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

Vol.2 No. 3 March 2009

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THOUGHTS from the EDITOR - SPRING WEATHER

Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader

Spring weather has finally arrived. Cold and cloudy, warm and breezy. With all these climatic changes, Ohioans should expect and prepare for spring weather conditions. This month's issue of Ag Safety S.T.A.T. focuses on flooding and tornadoes.

AMISH SAFETY PROGRAM ANNOUNCES NEW COORDINATOR:

Teresa Calip

As the coordinator for the Anabaptist Safety Program, the overall focus of my work is to increase awareness of ways to reduce the incidence of horse-drawn vehicle and automobile collisions in areas of the state with Amish and Mennonite populations. The program has a presence in Geauga, Wayne, Holmes, Hardin Logan, Ashland, Tuscarawas, Ashtabula, Morrow, Richland, Knox, Fairfield, Perry, Belmont, Monroe, and Coshocton counties.

The result of several years of collaboration between the Department of Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering (FABE) and local Amish communities, was the creation of optimum lighting and marking recommendations for horse-drawn vehicles. While there has not been universal acceptance of these suggestions, funding through the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) and the Ohio Governor's Highway Safety Office (GHSO) has allowed for continuation of educational programming addressing the continued implementation of standardized buggy marking, as well as other Amish transportation safety concerns. In addition, education also targets the motoring public in Amish areas about sharing the road safely with buggies. As the program has expanded, I will also address issues of bicycle safety, pedestrian safety, occupant protection while riding in motor vehicles, and alcohol use/abuse. The ultimate goal is a reduction of injuries and fatalities on Ohio roadways.

Theresa can be reached at 614-292-1952 or calip.1@osu.edu

TRACTOR SAFETY EDUCATIONAL PACKETS AVAILABLE

Now is your chance to request tractor safety educational packets put together by Kubota tractor company. The packet includes a CD-Rom Hazard Hunt game, CD-Rom containing 4 brief tractor safety videos, and some ROPS/seat belt educational brochures. This packet would be an excellent resource for tractor maintenance clubs, tractor certification classes, or any other Ag. safety programming you might be offering. Packets are free of charge. We would be happy to send you as many as you would like! Please contact Kathy Henwood, henwood.13@osu.edu to request yours today!

4-H ATV SAFETY PROGRAM UPDATE

We are picking up pace with the ATV RiderCourse classes. We are constantly scheduling more classes around the state. The class locations and dates can be found on our website, <http://4hengineering.osu.edu>, under the Ohio 4-

4-H ATV Safety program. We still welcome more counties to become involved with this program. Please feel free to send questions to Kathy Henwood at henwood.13@osu.edu.

Just as a reminder below is a clarification of the 4-H ATV project changes for 2009.

The publication 4-H 555 ATV Adventures Rider Handbook is discontinued from the Family Guide in 2009. However, youth in any county can still take the ATV project by enrolling in the group project 554GPM. And, even though this is designated as a group project, it is acceptable that even one 4-Her can take the project.

Youth will receive their individual handbook when they attend the FREE, four-hour ASI RiderCourse. (Youth who have already taken the ATV project can use their old copies of the book.) The RiderCourse is for anyone enrolling in the ATV project and for anyone interested in participating in the state-level contest (July 30, 2009).

FLOOD SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK - MARCH 16-20, 2009

'Turn Around Don't Drown' Campaign

Flooding is a coast-to-coast threat to the United States, causing more damage than any other severe weather-related event. Flooding can occur at any time during any month.

Hancock, Lorain, Ottawa and Putnam counties, and the surrounding areas of Cleveland and Toledo are dealing with moderate river flooding after being inundated by heavy rains over the past weekends.

The National Weather Service (NWS), a member of the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, is promoting National Flood Safety Awareness Week, March 16-20 to bring attention to the different kinds of flooding, the hazards associated with flooding, and what people can do to protect lives and properties. Know the difference between a flood and a flash flood

A Flood occurs when there is an overflow of water onto normally dry land. Flooding is caused by rising water in an existing waterway such as a river, stream or drainage ditch. Flooding can occur when melting snow combines with heavy rain in the winter and early spring and when severe thunderstorms bring heavy rain in the spring and summer.

Flash Flooding can occur within six hours of a rain event; or after a dam or levee failure; or following a sudden release of water held back by ice or debris jam. Flash floods often catch people unprepared because there may not be a warning that these sudden, potentially deadly floods are coming.

Know the different categories of flooding

For specific river gages along a river or stream, the NWS often issues flood warnings for that point along the river. Once the river reaches flood stage, the following flood categories are used to describe the current and forecast flooding:

Minor Flooding - With minor flooding there is minimal or no property damage, but could create some public threat or inconvenience.

Moderate Flooding - With moderate flooding there is some inundation of structures and roads near streams. Some evacuations of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations are necessary.

Major Flooding - With major flooding there is extensive inundation of structures and roads. Significant evacuation of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations are necessary.

To avoid getting caught in flooded areas and risking life and safety, the NWS and the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness suggest the following tips:

- Monitor the NOAA Weather Radio or local TV or radio station for vital weather-related information.
- If flooding occurs, move to higher ground immediately. Leave areas subject to flooding. This includes dips in roads, low spots, canyons and washes.

