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

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THOUGHTS from the EDITOR- THE DANGER in RUSHING

SAFETY STAT of the MONTH

NEW OSUE AG SAFETY & HEALTH WEBINARS!

4-H ATV SAFETY DAY CLINIC

HSAS is now NTAS

INJURY PREVENTION – Understanding Concussions

LAWN MOWER SAFETY

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP of the MONTH: “eXtension”- AN ONLINE RESOURCE

THOUGHTS from the EDITOR- THE DANGER in RUSHING

Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader

Adverse weather this spring has left many farmers on the starting lines. Just waiting for the season to officially start. But with every day of waiting, comes the understanding that many will be rushed when Mother Nature finally opens the planting window. I know that rushing won't be avoided, but perhaps it can be recognized as a very real danger.

Rushing leads to inaccuracies and mishaps, short cuts, and short tempers. Ultimately rushing can lead to personal injury, equipment damage, product damage, and unhappy customers or co-workers. It can also lead to redoing a task that was once thought finished.

So, as the window of planting opportunity opens, please remind yourself, your family members, and your co-workers of these safety tips:

- 1) There are very real and adverse affects caused by rushing,
- 2) Rushing can lead to injuries,
- 3) Take the time to replace safety guards and shields after maintenance,
- 4) Don't convince yourself to believe that you can hurry "just this one time,"
- 5) Be aware of your frame of mind when you know that you are pushing limits or working long hours - and take time for breaks.

SAFETY STAT of the MONTH

What consumer product is associated with more childhood injuries than any other product on the market (other than the automobile)?

Answer: the bicycle. Deaths from bicycles increase by 45% during summer months.

How to reduce these fatalities: Wear a helmet. It's a necessity, not an accessory!

Looking for a local partner to conduct bicycle safety programs and helmet campaigns? Contact the Safe Kids...

There are 15 Safe Kids Coalitions in Ohio. They are grassroots advocates for child safety, particularly in the area of bicycle helmets for children. At the national level, Safe Kids USA supports federal child safety legislation. For example, Safe Kids has supported legislation to make swimming pools and spas safe, install carbon monoxide alarms in homes, and to strengthen the power of the federal government to recall dangerous products. To find a Safe Kids coalition in your area, visit their website: www.safekids.org

NEW OSUE AG SAFETY & HEALTH WEBINARS!

Interested in learning more about the aging workforce in Ohio?

Or the HOSTA tractor certification safety course?

Or Emergency Management planning and resources?

Or available agricultural safety programming for youth?

These are just a few topics that will be covered in the *new OSUE Agricultural Safety and Health Webinars!*

The OSUE Agricultural Safety and Health office is launching a series of agricultural safety and health webinars. The goal of these webinars are to provide a look into the different areas and topics of concern for the agricultural industry in Ohio and provide participants a greater understanding of the topic.

Remember to mark **June 16, 2011 at 1:00 pm** (ET) on your calendar to attend the kick-off webinar! This webinar will be "Aging work force: Occupational therapy programs for disabled farmers." The presenter will be Kent McGuire, Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator.

There is still time to register for the 4-H ATV SAFETY DAY CLINIC

When: June 18, 2011, 9:00am - 2:00pm

Where: Wayne National Forest ATV Trailhead in New Straitsville, OH

Who: Open to Ohio's 4-H ATV enthusiasts and their families. Come discover safe-riding skills, complete a community service and environmental activity. A parent track will be offered as well.

There is a small fee of \$10 for 4-H members and \$5 per family member to attend. Lunch provided for all. Families are encouraged to bring their own correct size ATVs and gear to enjoy a "free" one-day ride permit for the trails there at the park following the clinic.

Clinic sponsored by Ohio State University Extension, Ohio 4-H Foundation, and Wayne National Forest.

To register or for more information please contact:

Kathy Henwood via email at Henwood.13@osu.edu, or by calling [614-292-0622](tel:614-292-0622)

HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY SYSTEM is now NATIONAL TERRORISM ADVISORY SYSTEM

The National Terrorism Advisory System, or NTAS, replaces the color-coded Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS). This new system will more effectively communicate information about terrorist threats by providing timely, detailed information to the public, government agencies, first responders, airports and other transportation hubs, and the private sector.

The new system provides two levels of threats, rather than the previous five-level, color-coded system. The two levels are Imminent and Elevated. The Imminent Threat Alert warns of a credible, specific, and impending terrorist threat against the United States. The Elevated Threat Alert warns of a credible terrorist threat against the United States. An additional change to the advisory system is that there is also a Sunset Provision, which provides an expiration date for the alert. For more information on the National Terrorism Advisory System please visit <http://www.dhs.gov/files/publications/ntas-public-guide.shtm>.

