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

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## THOUGHTS from the EDITOR-Preventing field fires during harvest season Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader

No matter the ambient weather and field conditions, farmers are at high risk of having a field fire during harvest season.

The conditions present during harvest season include dry plant material and grain dust that is highly combustible. Hot equipment or engine sparks that make great ignition sources. Add a little bit of wind and there is a perfect opportunity for a field fire.

Being prepared to handle field fires is important for all workers and transport drivers. Having machinery equipped with a trustworthy fire extinguisher is one of the first lines of defense. Combines should carry an ABC 10-pound fire extinguisher, while tractors are recommended to have a 5-pound unit. These extinguishers should be in EACH vehicle in the field. Nothing is worse than watching the combine go up in flames while you're running to the end of the field to retrieve the fire extinguisher on the grain cart. Having an extinguisher on each piece of equipment ensures you will be ready to react on the first signs of smoke.

It is also important to keep machinery in good repair. Apply grease to bearings and oil chains regularly to reduce friction. It is recommended to perform maintenance checks at the end of the day, rather than at the beginning, to detect any hot smoldering areas that may break out into flames overnight.

Keep machinery clean and free from plant materials, especially around the wrap points. Wipe up any fuel or oil leaks to eliminate additional fuel sources; and do not leave oily rags on equipment or in the cab.

Take time to cool down the equipment each night, and check for any hot spots. These steps can make a difference to save equipment, facilities, commodities, and lives. Be fire smart, and safe harvesting.

## A SECOND ON SAFETY- When Using a Fire Extinguisher Remember P.A.S.S

Provided by the National Safety Council

**P**ull the pin. Release the lock with the nozzle pointing away from you.

Aim low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.

Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly.

**S**weep the nozzle from side to side.

### SAFETY TIPS FOR AN EVENING BONFIRE

- Use a fire pit, as opposed to just building the fire on the ground. Fire pits should be approximately 12-18

inches deep, at least 2 feet wider than the size of the fire, and circled with stones or bricks.

- Find a safe place to build your fire pit. It should be away from buildings, parked cars, overhead trees, and other fuel sources.
- Use a small amount of wood combined with kindling materials to start the fire. Never use starter fluids or fuel to light the bonfire.
- Don't let the flames get out of control or exceed 3 feet higher than the wood materials.
- Have at least one type of extinguisher on hand. This could be a 5-gallon bucket of water, a bucket of sand, or a charged ABC fire extinguisher.
- Have a shovel nearby to keep hot embers in check, and to help extinguish the fire at the end of the evening.
- Children should always be under adult supervision, and not be permitted to tend the fire.
- Fireworks and alcohol do not mix well at bonfires, and should not be allowed near the open flame.
- Keep a first aid kit on hand for minor injuries like splinters, scratches, and burns.
- Keep a cell phone on hand for calling 9-1-1 for larger injuries or to report an out-of-control fire.

## HIGHLIGHTS of the AG SAFETY PROGRAM at the 2012 FARM SCIENCE REVIEW

- 1. Twelve of our own OSU students and alumni were partially submerged in grain and then rescued during the agricultural rescue demonstrations.
- 2. The new training and awareness trailer named the "Grain C.A.R.T. (Comprehensive Agricultural Rescue Trailer)" was unveiled and dedicated to the Ohio Fire Academy.
- 3. Highlights of the 2012 FSR Grain C.A.R.T. Safety Program can be watched at <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M94zpPBmXZ4">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M94zpPBmXZ4</a>
- 4. Foot traffic of 20,000 people visited our AgrAbility program and the "Evolution of the Tractor Seat" display.
- 5. Over 1,800 people toured the AgrAbility sponsored Universal Design Garage in the McCormick Building.
- 6. AgrAbility provided accessible transportation to and from the field demonstrations. AgrAbility also provided a charging station for individuals needing to recharge their mobility device.

