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

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THOUGHTS from the EDITOR – BE PREPARED for SMALL INJURIES

Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader

With the swift weather change we are enjoying in Ohio, we are sure to start enjoying the outdoor projects, sports, and agricultural fieldwork. For any outdoor activity, it is important to have access to a first aid kit. A kit for all occasions should include adhesive bandages, insect sting ointment, Benadryl, pain relievers, and sun screen. Small kits fit easily in sports bags, fishing tackle boxes, golf bags, garden sheds, vehicle glove compartments and tractor mounted toolboxes. Enjoy the weather and be prepared for small injuries.

SAFETY QUOTE of the MONTH

“Don't just listen to what someone is saying. Listen to why they are saying it.”

OSU AG SAFETY & HEALTH - on [FACEBOOK](#)

Become a fan of OSU Ag Safety & Health on Facebook by going to facebook.com/OSUAgSafetyandHealth
Stay up to date on the latest activities of the OSU Ag Safety group along with getting information to use in your newsletters, blogs, etc.

FARM SAFETY DAY CAMP

This month kicks off of the 2010 Farm Safety Day Camp season. This year marks the 13th year of the program and we are as excited as ever about it. Between April and October there will be 6 Farm Safety Day Camps hosted around the state. The county committees have worked hard to develop an educational safety day for the kids in their community. We thank them for their time and dedication to promoting farm safety awareness to the youth in their community!

Farm Safety Day Camp locations and dates:

Putnam Co. - April 13th & 14th

Auglaize Co. - May 5th

Morrow Co. - May 7th

Wood Co. - May 12th

Camp Palmer - May 20th

Monroe Co. - Oct. 14th

For more information, check out the Day Camp website. agsafety.osu.edu/ash/program/day_camps.html or contact Kathy Henwood at henwood.13@osu.edu or 614-292-0622.

4-H ATV SAFETY

The dates and locations for this year's ATV RiderCourse classes have been finalized for 4-H members interested in the ATV safety project. The RiderCourse is a hands-on safety training we encourage 4-H members to complete in order to prepare them to become safe and confident riders. During this 4-hour course, 4-H members learn the proper safety practices and techniques for riding ATVs. Please check out the following site for the course dates and for more information about the ATV RiderCourse. <http://4hengineering.osu.edu/ATV/atvresource>

If you have questions about this program, please feel free to contact Kathy Henwood at henwood.13@osu.edu or 614-292-0622.

BCP CURRICULUM AVAILABLE THROUGH [EDEN](http://eden.lsu.edu)

The Business Continuity Planning (BCP) curriculum is now nationally available through the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) website, <http://eden.lsu.edu>. This curriculum was produced to provide step-by-step instructions for developing a business continuity plan for your workplace. There are powerpoint presentations, a curriculum book, and a workbook available for download on the website to assist you.

If you have any questions, please contact Aletha Reshan at reshan.1@osu.edu.

YOUR CAR and SPRING CLEANING

Theresa Calip, Program Coordinator

As we emerge from the dark, cold winter into the longer and brighter days ahead, tackling spring-cleaning in our homes is an annual ritual. But taking stock of what we have, what needs to be repaired, replaced, or simply tossed out, is something that we should also do with the vehicles we drive. To begin this new season prepared, do the following:

1. Wash your car's exterior thoroughly, including the undercarriage. Salt and sand mixtures are used to clear and de-ice roadways in winter, and it is important to remove these from vehicle surface. Left alone, they will cause rust and corrosion. Use of a power washer and/or steam cleaning are effective for the undercarriage. Many car washes offer this service.
2. Exterior cleaning should be followed by a wax and a sealant, to enhance protection.]
3. Make certain that all windows and mirrors, inside and out are cleaned and streak-free for maximum visibility.
4. Clean and vacuum the inside of the car thoroughly. Cleaning of the steering wheel, gear shift, dashboard, and other interior surfaces may require a special cleaning solution. Remove and vacuum (or replace) floor mats. If the upholstery is cloth, that can be vacuumed or shampooed for a deeper cleaning. If you don't already keep a separate receptacle for trash, consider adding one to cut down on future clutter.
5. Clean and reorganize your glove compartment. Make certain that registration, insurance information and any necessary paperwork is current and easily accessible. If you don't already carry one in your glove compartment, a small flashlight and tire pressure gauge are a good idea.
6. If you use car seats or booster seats, remove them and clean thoroughly. Make certain that they still fit the child properly based on age and weight and review the manual to ensure they are installed correctly. (The law in Ohio requires that children less than 4 years of age and under 40 pounds must be in a car seat. Children who have outgrown car seats, but are under 8 years of age, must be in a booster seat until they are 4' 9" in height. Also, children between 8 and 15 years old must be restrained in a child restraint system, booster seat or a seat belt. All children under the age of 13 should be restrained in the backseat)
7. Don't forget the trunk. Empty it out and vacuum thoroughly. Take the time to check on the condition of your spare tire. Make certain that any essentials that you carry in your trunk (jumper cables, flares, extra flashlight etc.) are in good working order.
8. While following these suggestions will certainly enhance your car's appearance, they will also (more importantly) increase your safety on the road.

