

# MAFES Dawg Tracks



September 17, 2007

Accident & Injury Prevention



I think we all have the ultimate goal of no accidents or disabling injuries in the workplace. Also, this is a little farfetched, but as the saying goes, "Set your goals for the stars and if you fall in the clouds, you've already accomplished more than when you started." I take this to mean that we may not reach perfection or "0" injuries, but if we try and practice good safety practices, we can minimize the number. The personal safety of all employees is everyone's goal, and hopefully in doing this we eliminate major injuries and questionable ones.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT?

**2.25** – million U.S. workers are employed in agriculture. This number rises to 4.5 million when you include the unpaid farm workers and family members ages 14 yrs. and older.

**132** – is the number of U.S. farmers that are crushed to death in tractor rollovers each year.

**100** – is the number of children killed in agriculture each year.

**100,000** – is the number of children injured in agriculture accidents each year.

**500** – is the number of U.S. workers who suffer disabling injuries each year. Five percent of this figure suffers permanent disabling impairment each year.

According to the National Safety Council, agriculture workers are about four times more likely to suffer disabling injuries than workers in general industry.

## KEYS TO A SAFE WORKPLACE:

- **Safe Attitude** - Our attitude should be one with positive thoughts and feelings that the work place has to be safe, including self-responsibility and time management (eliminating the opportunity of taking shortcuts).
- **Safe Behavior** – The behavior we display is a direction of our attitude that we have of safety in our workplaces. This includes following safety rules and codes, observing and heeding all rules and regulations, etc.
- **Safe Conditions** – The conditions include how we allow our work environment to exist. These conditions include, in general terms, clean housekeeping and equipment, clean and orderly maintenance shops, laboratories and grounds. All equipment should be maintained in sound and "road ready" or "field ready" condition. Also policing of possible obstructions that create the potential for hazards should be followed.
- **Adequate Communication** – Lines of communication remain open between all parties in regards to reporting potential problems and items that may produce a potential hazard and allowance of time to review weekly safety newsletters and other avenues of safety to reduce the potential for an accident.

## KEYS TO INJURY PREVENTION:

The same traits of injury prevention coincide with the keys of injury prevention: Safe Attitude, safe behavior, safe conditions, and adequate communications. Specifically these traits should include the following practices -

### Maintenance shops

- An organized program for housekeeping, trash removal, and scrap iron collection point, etc.
- Employees involved in shop use to be oriented in returning tools and other small work appliances to their rightful location.
- Lubrication and maintenance on all equipment current as well as the records for the equipment.

### Rolling Equipment

- All rolling equipment maintained in good repair so that they are all "field ready."
- All safety features such as SMV, brake locks, lights, fire extinguishers, guards, and shields are in place and fully operable. Tractors are equipped with ROPS (Rollover Protective Structures) and seatbelts. We encourage the use of seatbelts with ROPS, as statistics have proven, that the two items used coaxially means death in an accident is virtually impossible.
- An organized program for cleaning equipment so that casual debris and mud on ladders and landings are free and clear. This reduces the potential for a slip, trip, or fall hazard and reduces the chance of fire hazards and deterioration.
- Be sure that all operators are properly trained in the operation and safety features of the equipment of which they are assigned.

### Agriculture Pesticides

Our research stations and campus support farms, as a whole, do a professional job of pesticide handling, storage, and general use. Review of the keys to sound pesticide storage and handling should include -

- Limited Entry - A program of limited entry to the storage area should be practiced. When pesticides are not being used, the area should remain locked.
- Safety – The MSDS should be current, with a copy of the file located in the close proximity of the actual storage room. Eye wash facilities and first aid kit should be inside or in the close proximity of the storage room. Emergency numbers should be posted in the storage area, close to a phone. Proper PPE available and accessible.
- Containers should be closed, in original containers, and dated.
- Containments should be in place for spill protection.
- Wet and dry chemicals should be separated.

**THE DOOR TO SAFETY SWINGS ON THE  
HINGES OF COMMON SENSE!!**

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MAFES / MSU-ES

Excerpts: [www.cdc.gov/nasd](http://www.cdc.gov/nasd), ~662-566-2201 ~ 6/14/2007