#### **INJURY PREVENTION-** Avoiding Falls During Harvest

Kent McGuire - Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator

Fall harvest is upon us and the hours of daylight are slowly decreasing with every workday. It is a time when farmers and farm workers are continuously moving from one piece of equipment to another or from truck to truck as harvest progresses. This is a time that farmers should take extra precaution to prevent falls when mounting or dismounting equipment. Precautions in preventing falls from equipment should include:

- Observe the basic safety rules of the equipment's operating manual.
- Shut off equipment and make sure equipment is in "park", before dismounting
- Maintain 3 points of contact when mounting or dismounting equipment.
- (1 hand and 2 feet) or (2 hands and 1 foot)
- Ensure that steps, hand holds or railings are in safe operating condition.
- Avoid trying to carry objects when mounting or dismounting equipment.
- Clean dirt and debris from work platforms and decks of equipment, before entering these areas
- Face towards the equipment when mounting or dismounting equipment with ladder style steps.
- Exercise caution when steps are wet or dirty.
- Avoid jumping off of the last step.
- Anticipate changes in ground elevation or rough terrain when dismounting from the last step.
- Be alert and focus on foot placement, especially during early morning or evening when daylight is limited.
- Reduce slipping hazards by cleaning up loose grains and harvest debris in work areas.
- Ensure there is adequate lighting at grain drying and storage areas.

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

### Test your ATV Awareness

Kathy Mann - Program Coordinator

Think you are a skilled ATV rider? Test your ATV awareness by:

- 1. Completing an ASI e-course at www.atvsafety.org; After you complete the course, mail your certificate to Kathy Mann at 590 Woody Hayes Dr. Columbus OH 43210 and receive a **FREE** Ohio ATV Safety team t-shirt.
- 2. Playing the Tread-Sylvania game; Test your ATV skills thru this interactive computer game. To play visit, www.treadsylvania.com/
- 3. Scheduling to take the hands-on riding course; Contact Kathy Mann at <u>mann.167@osu.edu</u> or 614-292-0622 if you are interested in the hands-on ATV safety-training program.

Completing any of these opportunities is a great way to get a head start of your 4-H project for next year.

For more information about the Ohio ATV Safety Program, feel free to contact the project leaders: Dee Jepsen (Jepsen.4@osu.edu), Chris Penrose (penrose.1@osu.edu), or Kathy Mann (mann.167@osu.edu).

# A Webinar to Address: Tractor and Machinery Certification Courses, A Community-Based Approach

A September 2011 proposal from the U.S. Department of Labor regarding child labor in agriculture raised awareness regarding 40+ year old legislation. The Agricultural Hazardous Occupations Orders provides guidance on which tasks are deemed 'too hazardous' for youth to complete. Youth who are 14 or 15 years old that successfully complete a training course can be exempt from the law and work for hired completing certain 'hazardous tasks'.

Many people around the state have been asking for information on this tractor training course. A webinar will be hosted on Thursday December 6th at 3 PM.

The audience of this program includes:

- 1. Volunteers interested in teaching tractor & machinery certification in their area,
- 2. Farm employers who hire teens on their operations
- 3. Farm families and farm teens wanting to complete the course, and
- 4. Secondary Ag Science teachers and Extension personnel who need to know their obligations for signing the Certificates of Training.

The session will introduce a community based approach to conducting this comprehensive training that teens need to complete prior to working in certain agricultural jobs. Content delivery, testing, tractor driving course layouts, and skill test evaluations will also be discussed.

For more information, contact Andrew 'Dewey' Mann (mann.309@osu.edu).

#### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP OF THE MONTH: Fire Prevention Week:**

#### "Have 2 Ways Out!"

Kent McGuire - OSU Ag Safety and Health

Fire Prevention Week is October 7th through 13th. This year's theme, "Have 2 Ways Out!", focuses on the importance of fire escape planning and practice. The National Fire Protection Association provides the following information for a fire emergency:

- Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home, showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- Have an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.

- Practice your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- Practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- If your smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- If you have to escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
- Call the fire department from outside your home.
- Close doors behind you as you leave.

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

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