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

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THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR – Fire Protection During Harvest

Dee Jepsen – State Agricultural Safety and Health Leader

Knowing what to do during an emergency is important year round. However, during fall activities on the farm it is especially important to be prepared for fires. Fires are common in the fields and around the grain bins. Dried plant material and crop dust are highly combustible. Even the slightest heat source can cause ignition.

Training begins with all employees, instructing them where the fire extinguishers are placed and how to use them. While it may be intuitive for supervisors to assume that employees and family members will know how to properly use an extinguisher in an emergency, when panic sets in, logical minds often check out. Therefore training is important for everyone to know how to hold the extinguisher and use the PASS technique to extinguish the flame.

P – Pull the Pin

A – Aim the canister at the base of the fire

S – Squeeze the trigger

S – Sweep the product from side to side over the flames to extinguish

Being prepared to handle field fires is important for all workers and transport drivers. Having all machinery equipped with a trustworthy 5-pound ABC fire extinguisher is one of the first lines of defense. A 10-pound unit is recommended for combines and a 20-pound unit should be at the grain bin site. Extinguishers should never be further than 100 feet away. If fires become too big for the extinguisher, leave the area and call the fire department for assistance.

Be fire smart, and safe harvesting.

MONTHLY SAFETY SLOGAN –

Reap the Benefits of the Safety you Sow

ANNOUNCEMENTS – AVAILABLE ROADWAY SAFETY RESOURCES for AMISH COMMUNITIES

Kathy Mann – Agricultural Safety and Health Program Coordinator

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 horse-and-buggy operators 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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS – National Rural Health Day is November 20 – Celebrating the Power of Rural

When 1 out of every 5 American lives in a rural area, the State Offices of Rural Health encourages Americans to celebrate the power of rural communities. This national day honors the selfless, community-minded, “can-do” spirit that prevails in rural America. It also offers an opportunity to highlight the unique healthcare challenges that rural citizens face – everything from rural hospital services, to lack of healthcare providers, to the needs of an aging population, to larger percentages of un- and underinsured citizens. For more information about the celebration, or ideas to promote this day in your own community, go to <http://celebratepowerofrural.org>. For information about AgrAbility, a program that offers workplace assessments for farmers, visit agrability.osu.edu or contact Andy Bauer at bauer.528@osu.edu or 614-247-7681.

INJURY PREVENTION – Prevent Grain Dryer Fires Dee Jepsen – State Agricultural Safety and Health Leader

This time of year, it’s important for farms with grain dryers to be on alert for grain dryer fires. Besides being costly losses to the grain and the drying equipment, there are also indirect costs associated with fires including additional time and labor to clear the problem, down time with the drying and storage facility, and extra time to and equipment to haul grain to another location. All of this frustration can be reduced when the operators take the time to conduct regular inspections during drying operations and perform routine housekeeping tasks.

For the most part, operators are aware of the manufacturer’s safety recommendations and system operations for their particular dryer. However it is important for all employees (including family labor) working around the grain dryer be informed of specific signs that could lead to fire. They should be instructed on the following:

- Color of flame in the dryer indicates proper burning. Blue flames are a sign of complete combustion. If the blue flame pops when the gas is turned off, check the inlet air adjustment for foreign matter or other obstructions. A long yellow flame indicates poor combustion, and it is necessary to clean the burner and check the regulators and inlet air adjustments.
- Do not modify the controls and sensors, and never bypass emergency shut-down controls.
- Maintain good housekeeping by keeping grain drying chambers free of accumulated foreign materials, dust, debris, and “bees wings.”
- Continually check the grain flow through the columns so that columns are full and flowing properly.
- Vents should be checked and fuel nozzles cleaned at least every 12 hours during operation.
- Do not leave the dryer unattended while it is drying. Continually inspect, look, and listen for signs of trouble.

- Have a 20-pound ABC fire extinguisher at the grain dryer site, and be trained to know when and how to use it.

INJURY PREVENTION – Having a Safe Harvest

Andy Bauer- Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator

As harvest continues we are reminded of the busy and long hours spent this last spring getting the crop started. It is a time that involves long hours and many different types of farm equipment working simultaneously to achieve the same goal: completing the harvest. The continuous activity, long hours and market stress during harvest are all factors that can lead to agricultural-related injuries. We must always be aware of the common injuries, slips, trips & falls; blunt trauma; sprains/strains; back injuries; respiratory problems; and injuries due to fatigue. Some easy ways to reduce the risk of an injury during harvest include:

- Slips, Trips & Falls

Maintain 3 points of contact when climbing on and off equipment. Avoid jumping off the last step and look for uneven elevations or rough terrain where you are stepping. Make sure handholds, railings and steps are in a good safe condition and repair if not.

-Blunt Trauma

Be alert to your surroundings as you move around equipment. Watch for overhead obstacles, open doors and shields, extended handles, and your footpath. When out in the field watch for trip hazards.

- Sprains/Strains

Keep walkways clear and watch for uneven walking surfaces or changes in elevation. Be careful in the field for rough ground, rocks or harvest debris.

- Back Injuries

Remember to use proper lifting techniques; lift objects with your legs not your back, get help for heavy objects and do not try to lift things from an awkward position.

- Respiratory Problems

Clean air filters on cabs of equipment, and if operating an open-station piece of equipment wear a dust mask to protect your lungs. Try to keep the tractor, combine, truck, or other such equipment with a cab in good repair so you don't have to operate it with windows or doors open in dusty conditions.

- Fatigue

Get a good night's sleep every night to keep from being too tired. When working long continuous hours in equipment, stop, get out and walk around to stretch your legs and muscles every hour or two. Check the equipment you are using to be sure everything is in good working order. If you get too tired, or are having trouble staying awake, stop for the day or take a break and let someone replace you for a while. Change tasks on a regular basis if possible.

For more information about the Ohio AgrAbility Program visit agrability.osu.edu or contact Andy Bauer at bauer.528@osu.edu or 614-247-7681.

INJURY PREVENTION – Skid Loader Operator Safety

Kent McGuire – OSU Ag Safety and Health Coordinator

Skid loaders are compact, powerful, and versatile machines that can fit into small spaces, and turn within a very tight radius. Their primary function is to push, scrape, scoop, lift, and dump materials. However, with a variety of attachments they can be very efficient in completing many tasks. Skid loaders can be easy to operate but, the operator must know the machine's capabilities, as well as its limitations. Four areas of operator safety should be considered:

Machine Maintenance

- Stay clear of moving parts.
- Inspect the machine each day before use.
- Ensure shields and guards are in place.
- Repair leaking fittings or damaged hydraulic hoses.

Mounting and Dismounting

- Face the machine and maintain 3 points of contact.
- Keep steps clean from mud, oil, or debris.
- Always enter with the loader arms down.
- Never use the controls as handholds.
- Avoid jumping of when exiting.

Safe Operation

- Understand the controls and the safety equipment of the machine
- Keep riders off of the machine.
- Be aware of potential site hazards.
- Be aware of bystanders or coworkers.
- Before backing, ensure that there is a clear travel path.
- Lower all attachments to the ground before shut down

Stability Considerations

- Travel with the heavy end uphill.
- Use caution on slopes and avoid abrupt turns at high speeds.
- Evenly distribute materials to stabilize the load.
- Avoid overloading, check the owner's manual for the load capacity.
- Keep loads close to the ground to aid with visibility and lower the machine's center of gravity
- Loader attachments can alter the machine's center of gravity

For more information about the OSU Ag Safety visit <http://www.agsafety.osu.edu> or 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 maybe 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
