

**Mississippi State University
Mississippi Agricultural & Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES)
Forest & Wildlife Research Center (FWRC)
Children in the Workplace**

PURPOSE

MAFES & FWRC are committed to providing and maintaining a safe and secure environment for all individuals, including children. Maintaining the safety and health of all our employees and guests is contingent on our control of hazardous conditions and unsafe behaviors. Since the safety and security of children require additional measures because of unpredictable behaviors, MAFES & FWRC has adopted the following standard operating procedure.

This SOP applies to all MAFES and FWRC units on or off campus. This is in addition to the MSU Child Protection Policy 01.29 which addresses child abuse and security.

IMPLEMENTATION

Under no circumstances shall a child under the age of 16 be left unattended in any building occupied by MAFES or FWRC. Children under the age of 16 will not be allowed in any high risk areas. Examples of such areas include but are not limited to the following:

- High levels of radioactive materials
- Hazardous biological agents or vectors
- Hazardous chemicals, equipment or possible hazardous research activity
- Laboratories—especially BSL 2 level or higher.
- Animal care, confinement and research facilities
- Shops—mechanical, farm equipment maintenance, machine or woodworking
- Construction areas

An exception could be granted by the management of the area if there is a specific function authorized by MAFES/FWRC.

Children under the age of 16 will not be allowed to operate any MAFES/FWRC equipment, motorized or not.

RESPONSIBILITY

Children should not to be brought to the workplace on a regular basis in lieu of childcare. Employees who occasionally bring children to the workplace should not leave the child unsupervised. Supervisors have the authority to deny the presence of children in the workplace.

If the supervisor allows the occasional workplace visit of children, the employee must accept the responsibility of protecting the welfare of the child and the workplace environment. Any employee who violates the above Standard Operating Procedure is subject to disciplinary action.



Approved



Date

George M. Hopper
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