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

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THOUGHTS from the EDITOR- NEVER DRIVE THROUGH FLOOD WATERS

Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader

Why so much emphasis on staying safe around water? Water poses severe health and safety risks. And this time of year, Ohio is experiencing harsh encounters with flooding. There are several articles in this issue to assist with precautions around flooded areas.

In addition to these measures, it is important to NEVER drive through flooded areas. The most common reason drivers tend to ignore this warning is that they are in a hurry to get home-- to safety. Ironically, they place themselves and their passengers in great danger. No matter how shallow the water appears, and regardless of the make and model of the vehicle, driving into flooded waters is NEVER recommended.

Most cars will float or be swept away in 18-24 inches, with higher profile vehicles like trucks and SUVs giving their drivers an extra 6-12 inches of clearance. The danger on many flooded roads is not just the rapidly moving water, but also the fact the road bottom can wash away. Once the vehicle is floating, the driver has no control over the direction of the vehicle. Once in the current, the vehicle tends to roll to one side, and oftentimes will flip completely over.

It is important to talk to drivers of all ages about their misconception of flood waters. Drivers need to be encouraged to recognize and respect the hazards the floods bring when water covers the road.

SAFETY STAT of the MONTH

What is the leading cause of weather-related deaths in the U.S.?

Flash flooding - approximately 200 deaths per year.

Over 50% of flood-related drownings are vehicle-related.

NIOSH PERSONAL PROTECTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Certified pesticide applicators in 5 states (PA, WV, OH, MD, and WA) can earn recertification credits if they attend the NIOSH Stakeholder Meeting titled **"A Safety Roadmap for Agricultural Pesticide Handlers: Overcoming Barriers to Optimal Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Use."** This event will be held at the **Pittsburgh airport on March 29**. Pesticide applicators from OH will receive 5 hours total Private Core credit, with credits given for individual sessions throughout the day.

This meeting is an excellent opportunity for pesticide applicators to learn about pesticide PPE and to meet educators, regulators, pesticide manufacturers and PPE manufacturers. The meeting will give applicators an opportunity to voice their views and concerns regarding PPE for pesticides directly to the people who can take action.

Please refer to the following website for more information or contact Dennis Groce by emailing gw3@cdc.gov or calling (814) 384-3025). The meeting is free, however pre-registration is required since space is limited. For more information, please see the following website: <http://www.agri.ohio.gov/apps/odaprs/pestfert-PRS-searchindex.aspx>

2011 FARM SAFETY ROUND-UP DAY CAMPS

Calling County hosts for the 2011 Farm Safety Round-Up Day Camps

We are currently seeking counties to host a Farm Safety Round-Up Day Camps in 2011!

These day camps provide youth an opportunity to learn about agricultural hazards and injury prevention. The mission of the day camp program is to teach youth about rural dangers; however the campers do not have to be farm children to benefit from the educational sessions. Injuries from horses, livestock, ponds, lawn mowers and electricity can occur to anyone, not just farm kids. Campers learn in a fun, interactive way the consequences of poor judgment around power machinery, flowing grain and livestock. Heading into our 14th year, approximately 17,500 youth have enrolled in this statewide event!

These programs serve as ideal conduits between businesses and community organizations interested in the health and safety of local youth. Many agencies use the Round-Up program to benefit their own outreach education efforts. For example, local electric co-ops have dynamic electric safety presentations, the YMCA has excellent water safety/water rescue programs and health departments have a variety of health programs targeting younger audiences.

For more information about hosting a day camp, including the benefits and goodies sponsored at the state level, please contact Kathy Henwood, OSUE Agricultural Safety & Health Program Assistant, at henwood.13@osu.edu or 614-292-0622. Deadline to become a day camp host is March 4, 2011!

NATIONAL FLOOD SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK is MARCH 14-18

Being prepared for an emergency or disaster such as flooding helps us to better negotiate our actions during the response and recovery phases of the incident. Below are suggested actions to take for flood preparedness.

* **Weather Radio:** It's always good to know where to find emergency related information. Having a NOAA Weather Radio is a good way to stay informed of weather conditions. The NOAA Weather Radio provides the latest weather related information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To learn more about the NOAA Weather Radio, please visit <http://www.weather.gov/nwr/>. To learn more about the receiver that is needed to hear the Weather Radio broadcasts please visit <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrrcvr.htm>.