FARM FALLS

Tim Butcher, OSHA Program Coordinator

According to OSHA, slips, trips and falls account for the majority of workplace injuries. They are the 2nd leading cause of death after those caused by motor vehicles and account for 15% of fatalities annually. Farms, with their variety of surfaces and working conditions are fertile ground for slips, trips and falls. In particular, preventing falls from heights requires special considerations. Farmers should keep in mind the following recommendations to better control the hazard of falls.

- After evaluating all the hazards, decide if the job can be done. Just because a job will only take a minute is no reason to think that “being careful” will be enough.
- Good footing is essential when working at elevation. Choose appropriate footwear and avoid dirt and grease on work shoes.
- Grain bin ladders should be free of obstructions and regularly inspected and maintained.
- When accessing grain bin roofs, either a railing should be present or a personal restraint system, such as a positioning belt, should be used to prevent the user from getting too near the edge.
- When using a full body harness and lifeline to provide fall protection, have a rescue plan. Suspension trauma can result from the loss of blood flow while waiting for help.
- Extension and folding ladders should be regularly inspected.
- When using an extension ladder to access another level, they should extend at least 3 feet above the point of contact. The climber needs this extra length to step easily onto the upper level.
- If the ladder is going to be used repeatedly, considering tying off the top to provide extra stability.
- Use a rope to raise and lower tools so that hands are kept free to hold on to the ladder.
- Open-sided floors need fall prevention equipment such as railings. If the openings are needed from time to time, install a removable railing or sliding gate.

These are only a sample of the considerations that should go into the decision to work at higher elevations. According to the National Safety Council, if someone falls from 11 feet they have a 50% chance of dying. Whatever can be done to decrease the chance of falling or to minimize injuries if a fall occurs will be well worth the effort.

INJURY PREVENTION – WORKING WITH LIVESTOCK

Kent McGuire – Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator

Many farmers never stop to think of their personal safety when working with livestock. Farmers may work carefully around livestock most of the time, however because an animal’s behavior can be unpredictable at times, individuals can be injured because of preoccupation, haste, impatience, or even anger. Injuries that are common when working with livestock include bites, kicks, being stepped on, pinned against a solid surface, or overcome by a single animal or the whole herd. Some general guidelines when working with livestock include:

- Understand and study the typical behaviors of the livestock you are working with.
- Herd livestock such as cattle or sheep can become agitated or stressed when one animal is isolated from the herd.
 - Maternal female livestock can become aggressive in an effort to protect their young.
 - Mature male livestock can become aggressive in an attempt to show dominance.
 - Understand aggressive warning signs such as showing of teeth, ears laid back, or stomping of feet.
- Avoid startling an animal by making it aware of your approach before getting too close.
- Move calmly, deliberately and patiently around livestock. Avoid quick movements or loud noises that may startle animals.
- Excessively changing the animal’s environment or daily routine can take the animal out of their comfort zone.
- Avoid being in travel paths during the feeding of a herd or large group of livestock.
- Be aware of your surroundings and always leave an escape route when working in close quarters with livestock.

- Bottle fed or show livestock can become playful because of constant handling, After being placed back in with the general livestock as an adult, they may still approach you in a playful manner when you are not expecting it.
- Be patient and avoid frustration when working with difficult or stubborn livestock. Back injuries, muscle strains and slip /fall injuries can occur when frustrations lead to over aggressive handling practices.

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

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP of the MONTH: TORNADOES

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

Tornado season in Ohio begins in April and continues through July. Historically, the month of April has the lowest number of tornadoes during the season, with 121 tornado sitings during this month between 1940 and 2009. June usually has the highest number of tornadoes during the four-month season, with a total of 204 June sitings during the same 69-year timeframe. It is essential that all Ohioans are prepared for this type of natural disaster. The following tips are taken directly from the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness (www.weathersafety.ohio.gov) website and provide guidance for actions to take at home and while traveling or away from a sturdy shelter. Please visit this website for additional information on weather safety in Ohio.

Tornado Safety Tips

- Whether practicing a tornado drill or sheltering during a tornado warning, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages everyone to **DUCK**:
 - D** - Go **DOWN** to the lowest level
 - U** - Get **UNDER** something
 - C** - **COVER** your head
 - K** - **KEEP** in shelter until the storm has passed
- Be prepared for severe weather before a storm watch or warning is issued. Meet with household members to develop a disaster plan to respond to all hazards, including tornado watches and warnings. Conduct regular tornado drills. Know how to turn off the water, gas and electric at the main switches.
- If you are a person with special needs, register your name and address with your local emergency management agency, police and/or fire departments before any natural or man-made disaster occurs.
- The NOAA Weather Radio has alerting tools available for people who are hearing impaired. Some weather radio receivers can be connected to an existing home security system, similar as a doorbell, smoke detector or other sensor. For additional information, visit NWS NOAA Weather Radio at www.weather.gov/nwr/.
- The safest place to be during a tornado is a basement. If the building has no basement or cellar, go to a small, centrally located room on the lowest level of the building, such as a bathroom, closet or interior hallway.
- If you are in a vehicle, trailer or mobile home, get out immediately and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy, nearby building or storm shelter. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little or no protection from tornadoes.
- If you are outside with no shelter, lie in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Do not seek shelter under a highway overpass or bridge. You will be exposed to stronger winds and flying debris.

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
