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

Vol.4 No. 8 August 2011

SAFETY STAT of the MONTH

READERSHIP SURVEY—TAKE the SURVEY, WIN a PRIZE!

OSUE AG SAFETY & HEALTH WEBINAR: AUGUST 18<sup>th</sup> at 1PM

FARM DAYS at COSI

CHECK OUT AG SAFETY AT THE 2011 FARM SCIENCE REVIEW!

FIELD TILING is TRENCHING

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Emergency Management Tip of the Month – BACK to SCHOOL SAFETY MONTH

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### **SAFETY STAT of the MONTH:**

Use safe grilling practices during these peak months for outdoor grilling. Gas grills constitute a higher risk, having been involved in an annual average of 6,200 home fires in 2004-2008, while charcoal or other solid-fueled grills were involved in an annual average of 1,300 home fires.

More information can be found at the following links:

A narrated slideshow about cleaning and proper placement of the grill away from the house and other combustibles <http://www.nfpa.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=1714&itemID=41221&URL=Safety%20Information/For%20consumers/Outdoors/Grilling/Grilling%20safety%20tips>

A video on other safety tips for gas and charcoal grills

[http://www.nfpa.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=298&itemID=18346&URL=Research%20%20Reports/Fact%20sheets/Seasonal%20safety/Grilling&cookie\\_test=1&cookie\\_test=1](http://www.nfpa.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=298&itemID=18346&URL=Research%20%20Reports/Fact%20sheets/Seasonal%20safety/Grilling&cookie_test=1&cookie_test=1)

Here are some quick tips for safe grilling as provided by the National Fire Protection Agency:

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Charcoal grills
- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.
- Propane grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

## READERSHIP SURVEY—TAKE the SURVEY, WIN a PRIZE!

The month of May 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 many other newsletters and online sources. 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/>

## FARM DAYS at COSI - Volunteers Needed

7th annual Farm Days: Little Seeds, Big Tractors.

When: August 17th-20th, 10am- 5pm and August 21st 12pm-6pm

Where: COSI, Downtown Columbus

COSI has re-vamped their Farm Day "Life of a Farmer Game" in that OSU personnel are not required to staff our OSU Extension tent. However, there are still volunteer shifts available during the event! If you would like to participate - or have volunteer groups interested in helping please contact Michell Domke at [mdomke@mail.cosi.org](mailto:mdomke@mail.cosi.org) or via phone [\(614\) 228-2674 x 2365](tel:6142282674x2365).

During this event, more than a dozen pieces of huge farming equipment - including a combine, a track drive tractor, antique tractors and more - will be arranged downtown on COSI's English Plaza and Washington Boulevard. Visitors can climb into the cabs of tractors, a combine, and more. Kids can test their driving skills on a pedal tractor obstacle course, try a cow milking simulation and make a seed necklace to take home. OSU Extension will again be included in the "Path of a Farmer Game." Read more about Farm Days here: <http://www.cosi.org/visitors/new-hot/farm-days/>

## CHECK OUT AG SAFETY AT THE 2011 FARM SCIENCE REVIEW!

The Agricultural Safety program staff will be available to meet and talk with attendees of Farm Science Review, September 20 - 22.

Look for us at the following locations:

**Hauling a Secure Load**- OSU Central, on the Land Ave side

*Confined Space Demonstrations*

**Combustible Dust Explosions** - daily 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30 - OSU Central, on Kottman Street side

**Manure Storage Ventilation**- daily 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00- OSU Central, on Kottman Street side

*AgrAbility Program Events*

**Ohio AgrAbility Assistive Technology Show & Tell**- OSU Central, on the Land Ave side

**Purdue's Breaking New Ground Program**- OSU Central, on the Land Ave side

**Ohio AgrAbility and Universal Design for Garages and Farm Shops**- McCormick Building, Friday Ave

**Teen Ag Challenge**- daily at 9:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. - Firebaugh Building, Friday Ave

## FIELD TILING is TRENCHING

**Tim Butcher, OSHA Coordinator**

The benefits of tiling agricultural fields are well understood. The hazards of creating trenches across fields are not always appreciated. Consider the following guidelines to keep tiling a safe operation:

- Never enter a trench that is over 4 feet deep without providing for access. Soil that has been trenched is unstable and often collapses suddenly. People need a way to quickly get out of a trench that has started to collapse.

- Workers in a 4-foot trench should never be more than 25 feet from an access point such as a ladder. Even being in a 4-foot collapsed trench can be fatal if the soil presses against the stomach and the person cannot inhale.
- Anytime the trench is deeper than 5 feet the stability of the trench must be considered. Unless the installer is prepared to use trench boxes, the walls of the trench should be banked or sloped to make a cave in less likely if anyone needs to be in the trench.
- If any part of the trench is left open at the end of the day, it should be barricaded to keep people from walking into it. This is especially important along roadways where people might be walking.

