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

Vol.3 No. 10 October 2010

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**THOUGHTS from the EDITOR-**

**Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader**

For many people, autumn events like Halloween and Harvest Day are fun times to dress up in costumes, go trick-or-treating, attend parties, have bonfires, and visit haunted houses. These events are also opportunities to stay focused on safety. I wish you all a safe fall harvest and a safe fall season.

**SAFETY QUOTE of the MONTH**

Working without safety is a dead end job.

**BONFIRE SAFETY TIPS**

- Use a fire pit, as opposed to just building the fire on the ground. Fire pits should be approximately 12-18 inches deep, at least 2 feet wider than the size of the fire, and circled with stones or bricks.
- Find a safe place to build your fire pit. It should be away from buildings, parked cars, overhead trees, and other fuel sources.
- Use a small amount of wood combined with kindling materials to start the fire. Never use starter fluids or fuel to light the bonfire.
- Don't let the flames get out of control or exceed 3 feet higher than the wood materials.
- Have at least one type of extinguisher on hand. This could be a 5-gallon bucket of water, a bucket of sand, or a charged ABC fire extinguisher.
- Have a shovel nearby to keep hot embers in check, and to help extinguish the fire at the end of the evening.
- Children should always be under adult supervision, and not be permitted to tend the fire.
- Fireworks and alcohol do not mix well at bonfires, and should not be allowed near the open flame.
- Keep a first aid kit on hand for minor injuries like splinters, scratches, and burns.
- Keep a cell phone on hand for calling 9-1-1 for larger injuries or to report an out-of-control fire. Wildfires are a serious concern during dry seasons.

**HIGHLIGHTS of the AG SAFETY PROGRAM at the 2010 FARM SCIENCE REVIEW**

1. We drowned and rescued 9 of our own OSUE educators in the Grain Bin Rescue Demonstration. Other victims included the 2010 Ohio State Fair Queen and an FFA Chapter president from Amanda Clearcreek FFA.
2. The first Grain Rescue Tube, dedicated for public use, and developed under the leadership of Bernie Scott from Otsego FFA, was inducted into the Farm Science Review Hall of Fame.

3. The Electrical Safety demonstration zapped and smoked in the background, while the grain bin rescue demonstrations were conducted to over 850 people.
4. Foot traffic of 30,000 people visited our Ag Safety Tent, which included our AgrAbility program, roadway safety program, and ATV & UTV safety display.
5. Over 1,500 people visited the AgrAbility sponsored Universal Design Garage in the McCormick Building.
6. AgrAbility launched its first peer-to-peer network meeting with vendors, clients, and friends of the program.
7. Nearly 500 teens participated in the Teen Ag Challenge, competing against their classmates in popular topics like Ag Safety, Farm Management, Rural Soils, Ag Engineering, and Buckeye Blitz.
8. Highlights of the 2010 FSR Safety Program can be watched at [http://www.youtube.com/farmsciencereview#p/u/2/U\\_DMwmYRFWA](http://www.youtube.com/farmsciencereview#p/u/2/U_DMwmYRFWA)

## **WEBSITES for HALLOWEEN SAFETY for CHILDREN**

[http://pediatrics.about.com/cs/safetyfirstaid/a/halloween\\_safety.htm](http://pediatrics.about.com/cs/safetyfirstaid/a/halloween_safety.htm)

[http://crime.about.com/od/quiz/a/quiz\\_hallow.htm](http://crime.about.com/od/quiz/a/quiz_hallow.htm)

## **OCCUPANT PROTECTION POSTERS AVAILABLE**

### **THE TARGET AUDIENCE: AMISH OR MENNONITE WHO RIDE IN MOTOR VEHICLES**

A new poster entitled "Passenger Safety Facts for Drivers of Plain People" is available to all Ohio Extension offices and other public safety and health agencies.

In counties with communities of Amish or horse-and-buggy Mennonites, hired "English" drivers are a common and popular means of transportation. The poster communicates to drivers and passengers, the state of Ohio's requirements regarding occupant protection: who must be restrained, the age and weight requirements, as well as the penalties for non-compliance. The focus is on child restraints and the new booster seat law enacted in 2009.

It is recommended that these 11" x 17" posters be placed in areas and businesses often frequented by both users of horse-drawn vehicles and the motorists who transport them.

Please contact the State Safety Office (614-292-0622) if you would like a poster for your county.

## **ARE YOU TALKING to ME?**

### **Tim Butcher, OSHA Coordinator**

Noise on the farm can be more than distracting-it can cause permanent hearing loss. Many people expect to lose some hearing as they grow older and while that is true for the majority of people, noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) is different than age-related hearing loss (presbycusis). Presbycusis is caused by disorders of the inner ear or auditory nerve and occurs in about half of people over 75. Hearing aids can often help to overcome age-related hearing loss.

