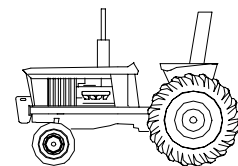




CU Safe



R_x for Ag Safety & Health

Department of Agricultural & Biological Engineering

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Year in Review

We made progress this past year. The new farm safety minigrant program produced five projects with a total budget over \$5,500. Hopefully this upcoming year we will be able to offer this program again. We also increased the number of farm safety day camps in the state. This year we had six camps, of which, three were new.

Finish of this year on a safe note and be extra careful this holiday season. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Charles V Privette III



"Merry Christmas 2003"

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CLEMSON
EXTENSION

Holiday Reminders

- Use a UL approved extension cord (indoor/outdoor).
- Do not leave burning candles unattended.
- Cut trees should be watered daily.
- Allow plenty of time for travel.

Cold Weather & Carbon Monoxide

With winter arriving Dec. 21, cold weather is sure to follow and with it a desire to stay warm. During this time of year, we often hear of warnings of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. This is a good time for reminders due to the increased use of heating. Carbon monoxide poisoning should, however, be a yearly topic rather than a seasonal one.

Carbon monoxide is a gas that is sometimes overlooked as a potential health risk. Carbon monoxide is produced when incomplete combustion of a carbon fuel occurs. These fuels can be gasoline, kerosene, propane, wood, etc... It is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and non-irritating. Carbon monoxide replaces oxygen in the blood and results in headaches, drowsiness, nausea, and even loss of life. These symptoms can often times be mistaken for other illnesses such as colds or the flu. Persons with pre-existing heart disease, unborn babies, young children, and the elderly are at increased risk.

Some sources of carbon monoxide include automobiles, furnaces, gas water heaters, fireplaces, gas stoves, and space heaters. Carbon monoxide problems can be eliminated if these units are kept in good working condition with proper ventilation. One line of defense against CO poisoning is the carbon monoxide detector. Carbon monoxide detectors are devices that sound an alarm before the CO levels reach a hazardous level.

Plant Safety

The toxicology of Christmas plants is often of concern during the holiday season.

The berries of the holly are poisonous. Toxicity is characterized by nausea, episodic vomiting, and diarrhea in some cases.

Both the leaves and the stem of the American mistletoe are toxic. The berries are also toxic when consumed in large quantities. Symptoms develop two or more hours after ingestion and include recurrent vomiting, abdominal pain, and diarrhea.

Ingestion of poinsettia berries, leaves, and flowers may produce vomiting although usually no symptoms develop. Redness and/or itching are more often a concern with the poinsettia than acute poisoning.

Details on the diagnosis and treatment of poisonings should be obtained from the Palmetto Poison Control Center (1-800-222-1222).

Information obtained from The Medical University of South Carolina's Agromedicine Program.

Shop Safety

When it comes to agricultural safety, some issues get neglected because of the issues that arise with tractors and equipment. One component of the farm that might be overlooked is the shop. Many injuries take place in the shop alone. Several issues that need to be addressed when it comes to the shop include general shop safety, personal protection equipment and equipment safety.

General Shop

Proper Lighting
Proper Ventilation
Protective Signs
Clean Shop
Security
First Aid Kits
Emergency Wash Station
Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
Fire Extinguishers

PPE

Eye Protection
Ear Protection
Respiratory Protection
Hand Protection
Body Protection

Equipment

Wear safety glasses.
Tools have designated uses and need to be in proper working condition.
Keep all guards & safety devices in good working order and in place.
Avoid loose fitting clothing.
When lifting heavy objects, lift with your knees and not your back.
Turn off equipment when not in use.

Proper Use of Tools

Tools have designated uses.
Tools need to be in proper working condition.
Return tools to proper place after use.
Wear Safety Glasses

Chisel:

Use proper size for job
Keep cutting edge sharp
Hold fairly loose toward top
Grind off a mushroom end

Saws:

Use proper saw for job
Keep saw sharp
Do not force saw
Pull saw to start cut

Files:

Use file with a handle
Do not use to pry or hammer
- very brittle

Screwdriver:

Use correct size
Do not use to pry
Do not use as a chisel

Hammers:

Make sure handle is solid
Make sure head is secure
Use correct hammer for job
Hold securely at end

Wrenches:

Use proper size and type for job
Make sure fit is secure
Better to pull rather than push

General Power Tools

Wear safety glasses. Keep all guards & safety devices in good working order and in place.
Do not wear loose fitting clothing. Turn off equipment when not in use.
When lifting heavy objects, lift with your knees and not your back.

Holiday Safety Gifts

Pair of Gloves

Not only will they keep your hands warm, they will also protect your hands from abrasions and cuts.

Price: \$3-20 pair.

Goggles

How often do we overlook the importance of sight?

Price: \$3-10.

Ear Plugs/Muffs

For just a couple of cents, your ears can be protected.

Price: \$0.03 - \$20.

First Aid Kit

What every house, automobile, tractor, barn, etc. needs.

Price: \$15+

Fire Extinguisher

A good compliment to a first aid kit.

Price: \$15-25.

Carbon Monoxide Detector

Have a voice against this silent killer.

Price: \$30



This publication is written and designed by Charles V. Privette III. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas for future articles, please send to Charles V. Privette III, 224 McAdams Hall, Box 340357, Clemson, SC 29634-0312, privett@clemson.edu, or (864)-656-6247.

This publication can be found at www.clemson.edu/safety/newslett.htm.

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