

Farm Safety & Health Week, (September 19th – 25th, 2004)

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It's been known for quite a while that farming & ranching are some of the most dangerous occupations in the world. Several hundred lives are lost in farm-related activities each year. Additionally, hundreds of thousands of agricultural workers suffered disabling injuries from work-related accidents. Farmer and ranchers are exposed to mechanical, chemical and environmental hazards daily. Many injuries occur when farm tractors roll over on the operator and its passengers. Only about half of the farm tractors used on U.S. farms are equipped with life-saving roll over protective structures (ROPS) and seat belts. (ROPS – see the [July, 2004 Cambridge Safety Newsletter](#) for more information on roll over protective structures)

PTO's: Power Take-Offs and moving parts on equipment may entangle loose clothing or catch long hair, causing injury or even death.

Road Hazards: Another hazard is driving farm machinery on public roads. Thousands of highway accidents involving farm machinery occur each year even though farm equipment is marked with a slow moving vehicle emblem. Drivers often grow impatient with farm equipment operators or have difficulty anticipating the intentions of operators driving farm machinery on rural highways.

Weather: Farmstead terrain and atmospheric conditions present a host of hazards and risks to agricultural workers. In their attempt to remain profitable, farmers and ranchers often must overcome environmental conditions such as droughts, muddy fields, steep slopes or in some cases, severe weather.

2004 Dates To Remember:

January:

Plan Your Safety Training Now!
Call Jody For Training Ideas!
312-381-8208

February:

Child Passenger Safety Week

March:

Poison Prevention Week
Workplace Eye Safety Month
Save Your Vision Month

April:

Sports Eye Safety Month
Intl Building Safety Week
Work Zone Aware. Week
Playground Safety Week

May:

Clean Air Month
Melanoma Awareness Month
Electrical Safety Month
National EMS Week
Poison Prevention Week

June:

National Safety Month

July:

EYE INJURY PREVENTION MNTH

August:

Prepare Your Winter Safety Training!

September:

19-25 Farm Safety/Health Week

October:

3-9 Nat. Fire Prevention Week
17-23 School Bus Safety Week
20-24 Radon Action Week

November:

Take advantage of the weather and do your classroom training!

December:

"3D Month" - National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month

Sun Exposure: Researchers also have documented an increase of skin cancer among farmers who work in the sun for prolonged periods without the benefit of protective clothing or sun screen.

Toxic Gasses: In addition, farmers may be exposed to toxic gases from crop or manure storage, not to mention pesticides and chemicals which also can cause serious health problems. Exposure to these can result in asphyxiation, irreversible lung damage, lingering respiratory problems, burns and skin irritations.

Farm Children: Farm children are at special risk from farm-related accidents. Most of the 200-plus deaths among children on farms result from being innocent bystanders or passengers on farm equipment. Some farm children begin working in farm environments by age 10, many times without adequate training or supervision.

Seniors: Senior-aged farmers also are at increased risk from farm accidents and injuries. Farmers seldom retire at age 65. Many farm well into their 70s. These farmers often take prescribed medications, work with physical disabilities and/or suffer from hearing loss which can add to their risk of injury.

Hearing Loss: Hearing loss is prevalent among farmers who are exposed to loud and continuous noise from machinery and equipment which has not been properly maintained or when proper hearing protection is ignored.

The fact that farmers and ranchers often work alone in isolated rural areas adds to the risk of farming. They may become entrapped, entangled or disabled for hours before they receive medical attention.

Safety and health education plays a vital role in reducing fatalities and injuries on the farm.

The 2004 National Farm Safety and Health Week (September 19th - 25th) marks the 61st consecutive Proclamation signed by U.S. Presidents beginning with FDR in 1944. The National Safety Council will provide farmers and ranchers with information that will help them to better identify hazards so they can prevent injuries to themselves and others. www.nsc.org/issues/agrisafe.htm

Welcome To The CLIC Membership!

Cambridge Risk Control wishes to welcome the CLIC membership to it's risk control program!

For any workers compensation safety resources, safety training or to schedule a visit by a Cambridge Risk Control Field Representative, feel free to contact the CLIC Coordinator of Risk Control at 312-381-8208. He'll be glad to help!

For our client safety video borrow program contact Karen @ 312-381-8281 or Jessica @ 312-381-8027. You can also visit:

www.cambridgeriskcontrol.com

Proof That Seat Belts Save Lives

The [National Safety Council](#) (NSC) estimated in November of 2003 that more than 12,000 people died from 1995 through 2002 because their states lacked laws that allow police to ticket motorists solely for failing to buckle up. The study found that during the eight year period, seat belt use increased by an average of 15 percentage points in states that had primary seat belt laws - the lack of seat belt is the primary reason for stopping the vehicle.