* **Maps:** Maps are an additional type of preparedness tool. The National Weather Service has excellent mapping tools for helping us stay up-to-date on all that is happening related to floods. The Ohio River Forecast Center out of the National Weather Service (<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/ohrfc/>) features a flood map depicting current and forecasted flood conditions. Flash flood mapping information can be found at http://www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcshare/ffg.php?location=OH&zoom_map=state&duration=1 which provides the flash flooding information used to issues watches and warnings. It is interactive and allows you select the state and the time criteria you wish to view.

* **Floodplain:** Know if your home, work location, school and other locations you frequent are in a floodplain. In most cases, the local planning office notifies homeowners that their home is located in a floodplain. However, you can contact your local planning office with any and all questions regarding their local government's flood

mitigation plan. It would also be good to know if locations that are important to you such as schools and nursing homes have flood evacuation plans.

* **Evacuation Routes:** County Emergency Operations Plans have pre-designated evacuation routes. Contact your local Emergency Management Agency (EMA) for this information. Many counties have their Emergency Operations Plans as well as other county specific emergency preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery plans available online. County EMA contact information is available at http://eoc.ema.state.oh.us/OpsCenter/Contacts/OEMATelephoneDirectory/CountyDirectorList_web.aspx or by calling the state EMA at 614-889-7150.

* **Make a Plan:** Have an emergency and evacuation route plan for yourself, your family and your employees. Make sure to include your pets in your planning.

* **Flood Insurance:** Having the proper type and amount of insurance is important, this website http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov/FloodInsuranceInfo_SprSum.aspx provides information on the National Flood Insurance Program as well as links to additional flood insurance resources.

* **Emergency Supplies:** Have jugs of water on-hand in case water supplies become contaminated. Other supplies such as medications, non-perishable snacks, personal care products, clothing, pet care needs, battery powered radio, blankets and a battery-powered flashlight should also be included in your emergency supplies.

Additional information regarding these suggested actions can be found at the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness website http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov/FloodInformation_SprSum.aspx. For additional information on flood safety, please contact Aletha Reshan at 614-292-9455 or reshan.1@osu.edu.

FLOOD AWARENESS TIPS

State Health Officials Warn Residents of Flood Water Risks

State Health officials advise residents to use caution when coming into contact with flood waters because they may contain potentially dangerous materials, such as fecal matter from overflowing sewage systems, agricultural runoff and chemicals from industrial areas. Wading in flood waters can also be a cause of infection or result in a variety of injuries. Eating or drinking anything contaminated by flood water can cause diarrheal disease.

Follow these tips to stay healthy during and after the flood:

Flooding in Your Area:

- Tune into local radio and TV stations to see if your area is under a boil alert for drinking water.
- Follow the guidelines if you have a [private water systems](#) or [sewage treatment systems](#).
- Do not allow children to play in flood water areas.
- Practice good hygiene (Wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer if soap is not available) after contact with flood waters. Wash children's hands frequently (always before meals).
- Cleaning Your Home After a Flood:
 - Wear rubber boots, rubber gloves, and goggles during cleanup of affected area.
 - Keep children and pets out of the affected area until cleanup has been completed.
 - Do not allow children to play with toys that have been contaminated by flood water and have not been disinfected.
 - Remove and discard items that cannot be washed and disinfected (such as, mattresses, carpeting, carpet padding, rugs, upholstered furniture, cosmetics, stuffed animals, baby toys, pillows, foam-rubber items, books, wall coverings, and most paper products).
 - Remove and discard drywall and insulation that has been contaminated with sewage or flood waters.
 - Thoroughly clean all hard surfaces (such as flooring, concrete, molding, wood and metal furniture, countertops, appliances, sinks, and other plumbing fixtures) with hot water and laundry or dish detergent.
 - Help the drying process by using fans, air conditioning units, and dehumidifiers.

- After completing the cleanup, wash your hands with soap and warm water. Use water that has been boiled for 1 minute (allow the water to cool before washing your hands).
- Wash all clothes worn during the cleanup in hot water and detergent. These clothes should be washed separately from uncontaminated clothes and linens.
- Seek immediate medical attention if you become injured or ill.

