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

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### **THOUGHTS from the EDITOR**

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

Summer is a busy time of year - as well as an enjoyable season. This month's newsletter has articles to share about heat and insect stings. Other "hot" topics of interest are agricultural rescue trainings for rural firefighters and ag security protocols for farm operations.

### **SAFETY QUOTE of the MONTH**

In honor of all the summer activities juggled, the safety quote of the month is:

*"If you can remain calm, you just don't have all the facts!"*

### **AGRICULTURAL RESCUE RESOURCES UPDATE**

Agricultural settings have particular first responder and emergency management needs that require specialized training and education. Below is a listing of resources available for first responders, farmers, and agricultural communities.

***Agricultural Rescue*** - The Ohio Fire Academy offers two agricultural rescue courses; *Down on the Farm* and *Farm Rescue*. *Down on the Farm* focuses on the patient care aspect of farming incidents. This course provides 6 hours of EMS continuing education credits. *Farm Rescue* provides rural fire/rescue responders with a systematic approach to farm rescue procedures that address that safety of both patients and responders. This course provides 12 hours continuing education credits. Both of these courses are available on-site at community locations via an OFA Farmedic Instructor or in-house at the Ohio Fire Academy. For more information on these courses and to register, please visit [www.ohiofireacademy.com](http://www.ohiofireacademy.com) or call 614.752.7196. You may also contact Dale Dittrick, OFA Technical Rescue Coordinator, at 614.752.7186 or [Dale.Dittrick@com.state.oh.us](mailto:Dale.Dittrick@com.state.oh.us).

***Grain Bin Rescue*** - OSU Extension, Agricultural Safety & Health has partnered with Heritage Cooperative and City of Urbana Division of Fire to offer grain bin rescue education and awareness demonstrations. These live demonstrations focus on increasing the awareness of grain bin engulfment hazards and rescue techniques. The primary audience is first responders, farmers, farm workers, and farm families. The demonstrations are available on-site in communities as well as events such as Farm Science Review and the Bureau of Workers' Compensation Ohio Safety Congress. EMS continuing education credits can be offered through OSU. For more information on grain bin rescue demonstrations, please contact Aletha Reshan, OSU Extension, Emergency Management Planning & Education Program Coordinator, at 614.292.9455 or [reshan.1@osu.edu](mailto:reshan.1@osu.edu).

### **AGRICULTURAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RESOURCES UPDATE**

Emergency preparedness is a component of strategic management. Just as all OSU Extension County Offices have been trained in business continuity planning to ensure that their offices are prepared for emergencies and disasters, local farms must be prepared as well. The following curriculum resources are available for OSU Extension Educators to utilize in assisting local agricultural operators with emergency preparedness efforts. Educators can

utilize these courses in a variety of ways such as professional development, program delivery, or referral resources for clientele.

- Plant Biosecurity Management
- OnGuard Protecting America's Food System
- Animal Agrosecurity and Emergency Management

These courses are available from the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN). OSU Extension Agricultural Safety & Health is the OSU Extension delegate to EDEN. To learn more about EDEN and emergency preparedness resources designed for Extension Educators, please visit <http://eden.lsu.edu/Pages/default.aspx>. To access curricula, please visit <http://eden.lsu.edu/EDENCourses/Pages/default.aspx>. For more information on these courses and EDEN, please contact Aletha Reshan, OSU Extension, Emergency Management Planning & Education Program Coordinator, at 614.292.9455 or [reshan.1@osu.edu](mailto:reshan.1@osu.edu).

## **SUMMER SUN, FUN and STINGS**

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

French essayist Joseph Joubert said "When you go in search of honey you must expect to be stung by bees." On a similar note, when you spend time outdoors you should not be surprised when you meet stinging insects like wasps, hornets and bees. Families and residents can comfortably enjoy the outdoors if they are prepared with an understanding about why these insects sting and what to do if a sting occurs.

Wasps, hornets, bumblebees and honeybees attack when the insect feels threatened, however some types of insects are provoked more easily than others. The honeybee is the most docile, and stings can usually be avoided by slowly backing away from bees or patiently waiting for it to fly away without trying to swat it. At the other extreme, even walking near a wasp nest can elicit an attack. The easiest way to avoid all types of stings is to steer clear of areas where insects are common, especially hives and nests.

