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

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THOUGHTS from the EDITOR - MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader

Fire safety has been around since cavemen first struck their flint, so too has electrical safety been around since Benjamin Franklin flew his kite. Today's age must be sure to practice electrical safety because electricity is in nearly every task we perform!

Common Problems Causing Electrical Fires:

1. Using a cracked or damaged extension cords
2. Overloading electrical outlets
3. Removing or by-passing the grounding prong on electrical receptacles
4. Using power tools in or near bodies of water - this includes damp environments
5. Ignoring signs of faulty electrical conditions: frequent tripping of circuit breakers or blowing fuses, flickering or dimming lights, sparks from an outlet, discolored or warm wall outlets, a burning or rubbery smell coming from appliances, or a tingling feeling when touching an electrical appliance

Check out some of these great fire safety resources for kids and families from the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA):

- USFA for Kids: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/kids/parents-teachers/discuss.shtm>
- USFA Home Checklist for owners and renters: [Electrical safety checklist](#)
- USFA Hot Topics: <http://www.nfpa.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=1403&itemID=32921>

SAFETY QUOTE of the MONTH

"It's better to lose one minute in life, than to lose life in a minute."

ORDER an OSUE SUN SAFE HAT!

The Ag. Safety and Health office will be ordering the sun safe hats again this spring. The hats are the wide brim, light weight, quick drying, mesh hats. One-size fits all. Has the OSU Extension logo embroidered on the brim. The hat is available in two colors, sage (light green) and fossil (lighter khaki). The cost is \$25.00. (Mailing/ shipping to your office is an additional \$3.00 per hat). Order must be turned in by May 21, 2010. This deadline allows for them to be available just in time for Father's Day!

If you are interested in purchasing a hat for yourself, a Master Gardener, local farmers, fishermen, OSU Alumni, family or friends, please contact Kathy Henwood at henwood.13@osu.edu or 614-292-0622 for an order form.

NEW HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER BOOKS

Ohio 4-H has just released new copies of the Health and Safety Officer Books. In addition to these books, the LIVE SMART curriculum is still available as a resource for these young officers. The Live Smart packet can be ordered as Bulletin 907, or downloaded from Ohioline. These activities help younger members focus on topic, and build their skills engaging other 4-H members in age-appropriate safety activities.

FARM SAFETY DAY CAMP

The 2010 Farm Safety Day Camp season is in full swing. 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 - check our [facebook](#) page for pictures!
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.

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.

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.htm>

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

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.

CONSIDERING OSHA STANDARDS for the FARM

Tim Butcher, OSHA Program Coordinator

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is responsible for regulating the safety of millions of working Americans. However, that protection is not applied equally. Agricultural operations in the United States are exempt from many of the regulations that govern other industries. Some agricultural employers may delight in escaping government intrusion into how their business is conducted, but this is a bittersweet reward in light of a workplace injury or fatality. It is possible to prevent most injuries in the agricultural workplace by following the examples set by other industries that follow OSHA standards.

Since agriculture continues to be one of the most dangerous industries, it is a good idea for farmers to consider implementing OSHA standards that are relevant to workers on their farms. For example, farmers should review OSHA's Lockout/Tagout standard and implement it on their operation. Lockout/Tagout is meant to prevent the unexpected start-up of machinery or equipment and impede stored energy releases, which can cause worker injury. OSHA standards address some energy controlling requirements for field equipment (such as power take-off driveshafts), but the regulations set in place for agricultural operations are inconsistent compared to the comprehensive energy control expected of other industries. Farmers are at-risk for hazardous energy release because they frequently work with equipment that needs to run continuously or for long periods of time (such as grain augers) and they often perform maintenance on their own machinery. When clearing a corn head or troubleshooting a grain blower motor, the risk to the farmer is very real if the energy is not controlled.