Additional Resources:

Risks of Flood Waters <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/flood/standing.html>

Cleanup of Flood Water <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/cleanupwater.asp>

Disinfecting and Sanitizing <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/cleaning/index.html#bleach>

OHIO AGRABILITY UPDATE

Kent McGuire – Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator

Ohio AgrAbility is helping farmers across the state overcome obstacles, barriers or problems they face on the farm because of a disability, injury or long-term illness. This program is working with farmers in several different aspects to provide them with the assistance to remain productive on the farm. In some situations our program staff provides on-site assessments and recommendations to increase productivity and safety of AgrAbility clients. In other instances the program provides information and resources directly to farmers on overcoming specific obstacles or farming with a specific disability or health condition, such as “Farming with a Pacemaker” or “Arthritis in Agriculture”.

One of our highest priorities is to be involved at the local level to assist the agricultural producers in your area. It is the time of year when we are scheduling activities for spring and summer events. There are several ways Ohio AgrAbility can be involved in your local events including:

- Providing presentations on Ohio AgrAbility, Universal Design, and injury prevention
- Showcasing the Ohio AgrAbility display
- Introducing an Assistive Technology “Show and Tell” session
- Providing our AgrAbility brochures, posters and other helpful information

Contact Ohio AgrAbility to be involved in your next local agricultural event. It is a great way for our staff to get to know the farmers in your area, and introduce them to a program that can be beneficial to their productivity and quality of life on the farm.

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.

FIRE SAFETY with SOLID-FUEL BURNING STOVES

Tim Butcher, OSHA Coordinator

As a follow-up to a recent topic dealing with the safe installation of wood burning stoves, a discussion about fire and smoke safety is appropriate. Preventing home fires is the first objective, but being prepared for them is also important. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, about 3,000 people die in residential fires every year.

No stove installation is complete without including smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, a fire escape plan and a fire extinguisher. Smoke detectors should not be so close to the stove that normal whiffs of smoke, which escape during loading, will set them off. There should be a smoke detector on every level of the house and definitely one near each bedroom. Test them monthly and change the batteries annually.

Burning any type of fuel generates varying amounts of carbon monoxide. Factors such as the quality of the wood used, the draft of the stove, and the home’s ventilation can mean that dangerous levels of carbon monoxide can

accumulate inside a home. Carbon monoxide is odorless and colorless so detectors are essential. They should also be on every level of the home and near the bedrooms. Test them monthly and change the batteries annually.

If there is an alarm or an actual fire emergency, knowing beforehand how everyone is supposed to get out is critical. Adults probably know to leave the house, but children may crawl into closets or under beds unless they have practiced the correct procedure. Many children and older adults sleep through or do not hear the sound of a smoke alarm. Practice the fire escape plan at night to make sure that everyone hears it and gets out. The fire alarms may need to be moved or other plans developed if anyone does not wake up.

Fire extinguishers are discussed last because the detection and evacuation must happen first before anyone decides if the fire can be fought safely. Fire extinguishers are helpful at putting out small fires or slowing the spread of a larger fire. An ABC fire extinguisher is designed to fight fires involving wood, flammable fuels and electrical appliances. It is the best choice for a home. A 5 lb ABC fire extinguisher is a good compromise between fire fighting capacity and ease of use. If you want more capacity and know you can handle the extra weight, a 10 lb ABC is a good choice.

Enjoy the warmth and savings of heating your home with a wood stove, but remember to use detectors, plans and fire extinguishers to provide adequate warnings and tools to fight a home fire. Think ahead and be prepared.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP of the MONTH – TORNADO PREPAREDNESS & HISTORICAL INFO

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

March is a very busy month for weather safety events specific to Ohio! The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness reminds us of the following events that will be taking place.

Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 20 – 26.
Ohio's Statewide Tornado Drill is Wednesday, March 23 at 9:50 a.m.

April through July is the peak season for tornadoes in Ohio, therefore, events such as Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week and the Statewide Tornado Drill commence in March to provide us with ample opportunity to practice and prepare for weather phenomena such as tornadoes.

The Columbus Dispatch has an online interactive tool available to help us view the location of reported tornadoes that have occurred in Ohio between 1950 and 2010. The information can be aggregated according to county, date, magnitude or zip code. To utilize this tool, please go to <http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/databases/weather/tornado.html>. For more information on tornado preparedness, please contact Aletha Reshan at 614-292-9455.

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
