



Agricultural Engineering Update

AEU-50



Structures &
Environment



Soil & Water



Energy



Safety



Crop Processing



Power &
Machinery

FARM ACCIDENTS - HOW TO RESPOND

Human nature leads us to believe that accidents always happen to the "other guy". Yet farming along with mining are the two most hazardous occupations in the Nation. If an accident struck your farm, would all family members know how to respond?

THE PROBLEM

- Farm accidents strike 1 out of 8 Kentucky farm families each year.
- In rural areas emergency units must travel longer distances and the way you respond could be the difference between life and death.

FIRST - SIZE UP THE SITUATION

- Quickly review the situation and develop your plan of action.
- Each situation will be different.
- Plan ahead and rely upon your best judgement at the time.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

FIRST - SHUT-OFF THE EQUIPMENT

- Does everyone know how to shut-off tractors and machinery?
- Are electrical switches and controls clearly marked?

SECOND - IS IT NECESSARY TO MOVE THE VICTIM?

- Without proper first aid any movement may further aggravate injuries such as spinal injuries, fractures, etc.
- Only move the victim if his life is in danger.
- **CAUTION:** If a person collapsed in an enclosed or confined area suspect the presents of a toxic gas or a lack of oxygen. **DO NOT ENTER!!**

THIRD - IS LIFESAVING CARE NEEDED?

- Life threatening injuries require immediate first aid to save the life.

- * Is mouth to mouth breathing or CPR required? (Brain damage is likely to occur after 4-6 minutes without breathing and blood circulation.)
- * Is there uncontrolled bleeding? (External bleeding can almost always be stopped by maintaining direct pressure over the wound.)

FOURTH - CALL FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE!

- Call after providing lifesaving first aid or have a second person make the call.
- How to telephone:
 - * Know who to call (have emergency numbers listed)
 - * Give accurate directions to accident site.
 - . Know milage figures
 - . Avoid using landmarks not easily recognized.
 - . Describe the type of accident and what is involved.
 - . Give your telephone number.
 - . DO NOT HANG UP until directed to do so.

FIFTH - PROVIDE CARE AND REASSURANCE WHILE WAITING.

- Administer additional first aid as required for shock, fractures, etc.
- Giving comfort and reassurance to the victim is an important element of emergency assistance and first aid.

EXTRICATION FROM FARM MACHINES

- Best left to the emergency personnel who are trained.
- The steps for a typical extrication procedure:
 - * Evaluation and planning of rescue procedure
 - * Ambulance personnel:
 - . Stabilize the victim and his injuries
 - . Reassure victim and family throughout the extrication
 - . Locate and save amputated tissue
 - * Rescue Personnel:
 - . Stabilize the equipment
 - . Remove the machinery from around the victim - NOT THE VICTIM FROM THE MACHINERY.
- Machinery dealers or other farmers who are familiar with the equipment may be able to help disassemble the equipment.

SUMMARY - HOW TO RESPOND TO A FARM ACCIDENT

- Quickly size up the situation and respond in a calm rational manner.
- Be able to shut-off farm equipment in an emergency.
- Avoid moving the victim unless their life is endangered.
- Be able to administer life saving first aid if required.
- Be sure all family members can telephone for emergency assistance.
- Reassure the victim and family members.
- Allow emergency personnel to extricate the victim.