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

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Dee Jepsen - State Agricultural Safety & Health Leader

The eXtension website is quickly becoming populated with farm safety information. The acronym FReSH was developed specifically for 'Farm and Ranch eXtension Safety and Health' resources. If you haven't had a chance to check it out, please do so. There are a plethora of topics that go into much more depth than what this monthly newsletter can do.

As a member and contributing author of this on-line community, I have worked closely with other colleagues to ensure there is a variety of topics and accurate information available through the internet... any time and any place the need arises. These materials are provided by the federal Cooperative Extension System; and Ohio State University Extension supports and shares many of these resources with our local clientele.

Take a look, and maybe even bookmark the page! Happy browsing

http://www.extension.org/farm_safety_and_health

A SECOND ON SAFETY

The United States on-farm grain storage capacity totaled 12.8 BILLION bushels on December 1st, 2011, up 2% from 2010. There were 89 documented cases of grain engulfment (person trapped in grain) in 2010 and 2011, with the total number of actual cases estimated at 20-30% higher than reported.

Don't Go With the Flow; Be Safe When Working Around Flowing Grain

Dewey Mann – Safety Research Associate

Through these winter months, farmers are busy hauling their stored grain to elevators – filling their monthly contracts. Even though this tends to be a slower time for many agricultural producers, it is easy to get in a hurry and overlook hazards that may be taken for granted. A hazard that took 26 lives in the U.S. during 2010; flowing grain. Here are some helpful hints to keep you from overlooking these specific hazards that are present around grain storage structures:

- Secure grain bin ladders and doors to prevent unauthorized entry, especially by children.
- Never allow children to play or ride in grain wagons. Most grain entrapment incidents in on-farm transport vehicles involve children.

- Apply entrapment warning decals to all grain bins, wagons, and grain storage areas, as well as commercial transport vehicles.
- Never work alone! When working with others during grain unloading, know where each person is located and what he or she is doing.
- Warn workers, family members, and visitors about the dangers of flowing grain and the risk of entrapment.
- Establish a nonverbal communication system with others when working around flowing grain because of the excessive equipment noise levels.
- When possible, use inspection holes and grain bin level markers rather than physically entering a grain bin.
- Before entering the grain bin, lock out and tag out all power controls to unloading augers and conveyors (stop the flow of grain).
- If you must enter the grain bin, wear a body harness with a lifeline secured to the outside of the bin, and have at least one other person observing your work activity in the bin.
- Be aware of potential bridging of frozen and/or rotten grain (i.e. crust on grain surface that may collapse if walked on).
- When cleaning a grain bin, always work from top to bottom.

Sources:

Grain storage stats www.grainnet.com/pdf/30_31_32_GraiStoc-01-12-2012.pdf

Purdue grain entrapment summary "2011 Summary of Grain Entrapments in the United States"

eXtension <http://www.extension.org/pages/63151/entrapment-risk-due-to-flowing-grain>

UPCOMING GREENHOUSE WEBINAR | JANUARY 24, 2013, 11 AM

Adapting Greenhouses to Meet ADA Guidelines

The Ohio AgrAbility program is currently working with greenhouse owners to enhance their structures to be ADA friendly. The American Disabilities Act (ADA) was updated in September 2010. The OSU Ag Safety staff have used this information to help greenhouse employers abide by these guidelines. It is important that newly constructed greenhouses, if public places of accommodation, are not only accessible and abide by the laws of the ADA, but also provide a comfortable atmosphere for the users of the space.

This webinar will focus on the interpretation of the standards outlined by the act and describe how to implement these standards into greenhouse structures. Merging together the standards with specific application techniques will help owners of greenhouse understand the practical execution of an accessible facility without impeding on the functionality of a greenhouse.

Details about the Free, one-hour program: January 24, 2013 at 11 am.

Please send your name and email address to Dee Jepsen (jepsen.4@osu.edu) or Kent McGuire (mcguire.225@osu.edu) to register. A link will be sent to you.

CALL for AG SAFETY and HEALTH PROGRAMS of EXCELLENCE

Do you have an outstanding program where you promote agricultural safety and health? If so, you may be selected to present your program to an international audience when they embark on the banks of Lake Erie later this summer. The International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health is holding their annual conference June 23 – 27, 2013 in Sandusky Ohio. They are looking for "Programs of Excellence" to highlight during an interactive poster session. Program sessions are encouraged from a multitude of agencies, companies, organizations, or local coalitions. Examples of programs that are encouraged to submit for recognition include 4-H, FFA, Extension, Farm Bureau, equipment manufacturers, insurers, and others!

For more information on how to submit your program, check out the website:
<http://agsafety.osu.edu/isash-conference>. Click on CALL for ABSTRACTS and SUBMISSIONS. Entry deadline is January 30, 2013. Good Luck!

AVAILABLE ROADWAY SAFETY RESOURCES for AMISH COMMUNITIES

Are you looking for educational information to share with the Amish in your community? We have Amish buggy driving workbooks available for FREE. These workbooks contain useful information about driving a buggy on the roadways and understanding the laws. If you have any Amish in your community that you would like to share these workbooks with, please contact Kathy Mann at mann.167@Osu.edu or 614-292-0622 and she will ship them to you. Thanks!

BECOME A 2013 FARM SAFETY ROUND-UP DAY CAMP HOST

We are currently seeking counties to host a Farm Safety Round-Up Day Camps in 2013! 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 16th year, approximately 19,500 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 Mann, OSUE Agricultural Safety & Health Program Coordinator, at mann.167@osu.edu or 614-292-0622. Deadline to become a day camp host is March 4th, 2013.