As always, it is important for each of us to be alert to suspicious activities. If you see or hear something suspicious you are encouraged to contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911. For more information on the "If You See Something, Say Something" campaign please visit <http://www.dhs.gov/files/reportincidents/see-something-say-something.shtm>.

INJURY PREVENTION – Understanding Concussions

Kent McGuire – Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator

Concussions are a mild form of traumatic brain injury, and the most common kind of traumatic injury to the brain. Concussions are usually caused by a bump or blow to the head. Most people associate concussions with athletics or sporting events, but due to the nature of the work, farmers are at a high risk of this form of traumatic brain injury. Slips, trips and falls are a common hazard that can cause a concussion.

Other risk factors include working with livestock, working with heavy tools and equipment, making repairs in tight spaces or under raised equipment, and working in an ever – changing environment with low visibility.

Most concussions occur without loss of consciousness. In the event of suffering trauma or a blow to the head, advise family members or co-workers of the injury. Signs and symptoms of a concussion can show up right after the injury, or may not be present until days or weeks after the incident. If signs and symptoms start to present themselves after even mild head trauma, seek medical attention.

Symptoms reported by the victim

- Headache or "pressure" in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or blurry vision
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion
- Does not "feel right"

Signs observed by family or co-workers

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about work processes
- Forgets instructions
- Is unsure of surroundings
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Can't recall events prior to hit or fall
- Can't recall events after hit or fall

There are ways to reduce the risk of head trauma and prevent a concussion. Recommendations include:

- Follow proper techniques and manufacture's guidelines when making repairs
- Avoid working on equipment where loose parts or tools are positioned directly above your head.
- Frequently monitor your surroundings during work processes, especially in low light conditions.
- Be observant to what is above and beside you
- Stay clear of areas where materials or debris may be projected or thrown
- Be aware of wall protrusions or low clearance obstructions
- Maintain three points of contact (1 hand / 2 feet) or (2 hands / 1 foot) to prevent falls when mounting or dismounting equipment, ladders and elevated surfaces
- Use proper handling techniques when working with aggressive or defensive livestock
- Use proper Personal Protective Equipment, including head protection when appropriate

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.

LAWN MOWER SAFETY

Tim Butcher, OSHA Coordinator

Spring is in full swing in Ohio but getting outside to mow the grass has been difficult with all the rain we have had this year. In addition to checking that the lawn mower is tuned up and ready for a summer of work, make sure you remember a few safety tips to keep the work safe:

- Use a push mower with a control that stops the mower when the handle is released. Slips and trips can be more dangerous if the mower keeps running.
- If it is necessary to dislodge debris around the blade, make sure the spark plug is removed or disconnected. Turning the blade can start the mower.
- Wear good shoes while mowing. Sneakers and sandals provide too little protection against objects thrown from under the mower.
- Wear hearing protection while mowing. Many lawn mowers are loud enough to cause hearing loss over time.
- Let the mower cool off before refueling. Spilled gasoline or gas vapors near a hot muffler can easily lead to a fire.
- Protect yourself and others from flying objects by checking the yard for debris and toys before mowing, especially along roadways where litter and rocks accumulate. Keep children and pets away from areas that are being mowed. Projectiles from mowers can inflict serious injuries.
- Look for ground-nesting wasps to avoid mowing over the hives. Colonies will show increased activity as spring progresses. A soap and water solution may work to kill the colony, but if stronger measures are needed pesticides like Sevin or Dursban are effective.
- Children younger than 12 should not be allowed to operate push mowers and then only if they are supervised to make sure they are using the mower safely.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, 68,000 people are treated in emergency rooms every year in the United States for injuries caused by lawn mowers. By following a few safety precautions the necessity of keeping our lawns mowed can be made a lot safer.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP of the MONTH: “eXtension” - AN ONLINE RESOURCE

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

The recent onslaught of tornadoes and floods in Ohio have many of us looking for much needed disaster recover resources as well as preparedness information for future emergencies and disasters. The eXtension (pronounced E-Extension) website, provides a wide range of educational resources similar to those that can be obtained through a local Extension Office. Resources are available on topics such as animal, livestock, and crop issues; family health and safety; personal finances; community and business interests; and of course emergencies and disasters. Multiple resources are contained within each topic area, with additional content being added on a continuous basis according to current events, new research, and user requests.

The site includes an “Ask an Expert” component that enables the user to ask a specific question. If the website does not contain the answer, the question is sent out to Extension subject matter experts from across the country who will assist in answering the question and adding this information to the eXtension website. To learn more about eXtension and all it has to offer you on a variety of topics, please visit <http://www.extension.org/>. To view the information specific to floods, please visit <http://www.extension.org/floods>.

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