Tiling operations carry with them the same hazards as other farm equipment. Machine guarding, controlling wrap, pinch and cut points, as well as accounting for noise hazards are also necessary when field tiling. Planning ahead and knowing where workers may need to enter the trench can help make sure that tiling goes ahead without any safety mishaps.

## **INJURY PREVENTION - WORKING in EXTREME HEAT**

### **Kent McGuire - Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator**

It is a common setting for most individuals in agriculture to work for long periods of time in extreme conditions. This time of year a major concern is working in extremely hot weather, increasing the risk of a heat stress injury such as heat exhaustion or heat stress. These types of injuries can occur when the body cannot regulate its temperature and can become serious medical emergencies if precautions are not taken. Individuals with pre-existing conditions, such as limited mobility, heart disease, and taking certain medications are at an even higher risk to a heat stress injury and should consult with their local health care provider before working for an extended period of time in extreme heat. Some precautions should include:

- When possible, strenuous work should be scheduled for the coolest time of day.
- Dress lightly - lightweight, light-colored clothing reflects heat and sunlight and helps your body maintain normal temperatures.
- Take multiple short breaks in a shaded area or controlled environment, throughout the day.
- Alternate tasks that involve working around equipment or machines that will give off additional heat during operations, with tasks in a more comfortable, controlled environment.
- Stay Hydrated - Drink plenty of fluids before, during, and after strenuous activities. Cold fluids can help cool the body and avoid drinking alcoholic beverages.
- Avoid foods that are high in protein because they increase metabolism, increasing body heat and water loss.
- Do not get too much sun and use sunscreen. Avoid scheduling tasks in direct sunlight, during the middle of the day. Sunburn makes reducing body temperature more difficult.
- Spend time in air-conditioned places, especially during periods of rest, which allow the body to recuperate.

For more information about the Ohio AgrAbility Program, visit [www.agrability.osu.edu](http://www.agrability.osu.edu) or contact Kent McGuire, OSU Agricultural Safety & Health, at [mcguire.225@osu.edu](mailto:mcguire.225@osu.edu) or [614-292-0588](tel:614-292-0588).

## **Emergency Management Tip of the Month - BACK to SCHOOL SAFETY MONTH!**

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

For many school districts, August marks the beginning of the new school year. This much-awaited time of excitement inherently calls for a refresher course on personal safety and security practices for both children and adults. The following tips can help keep children safe so that families and communities can enjoy a happy and fun school year!

#### **Parents -**

- \*Make sure your children know their name, address, and phone number
- \*Make sure your children know not to go anywhere with strangers and what to do if they are approached by a stranger

- \*Make sure your children know who to tell that something is wrong such as a teacher, neighbor, friend, relative, police officer, or fire fighter
- \*Make sure you have a plan for an emergency situation such as who will pick up your child from school or daycare in the event you are unable
- \*Make sure the school and daycare have your current contact information as well as a backup contact in the event you cannot be reached
- \*Talk with your children about their day so you are aware of issues and dangerous situations such as bullying or unsafe conditions such as no sidewalk and areas with speeding drivers
- \*Ensure that your children are getting plenty of exercise, rest, and a healthy diet to help them stay alert and attentive to situations around them
- \*Alert the school and law enforcement agency to dangerous or illegal activities which jeopardize the safety and welfare of your children

**Drivers -**

- \*Be alert and drive slowly in neighborhoods and school zones
- \*Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, medians, and curbs
- \*Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully
- \*Watch for children on and near the road at peak school travel times such as morning and afternoon
- \*Avoid distractions while driving such as talking on phone
- \*Do not text while driving

**Children -**

- \*Should cross the street with an adult until they are at least 10 years old
- \*Always cross the street at corners using traffic signals and crosswalks
- \*Never run out into the street or cross from in between parked cars
- \*Always walk in front of school bus where they can be completely seen by driver
- \*Stay seated on the school bus
- \*Wear protective equipment such as a helmet and reflective tape when riding a bike to school

By working together, we can help ensure children have a safe school year that builds fond memories!

The following organizations have additional back-to-school safety tips:

\***The Ohio Department of Health, 614-466-3543**

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/features/odhfeatures/backtoschool.aspx>,

\***Safe Kids USA, 202-662-0600**

<http://www.safekids.org/safety-basics/safety-spotlight/back-to-school-safety/>,

\*Each **school district** maintains safety policies and resources that are available to children and their families.

Please contact your child's school with questions and to request resources on safety and nutrition.

\*Safety resources are also available from local **law enforcement** agencies. These agencies can also be contacted to make safety presentations at parent-school-teacher organization meetings.

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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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