



MAFES Dawg Tracks



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Safety Tips: Seven Common Accident Causes

Agriculture, as we all know, is one of the leading, or as some groups report, the second leading industry in accident experiences. Agriculture employees are exposed to various safety, respiratory, health, environmental and biological hazards. These hazards derive from heat exposure, pesticides, tractor rollovers, falls, hazardous equipment and grain bins.

One report states that 80 out of every 100 accidents are the fault of the person involved in the incident. It also states that unsafe acts cause four times more accidents and injuries as unsafe conditions. In many industries, agriculture being one of them, tends to blame accidents on “things” rather looking for the “root causes.”

Following are some common causes of accidents that can be attributed to an attitude or behavioral pattern:

- ✓ **Taking Shortcuts** – Its human nature to look for ways or methods to shorten a job and improve its efficiency. The fallacy in this trait is possibly overlooking the safety aspects, which if not explored fully, can endanger you or a fellow employee. If that should happen, we haven’t shortened the job, but we have enhanced the potential for an injury.
- ✓ **Being Over Confident** – Confidence is a great trait to have in any line of work, but it can be more hazardous if the attitude reaches a point that the party develops the attitude of “It can’t happen to me.” This type of attitude can lead to losing sight of an improper use of procedures, tools or methods, potentially leaving the person open for an injury.
- ✓ **Failure to Pre-Plan the Work** – Job Hazard Analysis is a formal method for looking at all aspects of a job to be sure it is effective, cost-wise and safety-wise. We practice this, probably daily, in an informal way in all of our units but accomplish the same results. That is assuming that an in-depth analysis is made for a new or existing project.

- ✓ **Starting a Job with Incomplete Instructions** – The unpardonable sin in any business entity is to have a job for an employee and fail to give him all the necessary instructions, including safety precautions in order to successfully complete the job. It is a good idea to suggest to the employee or employees to ask any questions, should they be confused or feel uninformed about parts of the project.
- ✓ **Poor Housekeeping** – First impressions are sometimes lasting ones! When a manager, superintendent, university executive or a guest walks through a maintenance shop or other building facility, the image they see in those facilities is a good indication of the attitude regarding quality, safety and production. Good housekeeping involves safety and pride.
- ✓ **Ignoring Safety Procedures** – Purposely failing to follow safety procedures can endanger you or other employees. We are paid to follow the university safety rules, not our own. MAFES’ executive management has asked our Research stations to spend only a maximum of ten minutes in your weekly staff meeting to discuss points of our “**DAWG TRACKS**” weekly newsletter. Granted that every issue doesn’t necessarily cover specific points of every station every week. But the ten-minute time allotment with employees will aid in keeping them abreast of our dedication to maintaining a safe working environment.
- ✓ **Mental Distractions from Work** – We all experience some mental distractions domestically and in other ways. Mixing work with outside mental distractions or outside worries makes for a bad day at work which could cause us to lose focus on our job, possibly resulting in a careless injury. Along with outside interferences, we can lose focus when a friend or buddy comes by to talk, possibly causing us to lose concentration on the work at hand.

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**IGNORING A WARNING CAN CAUSE
MUCH MOURNING!!**

SAFE TODAY

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ALIVE TOMORROW