NIHL results from harmful levels of sound and can occur immediately or over a long period of time. Sound can damage the hair cells as well as the auditory, or hearing nerve. According to the National Institutes of Health approximately 15 percent of Americans between the ages of 20 and 69 have NIHL. Hobbies such as target shooting and hunting, woodworking, and attending rock concerts can cause NIHL.

While less can be done to eliminate the accumulative effects of age-related hearing loss, noise induced hearing loss is completely preventable. Most people know that they should protect their ears against sounds at dangerously high levels, but they do not always recognize when a sound is too loud or when they are putting themselves at risk for hearing loss. Ear protection is important both in the case of very loud sound exposure and also when ears are exposed to moderately high decibel levels for long durations. As decibel level increases, the

acceptable exposure duration decreases. A person should not be exposed to 85 decibels longer than 8 hours in a single day. The challenge is to know what sounds are at or above the 85-decibel level. Examples include:

- 75 db - Leaf blower (measured 50 ft away)
- 85 db - Heavy traffic (from inside the cab of a car)
- 85 db - Vacuum Cleaner
- 95 db - Tractor (in cab)
- 100 db- Hair dryer
- 107 db - Power mower

A good way to know whether you should be using ear protection is to use the 3-foot rule: if it is necessary to raise your voice to be heard at arm's length, then you are in a dangerous noise environment.

When working in an area where dangerous levels of noise exist, there are several options available to protect your hearing. The best option is to try and lower or dampen the level of sound to safe levels. Replacing mufflers or installing sound absorbing material around the equipment generating the sound are just two methods that can work. If the sound cannot be reduced, workers should protect their hearing with protective equipment. Earplugs, canal caps, and earmuffs are appropriate options. Select equipment that is comfortable to wear. With the protective equipment use the 3-foot rule to decide if you need to increase your level of protection. Besides saving your hearing, effective hearing protection can make communicating easier and the noises of farm work less distracting.

## **INJURY PREVENTION – Preventing falls from equipment at Harvest**

### **Kent McGuire – Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator**

The fall harvest is upon us and the hours of daylight are slowly decreasing with every workday. Autumn is the time of year that farmers reap the rewards for the long hours of hard work they put in during the spring and summer. During this time, farmers and farm workers are continuously moving from one piece of equipment to the next or from truck to truck as harvest progresses. Farmers should take extra precaution to prevent falls when mounting or dismounting equipment. Look over the following precautions in order to prevent falls from equipment and maintain a safe workplace during the harvest:

- Observe the basic safety rules of the equipment's operating manual.
- Maintain 3 points of contact when mounting or dismounting equipment. (1 hand and 2 feet) or (2 hands and 1 foot)
- Ensure that hand holds or railings are in safe operating condition.
- Avoid trying to carry objects when mounting or dismounting equipment.
- Face towards the equipment when mounting or dismounting equipment with ladder style steps.
- Exercise caution when steps are wet or dirty.
- Avoid jumping off of the last step.
- Anticipate changes in ground elevation or rough terrain when dismounting from the last step.
- Be alert and focus on foot placement, especially during early morning or evening when daylight is limited.

For more information about the Ohio AgrAbility Program, please contact Kent McGuire, OSU Agricultural Safety & Health, at [mcguire.225@osu.edu](mailto:mcguire.225@osu.edu) or 614-292-0588.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP of the MONTH – “Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!”**

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

Fire Prevention Week is October 3rd through 9th. The theme for this year's event is "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!" The National Fire Protection Association provides the following facts related to smoke alarms:

- Approximately 3,000 people in U.S. die in home fires annually
- Smoke alarms decrease the number of reported fire deaths by one-half
- From 2003-2006, the majority of deaths in home fires occurred in homes with no smoke alarms or smoke alarms that were not functioning
- Smoke alarms should be tested every month and replaced every 10 years

- Most homes have battery powered smoke alarms however hard-wired smoke alarms activated 91% of the time compared to battery operated which activated only 75% of the time in fire large enough to set off smoke alarms  
The following initiatives can be taken to help protect you, your family, home, and business from fires:

- Install smoke alarms on each floor according to manufacturer's instructions and test monthly
- Maintain an A, B, C fire extinguisher in kitchen
- Develop a fire escape plan and practice at least twice a year
- Define an evacuation meeting location
- Make sure family and employees know emergency numbers
- Make sure children know their address and phone number
- Make sure babysitters and caregivers know fire escape plan, meeting location, emergency phone numbers, address and phone number

For more information, such as children's learning resources and checklists, and to order Fire Prevention Week Kits that include 500 smoke detectors for community or organizational distribution, please visit <http://www.nfpa.org/index.asp> and click on Fire Prevention Week. For additional fire safety information please contact Aletha Reshan at [reshan.1@osu.edu](mailto:reshan.1@osu.edu) or 614.292.9455.

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*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](mailto:jepsen.4@osu.edu)  
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