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

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THOUGHTS from the EDITOR

Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader

The change of seasons brings on additional outdoor activities. Whether it's work or recreation, enjoy all that June has to offer: kids out of school, yard and garden activities, vacations, camps, and baling hay! And keep safety in mind.

SAFETY QUOTE of the MONTH

"Safety is the state of mind - Accidents are the absence of mind."

JUNE is NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

Each June, the National Safety Council encourages citizens to get involved and participate in National Safety Month. Each week carries a theme that brings attention to critical safety issues. To recognize the importance safety has in our lives, there will be five special editions of Ag STAT delivered weekly. These mini articles will provide a message about the national themes:

- Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention
- Teen Driving Safety
- Preventing Overexertion at Work & at Home
- Dangers of Cell Phone Use While Driving
- Summer Safety

For more information about additional safety related articles or National Safety Month, go to www.nsc.org.

ATV SAFETY TRAINING REQUIREMENTS for the OHIO STATE FAIR

4-H participants must have completed a Riders Training Course before they are eligible to compete in the 4-H ATV contest at the State Fair. Training course certificates do not expire, so once a class has been completed it is good forever and does not need to be repeated. If there are 4-Hers enrolled in the ATV project, and selected by their county to compete at the July contest - it's not too late! Check with a local dealer for a training course in your area, or go to the 4-H Engineering Website at 4engineering.osu.edu/ATV/atvresources.htm for a listing of counties holding upcoming training classes.

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.

WEAR YOUR HELMET!

Theresa Calip, Amish Transportation Safety Program Coordinator

Warmer weather means more time spent outdoors. For kids of all ages, that translates into more time on their favorite wheels, including bikes, scooters, skateboards and skates. All of these forms of locomotion share one thing in common: kids fall off of them. A lot.

In the U.S. in 2006, over 50,000 children were seen in emergency rooms for injuries from skateboards, over 100,000 for inline skate injuries, and over 80,000 for falls from scooters. While cuts, broken limbs, and broken teeth are common, and not inconsequential, injuries sustained to the head can have the most devastating consequences. Whether a child is younger and just learning to ride, or older and more experienced, head trauma is the foremost type of injury resulting from falls off of bikes, scooters, skateboards and skates in the United States (Centers for Disease Control). A 2007 national study conducted by the Center for Injury Research and Policy at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus found that one-third of children hospitalized for a bicycle-related injury had incurred a traumatic brain injury.

The simple act of wearing a helmet can have a major impact on these statistics. According to the CDC, the chance of a head injury can be reduced by up to 85%. Most helmets today can be used for a variety of sports, and are sized for toddlers through adults. Make certain that any helmet you purchase is approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), and the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

Helmets come with sponge pads to adjust the fit your head. A properly-fitted helmet should meet the following requirements:

- The helmet should fit snug, not moving on the head.
- The front edge of the helmet should be two finger widths above the eyebrows.
- Front and back straps of the helmet should form a V just below the ear.
- Front straps should be vertical and the rear straps should be flat.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS for the FARM, SHOP & HOME

Tim Butcher, OSHA Program Coordinator

There is a tool found on many farms that no one wants to use, is often neglected or forgotten, but can make the difference between a small incident and a disaster. The fire extinguisher is a tool that gets little attention until an emergency occurs. Often times when a fire emergency occurs, the extinguisher is of no use because it cannot be found or does not work. Consider the following points when deciding if the farm is ready for a fire:

1. Is a fire extinguisher available, accessible and the right type? Usually an ABC fire extinguisher is the best choice, but they do not work well against flammable metal or grease fires. There are specialized extinguishers available for areas where those risks exist.
2. Has the extinguisher been maintained? An extinguisher should be checked monthly, just to make sure it is still where it is supposed to be. Examine the pressure gauge to determine if the extinguisher has enough pressure to discharge the extinguishing agent. Many extinguisher manufacturers recommend that the extinguisher be inverted briefly during each monthly inspection to keep the dry chemical powder from clumping. Most dry chemical extinguishers should be emptied and pressure tested every 12 years.
3. Is everyone trained in how to use a fire extinguisher? Does everyone who might need to fight a fire know how to decide when a fire is too big to fight with an extinguisher? Do they know to keep their back to an exit or how long a fire extinguisher lasts? Many fire departments offer fire extinguisher training to the public. Check with the local fire department for training options.

