall courses are now being scheduled!

SEE US at the FARM SCIENCE REVIEW

The Ag Safety Office will be featuring Agricultural Rescue demonstrations by the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal, and Ohio Fire Academy Instructors at this year's Farm Science Review. These demonstrations will highlight the importance of Ag Rescue training, which teaches the appropriate techniques for utilizing rescue equipment when responding to agricultural emergencies. The Ohio Fire Academy will conduct two morning and two afternoon demonstrations daily. Academy instructors will be available to discuss possible Ag Rescue training courses offered at the Academy as well as direct-delivery in the communities. They will also have information on high school and post-secondary education and training for those considering a career in firefighting. For more information on Ag Rescue training offered by the Ohio Fire Academy please visit www.ohiofireacademy.com or contact Scott Walker, Deputy Superintendent, by phone at 614-752-8818 or 888-726-7731 or by email at Scott.Walker@com.state.oh.us.

MONTHLY ARTICLE: BEATING the SUMMER HEAT

Tim Butcher, OSHA Coordinator

After what has been one of the wettest Junes in recent memory, we were all a little happy to see the warmer dryer weather of July and August. Many people have gotten the message about sun safety and how important it is to protect the skin against dangerous UV light, but guarding against the temperature extremes summer can bring is also an important concern.

Working outside under the sun puts people at risk for heat stress and heat stroke. However for some people, especially children and the elderly, just being outdoors during hot weather can be hazardous. When the body core temperature reaches 104 degrees Fahrenheit muscle function slows down. And when the temperature rises above 106 degrees, a person loses the ability for self help. Temperatures higher than that can cause fatal consequences.

Some of the strategies used for skin cancer prevention are helpful in keeping the body temperature in safe ranges, especially wearing an appropriate hat and limiting the time spent in the sun between the hours of 10am and 4pm. However many people need to work outside during those hours so a good hat and a shirt that covers the shoulders and arms is the only way to be shielded from the heat of the sun.

Whether a person is directly in the sun or is able to find some shade, one of the most important strategies to stay safe is to stay hydrated. Because sweating is the body's way to cool itself, large amounts of water are lost while in the heat. Drinking alcohol, caffeinated beverages and pop increases urination without completely replacing the water lost. The best liquid available to keep the body hydrated has always been water, especially when it is between 50 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Just like the old adage encourages people to dig wells before becoming thirsty, people should regularly hydrate themselves while in the heat, rather than waiting until the body starts sending painful messages.

Summer doesn't only affect those that are outside; people indoors are often uncomfortable while their buildings struggle to maintain comfortable temperatures or the thermostat is set to achieve cost savings. Unfortunately no enforceable standards exist specifically addressing how hot an office has to be before it is classified as unsafe. Foundry workers and others routinely exposed to high temperatures often times have vests that can be outfitted with cooling packs similar to the reusable freezer pouches used to keep food cold. Office workers will probably continue to have to use fans and hydration to fight high summer temperatures when the air conditioning is not up to the task.

Whether because of work or pleasure, many people find themselves exposed to the long sunny days of summer and the hazards involved with it. Safe summer practices can make the time in the sun and under the heat less of a stress than it would otherwise be.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP of the MONTH

Aletha Reshan, Emergency Management Planning and Education Program Coordinator

Having a farm emergency plan is an essential way to be prepared in the event an emergency or disaster affects a farm. The emergency planning process will illuminate areas requiring farm management strategies to decrease the negative impact of an emergency. A very good beginning step in the planning process is to ensure that the farm's county emergency (911) address is clearly posted at the road entrance to the property. Farm owners can verify their 911 address with their local law enforcement office. This address should be posted using 3-inch reflective numerals on both sides of the mailbox. Verifying that the correct 911 address is posted and using large reflective numerals will increase the emergency responders ability to locate the farm as quickly as possible so they can begin taking action.

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
