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

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**THOUGHTS from the EDITOR Great Giving Ideas**

**Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader**

This is the season that we reflect on our bounties and reach out to others less fortunate. If you happen to need a good reason to show your family, friends, or employees how much you value them, why not give them the gift of safety? Some of my favorite gift giving ideas include: new boots, work gloves, ear plugs, and ATV or snow mobile helmets. Fire extinguishers and smoke detectors are thoughtful gifts for anyone, as are first aid kits and emergency kits for vehicles. For those extravagant gift givers, a ROPS for an older model tractor is just the ticket – and working with the dealer, you will discover that one size may not fit all, but most models have retrofits available.

And if you are fortunate enough to find a new pony or ATV under the tree, then hopefully there is an accompanying helmet and other safety gear with it. This is also a good message for those getting shiny new bicycles and skateboards. It is tempting to ride these items immediately – there should be no delay in having the proper gear available to make that first ride a safe one.

For those who read each year’s Ag S.T.A.T.S., you will know that this article was re-published from several years ago. I thought I would "re-gift" it this year!  
Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!

**A SECOND ON SAFETY-** Provided by National Safety Council

Natural and artificial Christmas trees start fires in an average of 250 homes each year. These fires cause approximately 14 deaths, 26 injuries and \$13.8 million in property damage yearly.

**INJURY PREVENTION -Reducing Slips, Trips, and Falls in Winter Working Conditions**

**Kent McGuire - Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator**

Several types of walking and working surfaces are on farms and farmers may encounter some or even all of them throughout the workday. Farmers have an increased risk of injury from a trip, slip, or fall because of the variety of surfaces they encounter on a regular basis. Areas which have a greater risk for these types of injuries include: walkways, sloped terrain, feed lots, areas that are washed down on a daily basis, equipment steps, ladders and platforms.

Nearly all slips or falls have one or more of these factors as a cause: 1) substandard walking surfaces; 2) surface contaminants; 3) footwear; and 4) walking style of the person. Proper housekeeping and lighting of working and walking surfaces can prevent most slips, trips, and falls. Sometimes surface contaminants can be very difficult to recognize as a hazard and once the hazard is noticed, it must be cleaned up to prevent any risk of injury. Wearing the proper footwear for current weather or worksite conditions is important in preventing slips, trips or falls, as well as reducing fatigue.

Some general guidelines to preventing slip, trip, and fall injuries include:

- Utilize handrails or grab bars in areas where there are stairs or changes in elevation.
- Use 3 points of contact when mounting or dismounting equipment (1 hand / 2 feet) or (2 hands / 1 foot).
- In wet or icy conditions, take smaller steps and try to ensure your torso stays balanced over your feet.
- When transitioning from the bright outdoor environment to indoor areas, stop briefly to allow your vision to catch up with the change in lighting.
- Use slip resistant matting or provide textured surfaces in potentially wet areas.
- Maintain good housekeeping in livestock barns and work areas, by removing manure and keeping surfaces clean and dry.
- Keep travel paths free from ice and snow. Be observant to areas such as water troughs or leaking roofs / gutters, where liquids may have splashed and have frozen.
- Minimize distractions to remain alert to hazards and avoid carrying bulky items that block your view.
- Remove obstructions from travel areas, such as extension cords, power cords, hoses, boxes, or tools.
- Stay alert to items projecting from buildings or equipment.
- Repair uneven / warped flooring, protruding nails, splinters and loose boards, or cracks in concrete which can create an uneven walking surface.
- Create smooth transitions from loose gravel to other surfaces.

For more information about the Ohio AgrAbility Program visit [agrability.osu.edu](http://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.

## **YOUTH SAFETY- Decking the Halls and Trimming the Tree**

Kathy Mann - Program Coordinator

The Thanksgiving turkey is gone and now it is time to trim the tree. For many families, decorating the tree is a family tradition. While enjoying each other's company and sharing memories of years' past, keep in mind these few safety tips:

- Use only indoor lights indoors and outdoor lights outdoors.
- Check lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections.
- Only use three sets of lights to one extension cord.
- Do NOT run cords under the rugs.
- Turn off all lights on trees and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Always use the proper step stool or ladder to reach high places.
- Never place lighted candles on a tree or near any flammable materials.

If your family enjoys having a fresh cut tree remember these tips as well:

- Cut off about two inches of the trunk and place in a sturdy, water-holding stand. Keep the stand filled with water so the tree does not dry out.
- Place your tree away from fireplaces, radiators, and other heat sources.
- Make sure the tree does not block foot traffic or doorways.

These few safety tips will help keep you and your family safe this holiday season!

Source: National Safety Council

## **UPCOMING GREENHOUSE WEBINAR | JANUARY 10, 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 10, 2013 at 11 am.

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

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP OF THE MONTH- Planning with Local Fire and EMS Departments**

Kent McGuire – OSU Ag Safety and Health

Emergency management starts with planning. Whether it's a structure fire, traumatic farm injury, or natural disaster being prepared and limiting damage takes work and planning. With the potential hazards on the farm, it is a good idea to involve your local fire department and emergency medical services provider. Ask if the local fire department could visit your farm to get familiar with the overall layout and general operation of the farm. This will give them the opportunity to identify any potential hazards during emergency response and provide feedback on emergency planning. Some suggestions may include:

- Identify access points to the farmstead and to specific barns, buildings and structures
- Locate electrical disconnects, water or gas shut – offs, and fuel storage areas
- Specify locations of livestock facilities and relocation areas should they need evacuated from buildings
- Identify confined space areas such as grain bins, silos or manure pits and hazards associated with each one.
- Indicate areas where chemicals, pesticides, paints, compressed gas cylinders or flammables are stored.
- Locate access points to water sources such as ponds, rivers or streams, in the event of a large structure fire.
- Determine any specialty equipment needed to access remote locations on the farm. Example: Tractor, 4x4 truck, ATV / UTV, or boat.
- Consider how emergency response could be affected by seasonal changes. (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter)

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

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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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