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

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THOUGHTS from the EDITOR: ON AGRICULTURAL FATALITIES

Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader

One of the tasks of the Agricultural Safety Office is to maintain the Farm Fatality Injury Database of Ohio (acronym is F.F.I.D.O.). Now let me first say that FFIDO is not a little dog we keep under a desk, but rather a fairly comprehensive statewide resource for monitoring agricultural fatalities. This system was initiated in 1956 by Bill Stuckey, Ohio's first Agricultural Safety Leader. The early years of the database focused primarily on tractors; however it has grown to include all types of occupational hazards.

The primary sources of fatality cases are collected through a news service agency. The Bureau of Vital Statistics, Ohio Department of Health, reviews each case for accuracy of inclusion. Recordable fatalities are occupational in nature, and do not include those related to recreational activities.

The benefits of this longitudinal collection of data are to help guide and direct current and future research and outreach initiatives. Data are made available through the Agricultural Safety and Health program's Website, and are used by county Extension educators, public health officials, and the media. Such data are also utilized in grant writing and program development initiatives.

To access the statewide database, go to the Ag Safety Web page at <http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~agsafety/ash/stats/index.html>. The headers in the gray box, next to the wrecked tractor, can be used to navigate through the statistics. Data are classified in 10-year increments, allowing the system to document trends, as opposed to a year-by-year analysis.

As Ohio's farm population rates have changed over the years, it's interesting that the safety statistics have not. Farm tractors and machinery were the major causes of fatalities in the 1950's. These same agents continue to be the lead accident-causing agents on today's farms. That is why many of our agricultural safety programs revolve around the tractor and auxiliary equipment.

Fall is a high-fatality season. It is important for farm workers and farm families to heed the safety messages, take regular breaks, replace all shields and guards after maintenance is performed, and get adequate sleep. It is just as important to be productive, as it is to be safe. And often times, productivity is a benefit of using best management safety practices.

Happy harvesting and stay safe!

COUNTY FATALITY REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE

To request a fatality statistical report of a specific county or cluster of counties, contact the State Safety Office. Please allow 3-5 days for your stats to be run. You will receive them electronically in a Power Point presentation;

this also includes the statewide data so that you can compare your geographic area to the state data. The information is formatted so that you can share it in presentations or as printed materials on displays. To request a county fatality report, contact Kathy Henwood directly at henwood.13@osu.edu or 614-292-0622.

WINTER IS on the WAY - GET PREPARED

Ohio's Winter Safety Awareness Week is November 16 – 22

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages everyone to get ready to weather the cold - this includes households, schools and businesses.

The weather can certainly be unpredictable and Ohioans may face a plethora of diverse topics in the next several months. Everyone should know what to do in the event of a snow or ice storm, a prolonged power outage, winter flooding or fire. Prepare and practice for drills that include sheltering in place, and evacuating using escape routes. Have an emergency contact list and establish a meeting place so that others will know where to find you.

Many schools and businesses find it important to invest in a NOAA Weather Radio to stay updated on severe weather watches and warnings. Likewise, local news stations provide weather alerts that can be sent to personal email accounts for specific geographic regions.

Winter safety kits should be readily accessible in the home or in the auto. Depending on the location of the kit, here are a few items to include: warm clothing, blankets, flashlights, new batteries, outer wear, battery-operated radio, first aid kit, and enough nonperishable food and water to sustain each family member for a minimum of three days. Homes should have properly working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Vehicles should be scheduled for maintenance, including a tire inspection. During the winter months, fuel tanks should not drop below a quarter tank to reduce the chance of fuel line freeze-up. And wiper fluid solution should also be maintained for driving visibility.

As Ohioans prepare for the changes in temperature, we also look forward to the anticipation of what winter holds.

EYE SAFETY GUIDE for FARMERS

A new brochure is now available for download and use in your agricultural community. The National Education Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, along with the AgriSafe Network, have produced a colorful one page publication entitled, "Protecting Your Sight: Eye Safety Guide for Farmers." Download the publication at <http://www.nsc.org/necas/>

SUN SAFETY HATS - LAST ORDER for 2008

We have been asked about ordering Sun Safety hats with the OSUE logo. We did this earlier in the spring, and sold hundreds of them to our OSUE friends and colleagues. And now they are out there, and even more people want them!!