Fire extinguishers are, in many ways, no different than everyday tools. They must be available, maintained and in competent hands to work the way they are designed. Fire extinguishers are unique—they are the one tool no one wants use, but, when needed, they become the most valuable tool around.

INJURY PREVENTION - CAUGHT-IN or CAUGHT-BETWEEN OBJECTS

Kent McGuire - Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator

As we progress into the warmer months of summer, there is a full list of work to be done on the farm such as spraying crops, wheat harvest, baling hay, and moving livestock to pasture. Most of those tasks involve the use of equipment in one form or another. In some instances, farmers can find themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time, and at high risk to be caught-in or caught-between objects, which can lead to serious injuries. Caught-in or between incidents occur for some of the following reasons:

- Working on or around moving equipment
- Working on equipment with stored energy (Example: Hydraulic cylinder)
- Inadequate guarding on equipment or guards have been removed
- Incorrect hitching practices
- Not being visible to the equipment operator
- Unaware of approaching danger in the work environment

Some guidelines to use to prevent caught-in or caught-between incidents should include:

- Always shut down equipment before doing repairs or inspecting of equipment.
- Chock the wheels on equipment that could move or roll.
- Never work under equipment that is supported only by a jack. Use a secondary support device.
- Use the cylinder safety locks on equipment that support hydraulic cylinders, to prevent the release of stored energy in the cylinder.
- After servicing equipment, make sure all guards are in place and properly secured
- When hitching or unhitching equipment, stand to the side and be clearly visible to the tractor driver.
- Leave an escape route to prevent getting pinned between two objects.
- Take extra caution when working around equipment that uses belts, pulleys, chains, sprockets or PTO shafts.

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: HOSTING VISITORS

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

Summer is upon us and with this season comes the opportunity for friends and family to visit. Planning for safety is a key component to ensuring both visitors and hosts have a fun and enjoyable experience. It is important to be aware of safety issues inside and outside the home. Some top safety concerns and recommended practices are as follows:

- **Walkways, steps, and parking areas:** Ensure walkways, steps, and parking areas are well-lit and clear of debris and obstacles. Install handrails on staircases. These actions will help prevent slips and falls.
- **Entrance:** Ensure entrance to event or home is clearly designated to prevent wandering visitors who could become lost or disoriented, particularly during an evening event when it is more difficult to ascertain unfamiliar terrain.
- **Outbuildings:** Ensure areas not open to visitors such as barns, grain bins, garages, chemical storage units, shops, and tool sheds are securely locked to prevent unwanted entry that could lead to injury, property damage, or theft.
- **Animals:** Ensure domestic pets have been properly vaccinated to protect against infections and disease in the event a biting incident does occur. If necessary, secure easily agitated pets to ensure the safety of both pets and guests. Ensure livestock are securely penned in pastures and check barns, gates and doors to make sure they are latched and, in some cases, locked. This will prevent loss and possible injury of livestock and keep guests safe.
- **Water:** Ensure that pools adhere to zoning codes in locations where fencing, locked gates, and signage is required. Ensure safety devices such as life preserver, pole, and whistle, are located at side of pool and

edge of pond. Never allow children near water without adult supervision. Never allow intoxicated guests to enter any body of water.

- **Fire:** Fire pits should be properly maintained with ring of rock or metal encircling them to prevent the spread of flames. Keep water or a fire extinguisher nearby in case of emergency. Keep children a safe distance back from fire. Do not let toddlers or intoxicated visitors walk near fire. Do not throw flammable materials into pit. Remind all that the fire is not a toy with which to play.
- **Medicines and cleaning products:** Ensure medicines and cleaning products are not accessible to children. Store these items in private areas of the home not accessible to visitors. Prior to the event, inventory pharmaceuticals and store them in a secure location.
- **Weapons:** Ensure all types of weapons to include handguns, shot guns, rifles, bow, and arrows are properly secured to include not being loaded, safety on, trigger locked, bullets maintained separately from weapon, and or storage in a locked gun cabinet or room.
- **Alcohol:** Ensure a designated driver is available for each carload of visitors, do not let your guests drink and drive. Maintain alcohol products in a very visible location that has adult supervision. Do not provide alcohol to underage visitors. Do not provide alcohol to intoxicated individuals.
- **Location:** Post the home or event address next to each telephone and at each door. This will be helpful in the event of an emergency call to 911.

In the unfortunate event that an emergency does occur while family and friends are visiting stay calm, call 911, and follow the dispatcher's instructions. Help will arrive as soon as possible!

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