- Never allow children to play near high water, storm drains or ditches. Hidden dangers, such as broken glass or debris, often lie beneath the water. In addition, flowing floodwaters can easily sweep children and adults away.
- Avoid areas that are already flooded, especially if the floodwaters are flowing fast. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams on foot or in vehicles. It only takes six inches of fast flowing water to sweep a person off his/her feet. Turn Around Don't Drown.
- Never drive on a flooded road. Flooded roads often have significant damage hidden by floodwaters. In addition, most vehicles lose contact with the road in six inches of water and can be swept away in 18 or 24 inches of water. Turn Around Don't Drown.
- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams or washes, particularly when threatening weather conditions exist.
- Be especially cautious when driving at night. It is harder to recognize flood dangers.

Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 22-28, with a Statewide Tornado Drill scheduled for Wednesday, March 25 at 9:50 a.m.

For additional information on flood safety, severe weather preparedness, and the NWS Turn Around Don't Drown safety campaign, visit the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness Web site at www.weathersafety.ohio.gov and the NWS site: www.nws.noaa.gov/floodsafety/tadd.shtml

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP OF THE MONTH

Aletha Reshan, Emergency Management Planning and Education Program Coordinator

March is a very busy month for severe weather preparedness planning in Ohio! The three main events are:
National Flood Safety Awareness Week - March 16-20

Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week - March 22-28

Ohio's Statewide Tornado Drill - March 25, 9:50 a.m.

Flooding can build up over several days of rain or melting snow or can occur quickly with a large amount of rainfall in a short amount of time. This second type of flooding is known as flash flooding. Both types of flooding are dangerous and in fact as little as six inches of fast moving water can knock an adult off his/her feet! Two feet of water is all that is needed to carry away vehicles.

Some of the following preparedness steps are particular to flooding while others are good preparedness planning practices in general:

- Learn if your property is located in a floodplain or area prone to flash flooding by contacting your local planning department
- Purchase flood insurance if necessary
- Create a video inventory of your possessions with narration that includes serial number, purchase date, and purchase price for each item. Store the inventory in a fire/water-proof lock box away from your home.
- Store important documents such as birth certificates, wills, social security cards, ownership certificates (cars, boats), marriage licenses, divorce decrees, child custody agreements, and insurance policies in a fire/water-proof lock box or away from your home in a bank safe deposit box.
- Learn where your local emergency shelters are located, what the evacuation routes are, and what type of warning devices are utilized in your area by contacting your county emergency management office
- Inform local first responders such as police and fire departments of family members' special needs such as being bedridden, blind, or deaf or using oxygen
- Post a list of emergency contact phone numbers at each phone
- Identify potential hazards and plan how to safely secure them in the event of an emergency
- Make sure all family members know how to use the fire extinguisher
- Install sump pumps with back-up power
- Raise electric components (switches, sockets, circuit breakers and wiring) at least 12" above your home's projected flood level

- Install backflow valves or plugs to prevent floodwaters from entering drains, toilets, and other sewer connections
- Anchor fuel tanks

Many of the above steps pertain to emergency preparedness in general and so are applicable to tornado preparedness. A basement corner is the safest location to seek shelter from a tornado. If there is no basement, a small room in the lowest level of the home is the next best location.

The main message for tornado practices as well as action steps during a warning is to DUCK.

D - DOWN to the lowest level

U - UNDER something

C - COVER your head

K - KEEP in shelter until the storm has passed

For more information on preparing for a flood or tornado, please visit these websites:

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/readiness.asp>

<http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov/FloodsFloodInsuranceInfo2007.aspx>

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/tornadoes/prepared.asp>

<http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov/TornadoFacts2007.aspx>

ARTICLE of the MONTH - Tapping into Safety

Tim Butcher, OSHA Program Coordinator

It's maple sap collecting season and many people are heading out to make their own syrup. Ohio consistently ranks as one of the top five maple syrup producing states in the country and many people are gaining an interest in this age-old tradition. Whether a commercial producer or a hobbyist interested in making just enough for family and friends, there is a safe way to enjoy making maple syrup.

- Be aware that the beginning of maple season overlaps the end of many hunting seasons. Consider adding Hunter Orange to your clothing selection before heading out into the woods, at least until March 15th in Ohio.
- Walking from tree to tree is different than a hike in the woods. There may not be established paths and the chance of slips, trips and falls is greater. Wear good footwear.
- If using sap taps and buckets instead of a tubing system, frequent trips to the same trees will be necessary. It's a good idea to clear fallen limbs in the area around the tree and from the paths to and from the tree to make working in the area safer.
- Whether using a battery powered drill or a hand-operated drill, the drill bit can inflict a serious wound in the event of a fall. If it is not practical to remove the drill bit between trips from tree to tree, it should be carried with the drill bit pointed to the ground.
- Five gallons of sap weighs almost 42 pounds. To convert this sap into syrup requires 294 pounds of collected sap. It is important to be prepared for the physical activity required collecting and carrying all that sap.
- When the sap is boiled to make syrup it reaches seven degrees above the boiling point of water. At this temperature syrup can severely burn unprotected skin. The stickiness of the syrup means that any spilled material will adhere to clothing and skin and may need immediate attention. Children and others not involved in syrup making should be kept away from the process.

Making maple syrup is a perfect way to say goodbye to the cold days of winter and can produce a delicious product for your family to enjoy throughout the year. Follow a few safety tips and keep trips into the woods a pleasant experience

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
