

MAFES Dawg Tracks



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Responding to Farm Accidents



In Mississippi from 1990 through the year 2000, there were 135 tractor related deaths. This statistic is deaths only and relates only to tractor involvement. The statistics for other agriculture related injuries and accidents weren't readily available. Of this 135 deaths, 48% were from rollovers, 22% from miscellaneous types of accidents, 17% were runovers, 15% were from Power Takeoff accidents and 12% were from highway accident involvement.

In most all of these cases, a farm employee or family member was probably "first on the scene." In our situation on all the research farm units, you, the employee would be the "first on the scene" or in technical reference the "first responder."

As the "first responder," you might possibly be faced with the situation of making a life-saving decision. You want this decision to be one that won't put you or the victim in further danger.

The first response in agricultural related incidents, like in any other environment is critical. These accidents most often occur in isolated areas, could involve implement entrapment and structures that are hard to enter. You may not have the convenience of a telephone and also could be alone. The stress of being alone, no phone can cause indecision, delays or maybe an incorrect decision about what action to take.

FIRST RESPONDERS

- The first and foremost rule is to keep calm. Fear and anxieties are normal when you have a severely injured person in your midst. Mental preparation and training can help the first responder overcome these emotions and act rational.
- Get professional help for the victim by activating Emergency Medical Services (EMS).
- Make sure you and the victim aren't in any further danger.
- Provide the best care that you can until the EMS arrives.

We should also keep in mind that the rules of the first responder may not apply because of location and circumstances. We may be faced with looking at alternatives to the basic rules and making other choices, if a phone isn't handy or the possibility of another person isn't in the area to help.

**~SAFETY'S INTENTION IS
ACCIDENT PREVENTION~**

**SAFE TODAY
ALIVE TOMORROW !**

ACTIVATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

Should you help the victim or contact EMS?

It depends upon several factors. Is the victim breathing? If breathing stops, irreversible brain damage can occur in 4 to 6 minutes. You may have to apply cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) before leaving the scene.

Obviously, if you can, activate the EMS as soon as possible. The general rule is the faster the individual receives medical care, the greater is his or her chance of survival. You may be in a position to flag a passing motorist or sending someone else, if they happen to be in the area.

If you call emergency personnel, never hang up the phone until the dispatcher or operator tells you to do so. The dispatcher might possibly start the emergency response procedure and come back for more information.

INFORMATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES' PERSONNEL

- Provide the location of the accident with approx. miles, distances and landmarks that can be identified in daylight or darkness.
- State your name and telephone number and where it is you are calling from.
- Give a quick and brief description of the accident.
- Give the conditions and number of persons involved in the accident.
- If aid has been given to the victim, relay this to the dispatcher and ask if there might be other aid you can give until their arrival.
- Provide a "spotter" to guide the ambulance into the location of the victim and who is with the victim.
- Provide information to the dispatcher if there are special conditions that they need to be aware of or that might impair their entrance and warrants special attention. (Ex. broken gas lines, downed electric lines, etc.).

Once you have contacted EMS, provided the treatment that you can do, continue first aid until the EMS arrives.

Remember with spinal injuries, don't move the victim unless the circumstances are more dangerous than the gamble of moving may create.

As a "first responder," in an emergency, the very best you can do is to remain calm, and if the victim is conscious, give him assurance that you are getting help. From that point, remain rational and make reasonable choices to enhance and improve the victim's chances of survival.