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

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THOUGHTS from the EDITOR

Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader

According to the National Safety Council, methamphetamine use is becoming more widespread in the workplace. In addition to having serious health consequences for workers, meth use also can increase the likelihood of workplace accidents and result in higher health care costs and lost productivity for employers.

For the farm operation, meth users see the anhydrous ammonia nurse tanks as an available ingredient to support their drug addiction. As farms getting ready to apply spring fertilizers, they should also be on the look out for criminal activity. An OSU Factsheet, Preventing Theft of Anhydrous Ammonia, offers signs to look for and tips for prevention. It can be found on Ohioline at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/aex-fact/0594-1.html>

COMMUNITIES GEARING UP for FARM SAFETY DAY CAMPS

Spring is here and so begins a new season for farm safety. Each year approximately 2,000 campers enjoy learning about rural hazards during a Farm Safety Day Camp. These camps are a collaborative sponsorship among Ohio State University Extension, Ohio Farm Bureau, Our Ohio, Ohio 4-H Foundation and The Nationwide Foundation. Farm Safety Round-Ups offer communities valuable lessons about farm dangers through educational sessions that focus on rural safety. The 2009 camping season includes six camps scheduled around the state.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of farm safety for the Putnam County camp. Over 5,000 3rd graders have attended this annual event as part of their school year. Ruth Gerding, Putnam County Health Dept., Glen Arnold and Jason Hedrick, OSUE Putnam County, Dale and Ruth Gerding Farm and a host of community agribusinesses and agencies, have jointly coordinated this effort to teach youth the hazards on the farm.

"Rural injuries can occur to anyone, not just farm kids," Ohio Safety Leader Dr. Dee Jepsen said. "Learning about the hazards is one step to reducing injuries to kids who live or visit the farm."

OSUE Agricultural Safety and Health Program, housed in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering, is a nationally recognized center of excellence for educational Extension programming and agricultural safety and health research. In addition to traditional agricultural safety issues, other program areas include Amish buggy safety, disaster education and sun safety. For a schedule of this year's day camps and more information regarding the Farm Safety Round-Up program, view its Web site at http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/programs/day_camps.html.

TRACTOR SAFETY EDUCATIONAL PACKETS - STILL 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 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-H ATV Safety program. We still welcome more counties to become involved with this program. This would be a great addition to a tractor certification course! Please feel free to send questions to Kathy Henwood at henwood.13@osu.edu.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP of the MONTH: *Being Prepared At Work and Home* **Aletha Reshan, Emergency Management Planning and Education Program Coordinator**

What is the best way for workplaces to prepare for emergencies and disasters? Ensuring that their employees are prepared at home. The Council for Excellence in Government tells us that "It is important to remember that many employees will not follow a workplace emergency plan (like sheltering in place) if they do not have a family plan in place". The Council's website What's Your Readiness Quotient (RQ)? provides a 10-question test that determines an individual's/family's emergency readiness quotient. The individual's/family's RQ then factors into the RQ of a workplace, school, and community. The test includes questions such as:

- Do you know how to find the emergency broadcasting channel on the radio?
- In the last year, have you prepared a Disaster Supply Kit with emergency supplies like water, food and medicine that is kept in a designated place in your home? Car? Workplace?
- Have you taken first aid training such as CPR in the past five years?

To take the test and determine your readiness quotient, please visit the Council's website at <http://www.whatsyourrq.org>. Being prepared at home as an individual/family contributes to the overall preparedness of workplaces, schools, and communities!

ARTICLE of the MONTH: *Fertile Ground for Safety with Anhydrous Ammonia* **Tim Butcher, OSHA Program Coordinator**

Spring means fertilizer application, and anhydrous ammonia is being applied to farmer's fields all over the state. Handled incorrectly this valuable chemical can be very dangerous. Remember the following tips to keep anhydrous ammonia safe.

- Do not overfill nurse tanks. Anhydrous ammonia is stored and transported under pressure and the tanks have a specific pressure tolerance.
- Do not handle the hose by lifting the valve handle or hand wheel. The valves and wheels are designed for turning, pulling on them can cause breakage and leakage.
- Do wear goggles, rubber gloves, and clothing to cover exposed skin when working with anhydrous ammonia because it reacts quickly with available water and can easily cause eye and mucous membrane injury.
- Do have plenty of water on hand to treat skin, eyes and mucous membranes by flushing with water if an exposure occurs.
- Do maintain valves and gauges by following the recommended inspection and maintenance schedules and procedures.
- Do check the transfer hose for defects and to make sure it is not past its required replacement date.
- Do check the tank for damage and excessive wear. A certified welder must make repairs requiring welding.
- Do make sure that the required labeling is on the tank and that the required SMV emblems are visible from 500 feet behind the vehicle.
- Do check the tires, undercarriage, and hitch of the tank to make sure they are ready for travel on the road.
- Do protect against theft by locking valves, using the contents as soon as possible and reporting suspicious activity to local law enforcement.

Anhydrous ammonia is an efficient and widely used source of nitrogen fertilizer. Proper handling and equipment maintenance is critical to keeping its use safe.

An OSU factsheet, Safe Handling of Anhydrous Ammonia, can provide additional information.
<http://ohioline.osu.edu/aex-fact/0594.html>

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
