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

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THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR- Loaded with Grain and Ready to Train

Dee Jepsen – State Agricultural Safety & Health Leader

The OSU Ag Safety and Health Program and the Ohio Fire Academy have a history of agricultural rescue collaborations that began in the late 1980's. Examples include the training modules for on-site use at the Fire Academy, agricultural rescue demonstrations at Farm Science Review, presentations at OSU Extension field day events, and Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation Safety Congress. This past Saturday, (March 2, 2013) our latest project was put into motion and began serving its purpose.

The Grain C.A.R.T. – a Comprehensive Agricultural Rescue Trailer - is a portable grain rescue training simulator. The mobile unit creates various levels of rescue exercises that simulate real life rescue situations first responders may encounter in rural communities. The trailer was built to optimize rural rescue teams' knowledge and skill when responding to farm emergencies. The first group of firemen and EMTs from the Ridgeville, Napoleon and Archbold fire departments participated in the inaugural grain bin rescue program offered with the Grain C.A.R.T.

The simulator was built as part of a student design project with five students in the Department of Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering at OSU. With the help of industry partners, their project took shape and is now in the communities where it will serve rural rescue teams and farm families with educational programs. The state of Ohio is truly privileged to have this type of training and awareness unit available. Agricultural communities will benefit from their contributions for many years.

To learn more about the Grain C.A.R.T., and to see pictures, check out the following website: <http://agsafety.osu.edu/grain-cart>

A SECOND ON SAFETY

The National Safety Council has declared March as Workplace Eye Wellness Month.

Each day about 2,000 U.S. workers have a job-related eye injury that requires medical treatment. Take a second – put on your safety glasses!

Become a 2013 Farm Safety 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 8th, 2013.

YOUTH SAFETY- Setting a Good Example of Farm Safety

Kathy Mann – Agricultural Safety and Health Program Coordinator

The farm is a dangerous place for children because they live where work is performed and it is difficult for them to separate their play area from the work area. To a child, the farm environment is a fascinating and adventurous place. However, many of these adventures have tragic outcomes.

Children on their own cannot recognize farm hazards. They must be taught how to recognize farm dangers and how to avoid them. Young children learn primarily by touch and sight. Many times these two senses put a child into a dangerous situation. For example, fascination with a quickly moving PTO can result in disaster. However, these senses can also be used to teach children about farm hazards. For example, bright safety emblems can be used as flash cards to teach children farm hazards. Models of farm equipment can also be used to demonstrate and prevent possible accidents.

Here are a few ways to set a safe example:

No extra riders on equipment.

Equipment that has the capability to fall, such as buckets on front-end loaders, should be left in the down position.

When parked, self-propelled machinery should be locked and keys removed from the ignition.

A tractor PTO control should be in neutral when not in use.

Machinery should be kept in good repair, particularly protective shields, ROPS, and seat belts.

All ATV riders should wear helmets.

Farm ponds and manure pits should be fenced.

Chemicals and pesticides should be stored in a locked area.

Electrical boxes should be kept locked.

Source: Farm Safety For Children: What Parents and Grandparents Should Know
AEX-991-92, Ohio State University Factsheet

Available 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!

INJURY PREVENTION- Preventing Overexertion Injuries

Kent McGuire – Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator

With spring approaching, it is time to start some of those projects that have been put off all winter. On those first warm, sunny days of spring many people start projects, only to feel the pain of overexertion the next day. Overexertion is an injury risk faced by many because it is a labor - intensive occupation and workday is often lengthened when the weather is nice. Overexertion is a major cause of the inflammation of joints and ligaments that results from excessive physical effort. According to the National Safety Council, overexertion is the third leading cause of unintentional injuries, accounting for about 3.3 million emergency room visits, annually. There are several causes of overexertion including:

Force: Force-related hazards can be present when lifting, pushing, pulling, carrying, gripping, using tools.

Awkward or static postures: Posture-related hazards can be present when bending, twisting, reaching, and kneeling.

Repetitive movements/actions: Repetition-related hazards can be present when doing the same thing over and over again, with little time for rest.

Other overexertion injury hazards include contact stress, hand-arm vibration, whole-body vibration, impacts with hands/knees, working in cold temperatures or hot environments.

Some guidelines to reduce the risks of overexertion injuries include:

- Use proper lifting techniques when lifting heavy objects.
- Ask for help when moving heavy objects.
- Use material handling devices, carts, or hand-trucks to move heavy items.
- Avoid twisting or bending when you lift or set down your load.
- Push items, rather than pull them.
- Plan a route when moving items, free from slip or trip hazards.
- Use tools with easy to use handles or grips and have vibration-reducing features.
- Reduce total exposure to vibration by alternating between tasks that use vibrating tools and tasks with non-powered tools.
- Establish a suitable working height depending on the type of work being done.
- Utilize stools and anti-fatigue matting at workstations for tasks with prolonged standing.
- Place materials used often at appropriate heights and less frequently used materials in less desirable locations.
- Utilize different tasks to a job to increase a variety of physical movements, in an effort to prevent repetitive motion injuries.
- Use kneepads while kneeling or padded gloves when lifting to reduce contact stress over long periods of time.

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- Spring Severe Weather Awareness

Kent McGuire – Agricultural Safety and Health Program Coordinator

March is a very busy month for weather safety events in Ohio. The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness has listed the following events that will be taking place.

Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 3 - 9.

Ohio's Statewide Tornado Drill is Wednesday, March 6th at 9:50 a.m.

National Flood Safety Awareness Week: March 18-22,2013

Tornado Safety Tips

Whether practicing in a tornado drill or sheltering during a warning, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages Ohioans to DUCK!

D - Go DOWN to the lowest level

U - Get UNDER something

C - COVER your head

K - KEEP in shelter until the storm has passed

The safest place to be during a tornado is a basement. If the building has no basement or cellar, go to a small room (a bathroom or closet) on the lowest level of the structure, away from windows and as close to the center of the building as possible.

Be aware of emergency shelter plans in stores, offices and schools. If no specific shelter has been identified, move to the building's lowest level. Try to avoid areas with large glass windows, large rooms and wide-span roofs such as auditoriums, cafeterias, large hallways or shopping malls.

If you're outside or in mobile home, find shelter immediately by going to the lowest level of a nearby sturdy building. Sturdy buildings are the safest structures to be in when tornadoes threaten. Winds from tornadoes can blow large objects, including cars and mobile homes, hundreds of feet away.

If you cannot quickly get to a shelter, get into your vehicle, buckle your seatbelt and try to drive to the nearest sturdy shelter.

If you experience flying debris while driving, pull over and park. Choose to either stay in your vehicle, stay buckled up, duck down below the windows and cover your head with your hands, or find a depression or ditch, exit your vehicle and use your arms and hands to protect your head. Never seek shelter under highway overpasses and bridges.

For more information about Emergency Management contact Kent McGuire, OSU Agricultural Safety & Health, at 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
