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

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THOUGHTS from the EDITOR - NATIONAL FARM SAFETY WEEK

Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader

It's here - the big week that all ag safety professionals look forward to each year. National Farm Safety and Health Week! This annual event has been celebrated since 1944 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt first made a proclamation to focus attention on the safety of America's agricultural workers. Farm Safety and Health Week is September 20-26.

This year's theme is "Rural Roadway Safety: Alert, Aware and Alive." See the article in this newsletter for more information on preventing rural roadway crashes. In the mean time, enjoy the fall weather and the beauty in this season. Take a drive in the country and revel in all that Mother Nature and Ohio's agriculture has to showcase.

AG SAFETY ACTIVITIES at the 2009 FARM SCIENCE REVIEW

The Agricultural Safety program staff will be available to meet and talk with anyone attending Farm Science Review, September 22 - 24. Look for us at the following locations:

ATV Safety Display - OSU Central, lot 426

Grain Rescue Demonstrations - daily at 10a.m., noon, and 2p.m. - OSU Central, Kottman Street

AgrAbility and Ohio's Statewide Kick-Off Campaign - OSU Central, Land Ave

Horse-Drawn Lighting and Marking Display - Small Farm Tent, Beef Street

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Do you remember the term "Y2K?" What, if anything, did you do to prepare for that historical event? Y2K had potential to affect every human, regardless of their age or geographic location. Since the turn of the new century several large-scale emergencies have occurred, and likewise so have smaller regional disasters. No matter where you reside, it is possible that you may face a disaster at some level of severity.

September has been designated as National Preparedness Month. This national campaign is sponsored by FEMA's Ready Campaign. It focuses on helping Americans understand what it truly means to be Ready with regards to 1) items to include in a disaster preparedness kit, 2) making a plan, 3) being informed, and 4) getting involved.

Throughout the month of September check out the activities and events this campaign has to offer. The web address is <http://www.ready.gov/>

SHARING the ROAD THIS FALL with ANIMAL-DRAWN VEHICLES

Theresa Calip, Program Coordinator

The fall is a peak season not only for foliage, but also for motorists and tourists heading to Amish-populated areas to enjoy the autumn colors. Driving safely on rural roads that are also shared with horse-drawn vehicles is a cooperative action for both motorists and buggy drivers. Increasing the visibility of horse-drawn vehicles gives motorists an increased time frame in which to react, and so improves the safety for those in the buggy.

The updated and revised Fact Sheet (AEX-596.4-09) "Lighting and Marking Recommendations for Buggies and Wagons" is now available on OhioLine at <http://ohioline.osu.edu>. This publication incorporates the new 2008 ASABE recommendations for achieving higher roadway visibility for horse-drawn vehicles using retroreflective tape, the Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblem, and other options. A new publication, "Lighting and Marking Recommendations for Animal-Drawn Carriages" (AEX-596.7-09) is also available. Both of these publications along with displays outlining the newest recommendations can be seen at the 2009 Farm Science Review Sept. 22-24 in the Small Farm Tent.

MACHINERY MAINTENANCE REMINDER

Tim Butcher, OSHA Program Coordinator

Everything needs maintenance to keep working the way it was designed. Whether the equipment is a car, a ladder, or a combine nothing performs well for long if scheduled maintenance is ignored. When equipment breaks down in the shop or garage the user has the advantage of access to tools and may even be able to find replacement equipment to deal with downtime. That cannot be said for farm equipment. If a combine breaks down in the field because a maintenance item had been ignored or missed for too long, then valuable daylight and favorable weather are lost while repairs are made. Not too many farmers have duplicate pieces of equipment.

Equipment dealers are busy right now with service requests. Many replacement parts are not in stock and farmers are spending anxious days waiting to get their equipment ready for harvest. When rushed often quick and incomplete repairs are made in the field just to "get it working". This can lead to accidents and more costly repairs. Plan ahead and order those parts to replace the marginal ones on the equipment. Even if the parts are not immediately needed, downtime will be avoided if the part would have been on back order.

Fires during equipment use can be disastrous when fire fighters are a phone call and wait away. Every piece of equipment should have a working fire extinguisher mounted in an easily accessible location. They should be checked regularly to make sure they are still charged. Also many local fire departments offer fire extinguisher training for groups.

Other safety devices that are often missing from equipment are machine guards. When they are removed for maintenance, they need to be replaced before the equipment is operated. If the guards become damaged or are missing, check with an equipment dealer to replace them. Machine guards may be awkward and difficult to remove and replace but they serve a critical function.

Maintaining equipment keeps harvest work running smoothly and makes accidents less likely. Plan ahead and replace damaged and worn parts before the equipment is in the field.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP of the MONTH: H1N1 and the New School Year

Aletha I. Reshan, Emergency Management Planning and Education Program Coordinator

Safety and health is at a heightened level of concern this year as students of all ages begin a new school year. Students, their parents, and school administrators are inundated with media reports of the H1N1 flu virus that is expected to have an increased impact in the U.S. and around the world as cold weather approaches. Thus, it is important to maintain perspective regarding H1N1 and its position within the larger framework of flu viruses in general.

Early reports are estimating that approximately 30,000 - 90,000 Americans could possibly die from H1N1 complications this season. However, the Center for Disease Control cites that flu-related complications in general result on average in 200,000 hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths annually in America (www.cdc.gov). The populations at greatest risk for H1N1 are children, pregnant women, and individuals with chronic health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, and heart and lung disease.

H1N1 is a variant of seasonal flu and has symptoms similar to those of seasonal flu. Symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. A difference that has been recognized between seasonal flu and H1N1 is that a significant number of those diagnosed with H1N1 reported

experiencing diarrhea and vomiting in addition to the seasonal flu symptoms. If these symptoms are experienced, it is important to notify medical staff prior to arriving at the medical facility.

The Center for Disease Control urges everyone to take three main actions to prevent the spread of H1N1:

Step 1 - Vaccinations: Receiving an annual season flu shot is recommended as a first line of defense because it protects against the three most common flu viruses. The seasonal flu vaccine does not protect against H1N1. The H1N1 flu vaccine is expected to be in the marketplace in October.

Step 2 - Everyday Prevention Techniques: Adhering to good personal hygiene standards such as frequent handwashing with soap and water and the use of alcohol-based cleansers when soap and water are unavailable is key to stopping the spread of viral germs. It is also important to keep hands away from eyes, nose, and mouth which are warm, moist parts of the body that help germs spread. It is best to cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and then discarding the tissue in the trash after use. Disinfect surfaces such as countertops, doorknobs, handles, and toys frequently with antibacterial sprays and wipes. If you do become sick, stay home. Your fever should be gone without the use of fever-reducing medication for 24 hours before coming into contact with other people.

Step 3 - Antiviral Drugs: Prescription medications are available from your physician for the treatment of diagnosed H1N1.

While the start of the new school year is an exciting time, it is also a cautious time.

Students, their parents, and school administrators are increasingly vigilant in the prevention of communicable diseases such as H1N1. Following basic hygiene techniques is a tried and true prevention strategy. For more information on H1N1, please visit the Center for Disease Control's H1N1 website at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>.

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