Use the following guidelines to implement the most critical elements of Lockout/Tagout:

- If more than one person has access to the equipment, make sure they know what work is being performed and to wait for notification that it is available.
- Shut down the equipment using the normal operating procedure.
- Lockout the equipment so that it cannot be turned on. On motors this can involve using a lock on the switch. On a vehicle this could be as simple as removing the keys. It's important that the person doing the work has the only key to the lock or vehicle.
- Stored energy must be dissipated or otherwise controlled. Energy can be stored in devices such as capacitors and springs, or in the form of air pressure and elevated items that are able to fall and cause injury.
- Verify that the energy is controlled by trying to start the equipment you want to lockout. The idea is to see if someone could circumvent your safeguards. The device is secure if it is impossible to energize it without unlocking the starting mechanism.
- Once these items have been taken care of, the equipment is effectively locked out.

Tagout procedures include attaching information to the locked out equipment detailing:

- Why the equipment is locked out
- The name of the individual performing the work,
- When the equipment should be returned to service.

Deciding whether a law applies in a particular case and to a particular individual is best left to professional litigators. On a farm, the decision to use Lockout/Tagout on your high-energy machinery can save lives and prevent injuries. Restricting access to all those pieces of equipment just makes good sense.

INJURY PREVENTION - FATIGUE DURING PLANTING SEASON

Kent McGuire - Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator

In most work settings, the clock determines the beginning and end of the workday. However, on the farm there are several factors that determine the length of the workday - livestock, weather, soil conditions, and even equipment. The continuous activity, longer hours, and stresses associated with planting season can increase chances of fatigue setting in. Fatigue is often overlooked as a prelude to unsafe practices. Regard for caution and personal safety often take a backseat as your level of fatigue increases. Injuries related to fatigue can be due to slower reaction time, reduced concentration, or even falling asleep on the job. Here are some simple ways to avoid the risk of fatigue:

- Try to get enough sleep. This is your body's time to rest.

- Avoid thinking about work once you have finished for the day. Engage in an activity that will get your mind off of the tasks ahead.
- Set a pace for yourself and plan out your activities.
- Eat healthy meals and try to maintain your normal eating schedule.
- Stay hydrated. Dehydration can cause fatigue, so drink plenty of water throughout the day.
- Take short breaks throughout the day. Get off of the tractor and do something to get away from the equipment and revitalize.
- Try to get some exercise after sitting in the tractor over long periods of time. Try some stretching or even a short walk to get your body moving and re-energized.
- Take a moment to watch the wildlife or enjoy nature. This can help get your mind away from the work and reduce stress.
- Take advantage of a rain day. Rainy days are usually filled with all of those chores you need to get caught up on, but take a little time out of the day for yourself to rest and relax.

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: *National Animal Disaster Preparedness Day*

Aletha I. Reshan, Emergency Management Planning and Education Program Coordinator
Citizen Corps, under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Department of Homeland Security, has declared May 8th as National Animal Disaster Preparedness Day. Hurricane Katrina brought to light the desperate situation pet owners face during an emergency or disaster. Often times emergency shelters will not accept pets, many pet owners refuse to be separated from their pets. However, without proper emergency planning both pets and their owners may face a precarious position, and abandoning pets is to be avoided. Therefore, to safeguard pets during an emergency or disaster it is best to plan ahead for their needs.

A good pet preparedness plan contains a list of places where your and your pet can safely evacuate/relocate to if the need arises, a list of individuals or organizations who will care for your pet if it becomes evident you must be separated, and a list of emergency veterinary clinics. An emergency preparedness kit for pets is essential for providing appropriate care and comfort to your pet during a crisis as well. A well-stocked kit should consist of the following items at a minimum:

- Pet food and treats
- Water
- Can opener
- Pet medications and medical records in waterproof container
- First aid supplies
- Collar, ID tag, rabies tag, leash, harness, and/or carrier
- Current photo
- Veterinarian contact information
- Bed, blanket, toys, and/or other comfort items
- Litter pan, litter, and plastic bags for waste disposal

A convenient way to store these items so they are ready to go at a moment's notice is to place everything inside the pet carrier. For additional resources on pet disaster preparedness, please visit <http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/pets.html> and <http://www.fema.gov/kids/pets.htm>.

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
