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

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Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader

A SECOND on SAFETY – SECURING a LOAD

Spring is looming large, and many farmers are hurrying to stock up on materials, chemicals, seed and supplies before the busy planting season starts. Take a second to adequately secure cargo in the bed of your pickup to prevent items from becoming loose during transit.

Check the guidelines below to make sure you are using the right number of tie-downs and ratchet straps:

One tie-down for cargo:

- Items shorter than 5 feet and less than 1,100 pounds in weight.

Two tie-downs for cargo:

- 5 feet or less in length and more than 1,100 pounds in weight.
- Greater than 5 feet but less than 10 feet.

Four tie-downs (at least) for cargo:

- Weighing over 10,000 pounds

Additional tie-downs:

- For any cargo 10 feet or greater, additional tie-downs are needed. Add 1 tie-down for every 10 feet of length.

For more information on how to secure a load, see the following factsheet: AEX-598.2-11 “**Make sure your load is Secure**” at ohioline.osu.edu/aex-fact/pdf/0598.pdf

2012 FARM SAFETY ROUND-UP DAY CAMPS

Calling County hosts for the 2012 Farm Safety Round-Up Day Camps –

We are currently seeking counties to host a Farm Safety Round-Up Day Camps in 2012!

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 15th year, approximately 18,100 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](tel:614-292-0622).

Deadline to become a day camp host is **March 5, 2012!**

INJURY PREVENTION – AGRICULTURAL HOUSEKEEPING

Kent McGuire – Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator

Good housekeeping on the farm can be an essential component to reducing the risk of an injury. Work areas such as the farm shop, livestock barns, feed lots, and equipment/material storage are typically used to the fullest extent on a daily basis, and a priority should be placed to create a clean and orderly work environment to eliminate dangerous conditions or work hazards. Hazards associated with a lack of housekeeping include; slips, trips, and falls, blunt impacts with objects, fire hazards, and chemical exposures. Some general housekeeping guidelines for your agricultural work areas should include:

- Keep aisles and high traffic areas free from debris to prevent a trip or fall hazard
- Clean up all spilled materials. Oils, grease, and cleaners can cause a slip/fall hazard if left on the floor.
- Put tools, materials, and unused supplies in their designated places and continue to put them back in the proper locations after use. No one wants to waste time looking for tools or equipment.
- Make sure materials that are stored on shelving are secure and stable to prevent an injury from a falling object.
- Organize chemical storage areas, keeping herbicides, pesticides, and flammables separated to prevent an environmental, fire, or health issue.
- Do not allow an accumulation of waste to build up. Properly dispose of unwanted boxes, paper, bubble wrap, wood scraps, metal, or broken parts.
- Keep torch and welding areas free from debris to prevent a fire hazard.
- Spending 15 minutes at the end of every day, to clean up and organize your work area, may prevent hours at the emergency room with an injury.

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

Emergency Management Tip of the Month – TORNADO SAFETY TIPS

From: <http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov/TornadoFacts.aspx>

March is a very busy month for weather safety events specific to Ohio! The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness reminds us of the following events that will be taking place.

Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 25 – 31.

Ohio's Statewide Tornado Drill is Wednesday, March 28 at 9:50 a.m.

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.

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
