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

Vol.2 No. 7 October 2009

THOUGHTS from the EDITOR - HAPPY HARVESTING
PUMPKINS, CORN MAZES, & HAYRIDES - THE HIDDEN SAFETY HAZARDS
TRACTOR SAFETY EDUCATIONAL PACKETS AVAILABLE
'DOWN THE ROAD' with ATV SAFETY
TREESTAND SAFETY
RURAL ROADWAY DRIVING & DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP of the MONTH:- Seasonal and H1N1 Vaccines

THOUGHT FROM THE EDITOR- Happy Harvesting!

Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader

Please take time this harvest season to review basic farm safety with your staff, family and friends assisting with the harvest. Happy Harvesting!

PUMPKINS, CORN MAZES, & HAYRIDES - THE HIDDEN SAFETY HAZARDS

Another agricultural arena that is big and growing bigger, is the agritourism type of activities, such as hayrides, haunted farms, corn mazes, and u-pick harvest farms. Because these involve farm activities, they are usually full of farm hazards. Safety messages apply to the operators and visitors.

A 40-page color publication is available at

http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nccrahs/default.aspx?page=nccrahs_ag_tourism. This pdf contains very important safety messages for these agri-entertainment operations.

Other hayride and haunted house activity safety is provided by the International Association of Haunted Attractions. Their website is

http://www.hauntedhouseassociation.org/safety/hayride_safety_and_common_sense.php

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!

'DOWN THE ROAD' with ATV SAFETY

Check out the Ohio 4-H ATV Safety Program on You Tube! You can view the video from

<http://4hengineering.osu.edu/ATV/atvresource.htm>

The Ohio Ag Network featured the Ohio 4-H ATV Safety Program on their TV show, Down the Road. Dale Minyo and crew came out to the OSU Waterman Dairy Farm to film an ATV safety course in action. This little clip gives a great overview of how a course is run and the different riding practices the participants complete during the 4-hour course.

If you have 4-H members, tractor clubs, or any other group (youth or adults) that would be interested in getting their ATV safety course certification, please contact Kathy Henwood, 614-292-0622 or henwood.13@osu.edu. We come to you!

TREESTAND SAFETY

Tim Butcher, OSHA Coordinator

With an archery deer season that runs from September 27th through February 1, many of the hunters hoping to repeat last year's harvest of close to 233,000 deer will be taking aim from treestands. Now is a good time to review a few safety reminders for hunters planning to use a treestand.

- When hunting from a tree stand only use one that has been tested and approved by the Treestand Manufacturer's Association
- Choose a healthy and straight tree
- Verify that manufactured steps are in solid wood with thin bark
- Always use a full body harness. 33% of hunters who use treestands will fall at some point in their lives
- Single belt restraint systems are no longer approved because of the deadly circulation conditions that are created by them and because self rescue is so much more difficult
- Attach the climber and the treestand together
- Practice the use of the treestand and full body harness at ground level before ascending the tree
- Treestands should not be any higher than 15 feet from the ground
- When buying a treestand make sure to send in the product registration information to learn about any future product recalls,
- To learn more about tree stand safety, visit the Treestand Manufacturers Association and take a free online course at <http://www.tmastands.com/>

According to the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, approximately 10 hunters are killed nationally every year in falls from treestands with even more than that severely injured. Taking a few precautions can help make sure that a successful hunt is the only excitement that happens when using a treestand.

RURAL ROADWAY DRIVING & DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

The majority of roadway crashes involving slow-moving vehicles are rear-end collisions - so give motorists adequate warning to slow down.

Sunday, November 1 marks the end of Daylight Saving Time and the beginning of months of colder temperatures and fewer daylight hours. For those who drive slow-moving vehicles or equipment on the roads, it is also a good time to check the condition of your SMV emblem. The combination of decreased visibility and poor weather are a dangerous mix, so taking steps to increase visibility on the roads should be a priority.

Remember:

- Use an SMV labeled as approved by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASABE)
- The SMV sign is required by law on all self-propelled or tractor-towed agricultural equipment.
- Properly mounted, the emblem should be centered two to six feet off the ground pointing up, perpendicular to the direction of travel.
- Keep the sign clean for maximum visibility.
- Replace damaged and faded signs. Faded emblems are not visible for at least 500 feet and are a violation of the law.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP of the MONTH - Seasonal and H1N1 Vaccines

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

Vaccination is the best method of flu prevention according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC). In fact, the CDC is encouraging all Americans to receive both the seasonal flu vaccine and the H1N1 flu vaccine. The CDC recommends individuals receive both vaccines to be fully protected as each vaccine is designed to prevent different strains of flu. It is also recommended that the vaccines be received as early as possible.

The seasonal flu vaccine is now readily available and can be obtained through a visit to a physician or health clinic as well as retail locations such as Kroger, CVS, and Walgreens. The average cost for the seasonal vaccine is \$25 with some types of insurance plans covering the cost incurred at retail locations. Check with your individual insurance provider to learn the specifics of your plan.

The H1N1 vaccine is available in limited quantities. The Ohio Department of Health will disperse the H1N1 vaccines according to population percentages. For example, Franklin County is home to 10% of Ohio's population and therefore will receive 10% of the vaccines. The vaccine will first be provided to high-risk individuals such as health care workers and emergency responders who have direct patient contact. Ohio will be receiving its first batch of the vaccine the first week in October. Call your physician to learn when the vaccine will be available and check with your insurance provider well regarding coverage.

Remember, even though there is a wait to receive the H1N1 flu vaccine, it is important to receive the seasonal flu vaccine as soon as possible. For more information, please visit the following websites:

<http://www.flu.gov/individualfamily/vaccination/index.html> - seasonal

http://www.kroger.com/pharmacy/Pages/its_time_to_fight_the_flu.aspx

http://www.cvs.com/flu/?WT.mc_id=FB_100509_CVSHome_Flu

<http://www.walgreens.com/marketing/storelocator/find.jsp>

http://www.10tv.com/live/content/health/stories/2009/10/02/story_h1n1_vaccine.html?sid=102

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