When the NSC study was merged with statistical information from the [National Transportation Safety Board](#) (NTSB), the data showed that seat belts are 45 percent effective in preventing deaths in cars and 60% effective for sport utility vehicles and other light trucks.

A mandatory seat policy should be one of the basic, written safety rules that your company implements - even if your state has a primary seat belt policy. Furthermore, seat belt use should be treated like any other safety policy and especially like a personal protective equipment (PPE) policy. Use effective training, monitoring and enforcement - use disciplinary action if it becomes necessary to discipline employees for behavior that endangers their lives.

School Emergency Operations Planning

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(By Jody Warner, ASP, CFPS, Cambridge Risk Control Department)

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released a comprehensive, independent study course designed to help schools and emergency responders develop emergency operations plans for the wide array of emergencies that schools tend to face. The program focuses on a multi-hazard approach to emergency planning and provides for an in-depth review of the four-step emergency management process. FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) staff, using information and experience from schools and emergency professional around the country, developed the online course.

The online course, IS 362: Multi-Hazard Planning for Schools, is based on the classroom course that has been available from FEMA for the last nine years. The online course is divided into eight lessons that provide a systematic approach, step by step review of emergency management operations, roles and responsibilities of emergency managers, hazard assessment, and the development and testing of an emergency operations plan. While the course takes an all hazards approach to emergency planning, it does include a lesson on planning for terrorism. The lesson sections are:

1. Course Overview
2. Understanding Emergency Management
3. Recruiting Your Planning Team
4. Assessing Your Hazards
5. Developing Your Plan
6. Planning For Terrorism
7. Training and Testing Your Plan
8. Course Summary & Test

"...the course...does include a lesson on planning for terrorism."

The online course takes between six to eight hours to complete, *is free of charge*, and those successfully finishing it will receive a certificate of completion.

For more information on this class, access the EMI website at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is362.asp>. Additional risk control resources that encompass many other, more standard risk control activities can also be found at www.cambridgeriskcontrol.com.

Keep Your Head Out Of The Clouds!

Welding - Contrary to what we were told by our parents, when welding, **keep your head out of the clouds** – the welding smoke & fumes, more accurately. Many welding, cutting and allied processes produce fumes and gasses that can be harmful to your health. Most exposures occur through inhalation or skin and/or eye contact. Symptoms can include nausea, headaches. Dizziness and irritation of the eyes, skin and respiratory system.

What can be done to avoid overexposure? The American Welding Society (www.aws.org) offers these suggestions:

- Keep your head out of the fumes and smoke.
- Don't breathe the fumes and smoke.
- Use enough ventilation or exhaust at the arc to keep fumes from your breathing zone and the general area.
- Consider air sampling that can determine the need for any corrective measures – contact Cambridge Risk Control for assistance.
- If engineering controls (ventilation & exhaust) are not feasible, use an approved respirator within a comprehensive respiratory protection program.

Cambridge Integrated Services
Risk Control Department
175 West Jackson, Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60604
phone 312-381-8072
fax 312-381-9811

www.cambridgeriskcontrol.com

Mark Almburg
Risk Control Manager
312-381-8240

mark_almburg@cisgi.com

Steve Rusicka, CHSP
Risk Control Supervisor, East
800-686-2762 x416
steve_rusicka@cisgi.com

John Tahlier, MS
Risk Control Supervisor, Midwest
608-837-7602
john_tahlier@cisgi.com

Jody Warner, ASP, CFPS
Training & Technical Services
Web & Newsletter Editor
312-381-8208
jody_warner@cisgi.com

Safety Resource Center

It's Good To Know:

15 passenger vans can be very dangerous in certain situations. If you can't simply get rid of yours, use some precautions:

- Use alert, experienced drivers.
- Require **all** occupants to wear seat belts or child restraints.
- **No** seating or storage goes behind the rear axle.
- **No** storage on top of the van.
- Verify proper tire pressure at each fuel stop.
- Check tire tread monthly.

www.hwysafety.org
www.nhtsa.gov



Safety on the WEB

Are you new to safety? Do you feel slightly overwhelmed at the moment because new safety responsibilities have recently been dropped in your lap?

Would you like FREE help?

In short, the world wide web (www) is your friend!! There are literally thousands of websites available to you that will offer free safety resources – handouts, newsletters, articles, etc. If you haven't already, try it and you'll see what we mean.

Why not start here? >

www.cambridgeriskcontrol.com

Safety Tip:

NEED TO BORROW A SAFETY VIDEO?

Contact

Karen @ 312-381-8281
karen_wiehn@cisgi.com

- or -

Jessica @ 312-381-8027
jessica_ingraham@cisgi.com

We have a wide variety of safety videos that are available, free of charge, to all our clients.

You can also request a safety video by going to www.cambridgeriskcontrol.com and clicking on "Safety Resources" and then "Safety Videos"