



# MAFES Dawg Tracks

August 27, 2012



## Prevent Shop Accidents



Maintenance shops are critical to all agricultural operations. It is good to walk in a shop and see the signs of total professionalism in the quality of their maintenance work and the condition of the shop and its equipment. When you see a clean, organized shop, you kind of feel like safety is a part of their demeanor.

Following are some types of injuries that, if we keep an awareness of the causes and effects, it will serve as a "heads up" in reducing the potential for injuries that could result in lost time and medical expenses that no one wishes to happen:

- ✓ **Take Responsibility for Safety – "Safety is Everyone's Responsibility"** – Each one of us has a responsibility to ourselves and fellow employees to work at preventing injury in our respective jobs. Avoid shortcuts, rushing, and violating safety rules. Pay attention to your work. All three of these traits will help you reduce the potential for injuries.
- ✓ **Improper Lifting** – Lifting incorrectly or lifting items that are too heavy or awkward causes back injury.
- ✓ **Poorly Maintained Tools** – Mushroom heads on chisels, sockets with rounded out cogs, poorly serviced jacks and drills, etc. will all contribute to the potential for an injury. Periodic inspection of all equipment and tools will help to reduce the potential for injury,
- ✓ **Improper Hydraulic System Maintenance** – Pinhole leaks in a hydraulic system with approximately 2,000 lbs. of pressure per square inch can easily penetrate your skin.
- ✓ **Using the Wrong Tool for the Job** – The perils of using the wrong tool could prove to create a potential injury for you and could result in you not being able to complete the work task.
- ✓ **Unsafe Repair in the Field** – Many accidents happen in the field while doing repairs when one fails to stabilize the equipment which would prohibit it from rolling, possibly crushing a worker.
- ✓ **Dropping Heavy or Sharp Objects** – The worker who fails to wear the proper personal protective equipment, like a hard hat, gloves, eye protection or other protective equipment leaves themselves open for a potential injury.
- ✓ **No Safety Shields** – Fragments from grinding wheels or a tool can fly up and injure you.
- ✓ **Bad Wiring** – Older power tools had 2 wire plugs and outlets with no ground. This offers the opportunity for an electrical shock hazard.
- ✓ **Unsafe Work Areas and Habits** – Examples of unsafe conditions are: 1) Incorrect use of ladders, 2) Not blocking hydraulic-supported machinery when repairing it, 3) Working in elevated positions without proper footing, 4) Not using the right supports or safety equipment (jacks for stabilizing equipment), and 5) Working in clutter and disorganized shops.
- ✓ **Personal Protective Equipment** – Protection for your eyes, ears, head feet hands and body are a requirement. Loose clothing can cause entanglements.

- ✓ **Repairing Machinery While Running** – Attempting to unclog a machine while it is running, or attempting to tighten a bolt, or other repairs without locking out the equipment is an invitation for an accident to happen.
- ✓ **Poorly Maintained Work Area** – Leaving tools out can cause a trip hazard. Oil and fluids left on shop floors sometimes results in slip hazards.

### Prevention of Injuries when Repairing Equipment –

- Develop safe work areas, good habits and good housekeeping practices.
- Maintain all equipment in good repair. Read operating and repair manuals to stay abreast of acceptable methods of repair.
- Don't rush into a project. Take time to plan steps for efficient use of time.
- Turn off equipment when it is not in use. Lock out to prevent someone accidentally trying to start up by removing key and/or disconnecting the battery cable.
- Keep guards and shields in place.
- Wear proper clothing and protective gear. Wear the protective gear required for the project at hand.
- Use ladders properly when you are doing elevated tasks. Placing them on firm ground using the 1 for 4 method. (1-foot out for every 4 feet of height for the ladder).
- Lift properly with your back, keeping it straight while using the legs to lift the object. Use a mechanical lift for loads that put you in a stress situation or that are overloaded.
- Work for a hazard-free shop. Organize a program to maintain clean floors, have well-lit areas on the floor and workbenches. All of these tips go a long way in eliminating hazards.
- Isolate hazardous work areas. Have a proper storage area for pesticides and paints, and an area for scrap metal and other scrap materials. Designate an area for a paint booth and welding booth, assuming that you do enough to justify the space allowance. A dedicated area for full and empty compressed gases should be provided. An unsecured cylinder knocked over can become a lethal missal.
- Maintain your focus while working - be on the lookout for potential hazards that might injure you or a fellow worker.

**A SPILL, A SLIP  
 A HOSPITAL TRIP!  
 A SAFER YOU IS A SAFER ME!  
 ~BE ALERT~~ACCIDENTS HURT~**