These sun safe hats are great for Master Gardeners, field researchers, golf enthusiasts, local farmers, OSU Alumni, etc. The hats have a wide brim and are a lightweight, quick drying, mesh. They are available in two colors, sage (light green) and fossil (lighter khaki) and have a black OSUE logo embroidered on the front brim.

If you or any of your organizations are interested in purchasing sun safe hats, please contact Kathy Henwood, to request an order form. The cost of each hat is \$25. The deadline to return orders is October 29, 2008. There is a 4-week processing time. You can expect your hats to arrive in Columbus the first week of December. Contact Kathy Henwood directly at henwood.13@osu.edu or 614-292-0622.

ATV SAFETY COURSES AVAILABLE for FALL

November ATV safety courses are listed below. Please contact the course host for location and other registration information. Participants can range from age 6 through adulthood.

The course includes completing a pre-ride inspection, starting and stopping, quick turns, hill riding, emergency stopping, and riding over obstacles. Riders learn about protective gear, local regulations, places to ride, and environmental concerns. This course is valued at \$75 for ages 6-15 and \$125 for ages 16 and older. With the aid of a grant from the National 4-H Council in partnership with the ATV Safety Institute (ASI), the Ohio course fees are waived. (It is an option of the course host to charge a small fee to cover facility fees, snacks, etc.)

Nov 8th- Adams/Brown Co. area
Herrs Horse Farm @ 9:00 am
Becky Cropper, Brown Co. Extension Office
937-378-6716

Nov 15th- Mercer Co.
Ultimate Powersports @ 9:00am
Barb Phares, Mercer Co. Extension Office
419-586-2179

Nov 22nd- Fulton Co.
Fulton Co. Fairgrounds @ 9:00 am
Jill Stechschulte, Fulton Co. Extension Office
419-337-9210

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP of the MONTH

Aletha Reshan, Emergency Management Planning and Education Program Coordinator

Just as businesses prepare business continuity plans to aid their business in maintaining operations as well as resuming operations as quickly as possible during an emergency or disaster, so too must home health care providers. Home health care providers meet the medical needs of homebound patients. Therefore, it is necessary for the organization itself to be prepared for an emergency or disaster as well as assist clientele with being prepared. In the event that a home health care organization cannot provide continuity of care to their clientele during an emergency or disaster, the organization can assist their clientele with being prepared in the following ways:

Needs Assessment: 1) is the organization prepared to meet the needs of home-bound patients during an emergency or disaster and 2) what are the patients needs during an emergency or disaster and can their family appropriately assist them?

Prepare Supplies: Ideally, patients should have supplies to last for a minimum of 3 days and a maximum of 2 weeks. This includes food, medication, and back-up generator that can power medical equipment.

Have a Plan: Both the provider and the patients families need to have a preparedness plan so that all parties know who is responsible for what actions and also how to maintain contact with one another.

Shelters: Knowing which shelters are most suitable for homebound patients is critical to the planning process. How will the patient be transported, what resources are provided at the shelter, how will the patients medical needs be monitored, how will medications be secured if necessary - these are all questions that need to be addressed in the plan.

Pets: Many homebound patients have service animals or pets. Service animals, such as seeing-eye dogs, assistance dogs, and hearing/signal dogs, provide assistance to their owners and therefore are permitted in shelters in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Pets, on the other hand, are not permitted in shelters. It is

essential that the care of service dogs and pets be an integral part of the plan so that their needs can be met and their owners not have this as an additional worry during an emergency or disaster.

The following links provide more in-depth emergency and disaster planning information specifically for home health care provider organizations as well as their clientele:

Emergency Preparedness Packet for Home Health Agencies

National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC)

http://www.nahc.org/regulatory/EP_Binder.pdf

Preparedness Planning for Home Health Care Providers

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

http://www.dhs.gov/xprepresp/programs/gc_1221055966370.shtm

Disaster Planning Guide for Home Health Care Providers

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

<http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/oha-home-health-care-preparedness.pdf>

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