INJURY PREVENTION- Recognizing Cold Stress Injuries

Kent McGuire - Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator

Long exposure to cold, wet, and windy conditions can be dangerous even at temperatures above freezing. Since many tasks on the farm must be completed regardless of the weather conditions, farmers should know how to detect and respond to cold stress injuries. It is important to remember it takes longer to complete even simple tasks in the winter, because of multiple layers of clothing, poor working / walking surface conditions or severe weather. Contributing factors of developing a cold stress condition are cold temperatures, high winds, dampness, and exposure to cold water. Four specific conditions that can result from cold stress include:

Hypothermia: The body is unable to produce heat because it used all its stored energy. Early symptoms include shivering, fatigue and loss of coordination. Late symptoms include dilated pupils, slowed pulse and breathing or even loss of consciousness. First Aid should include:

- Call 911
- Seek a warm room or shelter
- Remove any wet clothing
- Warm the chest, neck, head, and groin first with an electric blanket
- If able give, consume warm beverages. Not alcohol or caffeine
- Keep dry and wrapped in a warm blanket
- Administer CPR if pulse is lost

Frostbite: The skin freezes and loses water. Symptoms include reduced blood flow to hands and feet, numbness / aching / tingling / stinging - especially to fingers and toes, bluish or pale, waxy skin. First Aid should include:

- Seek a warm room ASAP
- Avoid walking on frost bitten feet or toes
- Soak affected area in warm (not hot) water
- Do not use heating pad, fireplace, or radiator for warming
- Rubbing the area may cause more tissue damage
- Wrap in a soft cloth

Trench foot: Caused by prolonged exposure of the feet, to wet and cold conditions. It can occur if feet are constantly wet. It is similar to frost bite, but less severe. Symptoms include reddening of the skin, numbness, leg cramps, swelling, tingling pain, blisters/ulcers or bleeding under the skin. First Aid should include:

- Remove shoes/boots and wet socks
- Dry feet
- Avoid walking on feet to avoid more tissue damage

Chilblains: Painful inflammation of small blood vessels in your skin that occur from repeated cold temperature exposure or a response to sudden warming of the skin, from cold temperatures. Symptoms include redness, possible blistering, inflammation, and possible ulceration in severe cases. First Aid should include:

- Do not scratch
- Slowly warm the skin
- Use corticosteroid creams to relieve itching and swelling
- Keep blisters and ulcers clean and covered

For more information about the Ohio AgrAbility Program visit agrability.osu.edu or contact Kent McGuire, OSU Agricultural Safety & Health, at mcguire.225@osu.edu or 614-292-0588.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP OF THE MONTH- What to do During a Winter Power Outage

Kent McGuire – OSU Ag Safety and Health

Any number of things can cause a power outage during the winter months. In most cases it is weather-related, and can range from a localized outage of one or two residences to a wide - spread outage. If power is out over a widespread area, it may take a longer time to restore power, especially in remote locations. If an outage occurs, first check to make sure you have not blown a circuit or a fuse. Check the circuit breakers or fuses in your home's electrical panel. If power is out due to circumstances outside you home, call your local utility company to report the outage. The phone number should be on your electricity bill. Here are some suggestions to consider during a winter power outage:

- Unless there is an emergency, do not call 9-1-1. It should ONLY be used if there is an emergency, or if someone is injured or in danger.
- Check flashlights and battery-powered portable radios to ensure that they are working, and have extra batteries. A radio is an important source of weather and emergency information during a storm. Listen to your battery-powered radio for news at the top of each hour, to find out when the power might be restored.
- Dress to stay warm - wear layers, including a sweater, sweatshirt or even a jacket. You lose heat through your hands and the top of your head. Wear gloves and a knit hat. Utilize extra blankets or sleeping bags to stay warm.

- If you're water supply is not affected and you are cold, take a warm shower - to increase your body temperature. Your hot water tank, even if electric, can stay warm for a few hours.
- Have sufficient heating fuel, as regular sources may be cut off. If you have a wood stove or fireplace, you can use it for heat so you can keep at least one room livable. Use only alternative heaters designed for indoor use. DO NOT USE outdoor type heaters, or BBQs, inside. They can create poisonous gases such as carbon monoxide and should be used in well ventilated areas.
- To keep pipes from freezing, wrap them in insulation or layers of newspapers. Let faucets drip a little to avoid freezing and know where shut off valves are located.
- If your water supply could be affected (a well-water pump system), fill the bathtub, a bucket or spare containers with water. This water can be used specifically for sanitation purposes. Pouring water directly into the bowl can flush a toilet. Additionally, snow can be melted for an additional water source.
- During winter months keep an extra supply of non perishable food items and drinkable water. It may take days to get to the grocery store or for the stores to restock items.
- Avoid opening your refrigerator and freezer as much as possible. Food inside should stay cold for hours if the door is left closed. Snowdrifts can be used as a makeshift freezer for food. (Be aware of attracting animals).
- Unplug major appliances or electronics. When the power comes back on, all of those appliances can create a drain or power surge. This can harm sensitive equipment. Leaving a single light on will signal you when the power is restored.
- If you have a generator, do not connect it to your home's power system unless it has been properly installed and disconnects you from the main power grid when it is operating. If you do not disconnect from the power grid, you can be sending electricity back down the lines; not just to your home. That could be deadly for power company workers.
- Be extra cautious if you go outside to inspect for damage after a winter storm. Downed or hanging electrical wires can be hidden by snowdrifts, trees or debris, and could be live.
- Check on elderly neighbors or those who may have medical conditions or use medical machinery that operates on electricity.
- Review the process for manually operating a garage door with an electric opener.
- If you have to go out, drive carefully. Remember that traffic signals may be out during a power outage. Consider each intersection to be a four-way stop and drive defensively.

For more information about Emergency Management contact Kent McGuire, OSU Agricultural Safety & Health, at m McGuire.225@osu.edu or 614-292-0588.

 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