These insects are usually on the move because they are searching for food. Many perfumes, colognes and lotions have scents that attract them so it is best to avoid wearing them when outdoors. When eating outdoors it is almost impossible to avoid insects trying to share your meal. Using baits or sacrificial food to draw the insects away from where you are eating can have some success. Always pour drinks from cans into a glass before drinking them so that you do not inadvertently swallow a stinging insect. If one of these insects lands on you or flies nearby avoid sudden movements or the temptation to swat at them. These actions are almost certain to be seen as threatening and can initiate an attack. In this case, discretion is the better part of valor and you should retreat with your food and drink to an area away from the insects.

If the unfortunate happens and you are stung, there are a variety of possible outcomes and solutions. The first thing to do is to move away from the area where the attack happened. Stinging insects release an alarm scent when stinging that can cause additional attacks. Another difference between the insects is that the honeybee has a barbed stinger that is pulled from the bee's body after one sting that kills the bee. The other insects can sting multiple times. If the honeybee's stinger is left in the skin it can continue to release venom for a while, so remove it quickly.

The venom released by these insects is called melittin, which can have different effects on you ranging from mild irritation at the site of the sting to anaphylaxis, a life-threatening situation. Additionally, the effects can vary from sting to sting and can change based on your physical condition when you are stung. Treatment should not be needed for mild irritation but you should watch for more extreme reactions the next time you are stung. More severe reactions can be localized swelling or systemic reactions involving parts of the body far from the site of the sting. If the sting causes swelling larger than ten inches across or if you are stung in the mouth or throat or on the eye directly, immediately seek medical care. Also if your symptoms worsen you should seek medical care. Talk to your doctor if you know that you have a severe allergy to stinging insects or if you have questions about what to expect if you are stung.

Summer is a favorite time for outdoor activities but can also lead to encounters with stinging insects. Avoidance is the best approach and an orderly retreat when confronted is the most successful strategy. When stings happen being prepared and knowing what to expect can make the difference between short-term pain and a medical emergency.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP of the MONTH: KIDS & PETS in HOT VEHICLES**

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

As of July 19, 2010, 24 children nationwide have died from hyperthermia, also called heat stroke, after being left unattended in a hot motor vehicle. Ten of these deaths occurred during June. Between 1998 and 2010, a total of 465 children have died in this manner nationally, with an annual average of 37 deaths. Ohio accounted for 11 of the deaths during this time period.

According to Professor Jan Null, from San Francisco State University, 51% of child hyperthermia deaths in hot vehicles since 1998 have been due to the caregiver forgetting the child was in the vehicle. The next highest proportion, 30%, of these deaths occurred to children playing unattended in a vehicle and becoming trapped, another 18% of the deaths were due to adults intentionally leaving children unattended in a vehicle, and the remaining 1% was due to unknown circumstances (<http://ggweather.com/heat/>). Currently, there are 15 states that have laws against leaving a child unattended in a vehicle; Ohio is not one of these states (Ibid).

Time is of the essence for children in a hot vehicle because their body temperature increases at a rate three to five times faster than that of an adult (<http://ggweather.com/heat/>). Tips for preventing children from being unattended in vehicles:

- Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle for any period of time.
- Call 9-1-1 if you see a child unattended in a hot vehicle.
- Teach children that a vehicle is not a toy.
- Secure keys and remote fobs away from children's access.
- Place something important such as purse, wallet, lunch, briefcase, or laptop on floor of backseat to visually ensure no child is left in vehicle.
- Keep a large stuffed animal in unoccupied child car seat and move it to passenger seat when child is in car seat.
- Have an agreement with day care, babysitter, or school that you will notify them when your child will be absent and in turn have them notify you when your child does not arrive as expected. Ensure care providers and schools have your current contact information as well as emergency contact information so they can verify child's whereabouts as necessary. (<http://kidsandcars.org/>)

Remember to include pets in your vehicle safety precautions. Our furry friends are also susceptible hyperthermia when left in a hot vehicle. Even with the windows open they can suffer a heat stroke (<http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/pet-care-tips/hot-weather-tips.html>).

For more information about this important child and pet safety topic, please visit the websites listed above or contact them directly by phone:

- Professor Jan Null- (408) 379-7500
- Kids and Cars- (913) 327-0013
- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)- (212) 876-2000

Wishing all children and pets a safe and happy summer of 2010!

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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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