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

Vol.3 No. 2 February 2010

THOUGHTS from the EDITOR

FUN SAFETY QUOTES of the MONTH (VALENTINE'S DAY EDITION)

OSU AG SAFETY & HEALTH--NOW ON FACEBOOK

DAY CAMP DEADLINES

DON'T CUT CORNERS WHEN BARGAIN SHOPPING for FARM EQUIPMENT

DRIVING SAFELY in WINTER: TIPS for LIMITED VISIBILITY

WINTER WIND HAZARDS

SECONDARY INJURY PREVENTION

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP of the MONTH: OHIO CITIZEN CORPS

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### **THOUGHTS from the EDITOR**

#### **Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader**

It's a great time of year for farm auctions. Just look through the paper or browse the Internet and you will find lots of opportunities to purchase someone else's equipment. From tractors to grain bins - from feed mixers to ATV's. Farm equipment never truly retires, it just gets passed around. From a safety perspective, this also means that your new purchase is not really NEW from the manufacturer.

Or perhaps you found a great deal on the grey market - these are products not built in the U.S., nor intended for sale in the U.S. - yet imported from various manufacturers and dealers to U.S. customers. The Internet shopper succeeds in finding these products the fastest!

In either case: Congratulations you have just purchased a piece of equipment that is very much in need of a safety inspection. I encourage you to consider safety when making any purchase. Sometimes what appears to be a good value up-front, has hidden hazards or safety features missing that costs more in the end. More time and effort to repair, or more time and cost in hospitalization. So enjoy the winter auctions as opportunities to visit with friends, but be cautious when looking for deals that cut corners with farm safety.

### **FUN SAFETY QUOTES of the MONTH -**

Here's a Valentines Day Special!

To honor our loved ones, just imagine how good these little quotes would look on those candy conversation hearts:

- Being alert never hurts.
- Valentine, you look good in a helmet!
- The stupid shall be punished
- There's no face like your own, wear your face protection
- To see or not to see, wear eye protection
- True love is a blank OSHA injury log on Dec 31st

### **OSU Ag Safety and Health- Now On Facebook**

Stay up to date with OSU Ag Safety and Health by becoming a "fan" on the OSU Ag Safety and Health Facebook page. We will continue to update the site with new educational information, programming opportunities, links, pictures, etc.

Please feel free to become a fan! There's safety in numbers!

## **Deadline for Day Camps-**

Thank you to those who have shown an interest in hosting a farm safety Day Camp this year. Kathy will be sending out an informational packet that will need to be returned by Friday, February 26, 2010 if you would like to commit to having a camp in 2010.

It's not too late if you are interesting in hosting a camp. Just contact Kathy Henwood at [henwood.13@osu.edu](mailto:henwood.13@osu.edu) and she will send you an informational packet as well.

## **Don't Cut Corners When Bargain Shopping for Farm Equipment**

### **Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader**

So you've decided to buy used equipment or a product from another country, what else should you consider before putting it to use on your own operation?

- If you purchased from a U.S. dealer, it is likely that they may have already performed a safety inspection. Dealers should be able to provide a warranty; they may be able to replace missing shields and guards; and they can also determine if the equipment conforms to voluntary and federal standards.
- If you did not purchase from a dealer, they are still the best place to locate replacement parts, owner manuals, and service advice.
- Tractor checklist - all new and used tractors should have a Roll-Over Protective Structure (ROPS); PTO guards; brakes tested and can be locked together easily; working lights; reflectors and SMV sign. It is also important for operator safety that seats be adjusted and supply some comfort and suspension to reduce bouncing and ergonomic fatigue.
- ATV checklist - lights and controls in working order; fenders and footrests are present and in good repair, seat is in good condition; chassis provides adequate support and has not been wrecked or altered; tires free from cracks and have adequate tread.
- Out-of-country products - beware of a good deal when it comes to safety standards. Many out-of-country products lack the safety features operators have come to rely upon from U.S. made equipment. Even if the guards are initially present, they may break off easily and not be replaceable. Likewise, many foreign utility vehicles cannot be registered or titled in the U.S. making road operation next to impossible.
- Machinery checklist - PTO drivelines spin freely; PTO drivelines have shielding over shaft and guards over connector joints; rotating parts such as gears, sprockets, chain drives, and pulleys are in good condition and shielded from operator; general operation of rotating parts is not compromised to the point that there could be slippage, plugging, or other work interruptions and aggravation.
- Look beyond the fresh coat of paint, brand new tires, and shiny metal parts - If the equipment has been refurbished or recently overhauled, ask for details and even receipts. Sometimes these quick fixes are just covering up underlying problems.
- Look under the hood and take a test drive - Just like buying a car, it is also important to inspect equipment for leaking gaskets; check the engine oil and other fluids for signs of misuse or abuse; look closely for sloppy fitted bearings, kinked hoses, or hammer marks to indicate poor maintenance; and lastly inspect the equipment for the job you want it to do - will it run when it gets home?

While it is common to purchase re-furbished or "new to you" kinds of equipment, it is also important there be a safety inspection performed by a qualified person. Some equipment may require repairs and replacement parts before it gets put on the front line. It is best to take the time up-front to make those repairs, rather than waiting till a breakdown or injury occurs. Never take a trade-off for a trade-in when it comes to safety.

## **DRIVING SAFELY IN WINTER--TIPS FOR DRIVING IN LIMITED VISIBILITY**

### **Theresa Calip, Program Coordinator**

In addition to dealing with snow, slush and ice on the roadway, driving safely under conditions of restricted visibility due to snow and blowing snow poses an additional challenge for winter drivers. However, there are several steps you can take to help minimize your chance of an accident under these conditions. Before you leave:

- Make certain that your defroster is working properly.

