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

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Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader

Fire is a safety topic for every season. However, summer fires are especially common on Ohio farms. The leading causes of summer fires include lightning strikes, equipment fires on hay and small grain harvesting equipment (balers and combines), and faulty electrical systems. Take time now to have a fully charged fire extinguisher available in barns, field equipment and pick-up trucks. It may make the difference and save equipment, facilities, commodities, and lives.

SAFETY STAT of the MONTH:

Over 300 people die each year in the U.S. from heat stress.

Workers at risk of heat stress include outdoor workers and workers in hot environments such as firefighters, farmers, construction workers, miners, boiler room workers, factory workers, bakery workers, and others. The workers at greatest risk of heat stress include: those who are 65 years of age or older, are overweight, have heart disease or high blood pressure, or take medications that may be affected by extreme heat. (Source: Centers for Disease Control at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/>)

AG Safety S.T.A.T. – READERSHIP SURVEY

May month marked the 30th edition of the Ag Safety S.T.A.T., which is in its fourth year of publishing safety information for agricultural and safety professionals in Ohio and the midwest. We are proud to report that our articles have been picked up and published in other newsletters and online sources such as the Fairfield Towne Crier, Ohio Ag Connection, and several of Ohio's county extension office websites. Last year the Ag Safety S.T.A.T. was honored with an ESP "Tools for Teaching" award. In order to improve the quality of our content and serve our readership audience, we have compiled a short readership survey. Please click the link below to tell us what you think!

Ag Safety S.T.A.T. Readership survey: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22BTUXFCQ5V/>

RESCHEDULED DATE for ATV SAFETY CLINIC is JULY 15th!!!

On **Friday, July 15th**, the Ohio State University Extension will co-sponsor a safety day clinic for 4-H ATV members and their families from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Wayne National Forest ATV Trailhead (south of Zanesville) in New Straitsville in Perry County. Attendees can discover safe-riding skills and complete a community service and environmental activity. A parent track will be offered as well.

There is a fee of \$10 for 4-H members and \$5 per family member to attend. Lunch will be provided for everyone. Families are encouraged to take their own correct-size ATVs and gear to enjoy a free one-day ride permit for the Forest trails after the clinic. The clinic is sponsored by the Ohio State University Extension, the Ohio 4-H Foundation, and Wayne National Forest.

Deadline to register is Friday, July 8th. For more information, contact Kathy Henwood at Henwood.13@osu.edu or call (614) 292-0622.

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS for PARENTS & FAMILIES

According to a national survey conducted by the Home Safety Council, more than one-third of U.S. adults reported that they worry the most about injuries in and around the home during summer months.

The most common safety concerns for families are: water safety (which includes pools and boating), fire safety (includes grilling, candles, and campfires), and general play safety (playgrounds, biking, and other recreational activities). For additional reading and resources on the top summer safety concerns for parents and families, check out About.com. Credible and helpful safety tips of all types are there year round. But specifically for this summer, click http://childparenting.about.com/od/healthsafety/a/summer_safety_checklist_2.htm

BOATING SAFETY

Tim Butcher, OSHA Coordinator

Summer is the time of year when many people spend much more time by the water, in the water, and on the water. When those plans include boating, taking the time to consider whether your boat has all the necessary safety equipment can make sure the event stays fun. According to the U.S Coast Guard, at a minimum, recreational boats must have the following equipment:

- If the boat is less than 16 feet long, one approved Type I, II, III or V (must be worn) personal flotation device (PFD) for each person on board or being towed on water skis, tubes, etc.
- If the boat is over 16 feet long, one approved Type I, II or III PFD for each person on board or being towed on water skis, etc.; and one throwable Type IV device.
- Every vessel less than 65.6 feet (20 meters) in length must carry an efficient sound-producing device such as a bell or whistle. While boating in Federally controlled waters such as Lake Erie and the Ohio River, every vessel 65.6 ft. or larger in length must carry a whistle and a bell that are audible for 1 nautical mile.
- While boating on the Great Lakes, boats under 16 feet are required to carry an approved visual distress signal for nighttime use. Boats over 16 feet must carry visual distress signals for both daytime and nighttime use.
- One B-1 type approved hand portable fire extinguisher. (Not required on outboard motorboats less than 26 ft in length if the motorboat is such that it does not permit the entrapment of explosive or flammable gases or vapors, and if fuel tanks are not permanently installed.). For boats between 26 and 40 feet, two B-1 type or one B-2 type fire extinguisher is required. Three B-1 type OR one B-1 type PLUS one B-2 type approved portable fire extinguishers for boats larger than 40 feet.
- Ohio requires that all watercraft must have an anchor and line of sufficient weight and length to anchor the watercraft securely. The following vessels are exempt from this requirement: A vessel less than 14 feet in length, a canoe or kayak, and a sailboat less than 21 feet in length.

This is only a portion of the requirements for boaters in Ohio. Consult the Ohio Division of Watercraft for complete regulations. Ohio law requires boaters born on or after January 1, 1982, to successfully complete either a boating course or a proficiency exam in order to operate a boat powered by more than 10 horsepower. The course is a good idea for even seasoned boaters. A significant portion of the boating course is devoted to safety. Make sure your plans include all the required safety equipment and you will be more likely to have a good time on the water.

LAWN MOWING SAFETY

Dee Jepsen, State Ag Safety Leader

Too many injuries occur with lawn mowers, classifying it as one of the most dangerous tools to Ohioans during summer months.

Each year in the U.S., approximately 68,000 persons are treated in emergency departments as a result of power lawn mowers. Over 13% of these are children under the age of 18years – many of them reporting they were hurt while cutting lawns as chores or as a way to earn money.

Lawn mower injuries include deep cuts, loss of fingers and toes, broken and dislocated bones, burns, and eye and other injuries. Some injuries are very serious. The Ohio Farm Fatality database has shown an increase in deaths caused by riding lawn mowers when they overturn on the operator.

To prevent serious injury and death, the American Academy of Pediatrics offers these recommendations:

- Try to use a mower with a control that stops the mower from moving forward if the handle is let go.
- Children younger than 16 years should not be allowed to use ride-on mowers. Children younger than 12 years should not use walk-behind mowers.
- Make sure that sturdy shoes (not sandals or sneakers) are worn while mowing.
- Prevent injuries from flying objects, such as stones or toys, by picking up objects from the lawn before mowing begins. Use a collection bag for grass clippings or a plate that covers the opening where cut grass is released. Have anyone who uses a mower wear hearing and eye protection.
- Make sure that children are indoors or at a safe distance well away from the area that you plan to mow.
- Start and refuel mowers outdoors, not in a garage or shed. Mowers should be refueled with the motor turned off and cool.
- Make sure that blade settings (to set the wheel height or dislodge debris) are done by an adult, with the mower off and the spark plug removed or disconnected.
- Do not pull the mower backward or mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary, and carefully look for children behind you when you mow in reverse.
- Always turn off the mower and wait for the blades to stop completely before removing the grass catcher, unclogging the discharge chute, or crossing gravel paths, roads, or other areas.
- Do not allow children to ride as passengers on ride-on mowers.

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