- Make certain that your windows and side mirrors are snow and ice free before you set out.
- Always carry an ice scraper and brush with which to clean your windows.
- Make certain that your wiper blades are in good condition. The purchase of wipers especially made for snow and ice could be a good investment.
- Use wiper fluid that prevents ice buildup. Do regular checks to maintain reservoir levels.

When on the road:

- Make certain your headlights or running lights are on.
- Match your speed to your degree of visibility as well as the road conditions. When you have to slow down, do so gradually.
- Increase your following distance to give yourself plenty of time to brake safely.
- Keep distractions to a minimum, and be aware of the traffic around you.
- Avoid passing other vehicles, and if possible, avoid lane changes.
- If visibility is near zero, try to find a safe area away from the main road in which to pull off. If you are on the roadway, or too close by, you may become part of a chain-reaction collision.

Above all: Be patient, with yourself and other drivers. Slow down, take your time, and get to your destination safely!

## WINTER WIND HAZARDS

### Tim Butcher, OSHA Program Coordinator

With winter comes windchills and frostbite. There is clear science behind the relationship between the two, but a better understanding can help avoid the painful and potentially fatal effects of frostbite and hypothermia.

Windchill is not just a concern for humans. Pets and livestock are also impacted by wind chill.

As wind blows across exposed skin the body must work hard to move heat from the core to replace the heat lost. As the wind speed increases so does the rate at which heat is lost. Wind chill lessens the amount of time it takes exposed skin to reach the temperature of the surrounding air. The health danger results when the body is unable to replace the heat lost quickly enough. In order to conserve the core temperature of vital organs, the body begins to constrict blood flow to the effected parts of the body. In essence the body will sacrifice skin and extremities to save organs. If the heat loss cannot be controlled hypothermia will result, which is a life threatening decrease in core body temperature.

The National Weather Service (NWS), a part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, publishes the NWS Windchill Chart which helps show the relationship between outside temperature, wind speed and windchill. The chart is available from the [National Weather Service website](#). According to the NWS if the temperature is 0 degrees Fahrenheit and the wind is blowing at 15 mph, the windchill is -19 degrees Fahrenheit. At this windchill temperature, exposed skin can freeze in 30 minutes. It is important to know the signs of frostbite and what can be done to prevent it.

*Stage One-* "Pins and needles" sensation followed by numbness with possible early throbbing or aching. Eventually the affected part loses sensation.

*Stage Two-* Frostbitten skin is hard, pale, cold, and has no feeling. When the skin has thawed out, it becomes red and painful (early frostbite).

*Stage Three-* Severe frostbite may cause blisters, gangrene (blackened, dead tissue), and damage to deep structures such as tendons, muscles, nerves, and bone.

The best way to avoid frostbite and hypothermia is to stay warm and dry indoors. When you must go outside:

- Dress appropriately. Wear several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing. Trapped air between the layers is good insulation.
- Remove layers to avoid sweating and subsequent chill.
- Outer garments should be tightly woven, water repellent, and hooded.

- Wear a hat, because half of body heat can be lost from the head.
- Cover the mouth to protect the lungs from extreme cold.
- Mittens, snug at the wrist, are better than gloves.
- Try to stay dry and out of the wind.

Winter is a good time to attend to chores in the house or in the shop where windchill can be avoided. However, when recreation or responsibility require venturing outside knowing the signs of frostbite and dressing for the weather can help lessen the likelihood of pain and injury.

## **SECONDARY INJURY PREVENTION**

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

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Farmers often face aches / pains, an injury or even a disability as a part of every day life. Farming with these limitations can increase risk in an already dangerous occupation and lead to secondary injuries. In simple terms, secondary injuries can be defined as injuries resulting from a previous injury. Often these secondary injuries occur because the farmer may attempt work tasks that exceed his/her abilities.

Some general ideas in preventing secondary injuries include:

- Avoid overuse of one part of the body to compensate for a limitation of another part of the body.
- Uneven weight distribution while walking or moving can cause slip and fall injuries.
- Improper lifting techniques and carrying items that are too heavy can lead to secondary back or muscle injuries.
- Protect injured areas by using gloves, steel-toed boots, back support, padding, or other protective equipment.
- Take breaks - Fatigue can set in quickly while working with an injury or limitation, causing secondary injuries.
- Be patient. Consider your surroundings and take the time to think things through.
- Always consider your limitations and the repercussions from working alone. Ask for help.

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 –Ohio Citizen Corps**

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

The images and stories of the recent earthquake disaster in Haiti have many of us wondering what would be the best way to help out in our own community during a time of emergency or disaster. The Ohio Community Service Council (OCSC) is the state agency that coordinates and disseminates organized volunteer and service opportunities. Within the OCSC is the Ohio Citizen Corps, which is the group that focuses on community preparedness. It's mission "is to establish a pool of volunteers who will supplement first responders in the event of a disaster". Ohio Citizen Corps has six types of programs in which to become involved. Currently, there are approximately 20,000 volunteers across the state registered and trained to assist during emergencies and disasters. This level of volunteerism increases the preparedness and resiliency of individual communities and the state as whole. To learn more about Ohio Citizen Corps and become involved as a preparedness volunteer in your community, please visit the [Ohio Citizen Corps](#) website. To learn more about all of the volunteer opportunities that are organized through the Ohio Community Service Council, please click [here](#). Information can also be obtained by calling (888)767-6446.

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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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