

MAFES Dawg Tracks

September 22, 2014



Safety Tips: Farm Shop Safety



Farm shops can and are the scene of many accidents. Most of these accidents involve hand and eye injuries.

The National Safety Council in a recent survey revealed that there are 15,000 eye injuries each year on American farms. These injuries are painful and expensive and can result in partial or total blindness. There are other types of shop injuries which can be abrasions, burns, cuts and sprains to various parts of the body.

General Farm Safety Awareness-

Like all facets of any type of work, educating the employees on the elements, technical and safety issues, are important in maintaining a profitable and safe environment for our employees.

It is important to follow safe work practices in our agriculture shops. This training should involve:

- ✓ The proper use of tools and equipment in the shop and maintenance programs to keep them in sound condition so that they are safe and available for use as needed.
- ✓ Safe methods for lifting all objects, especially heavy ones.
- ✓ Practicing proper conduct in the shop areas to avoid accidents and injuries. These discussions should include horseplay and inappropriate practical jokes.
- ✓ Proper interpretation of safety and warning signs, material safety data sheets (MSDS) and the familiarization of the "Workers Protection" Code.
- ✓ The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) through follow-up by the supervisory leadership.

Shop Safety Rules-

Agriculture shops that have good and efficient work and safety records have rules laid down by the management. These rules are generally followed by the employees resulting in efficient work and safe practices.

Following are some rules for good safety and work habits that could be reprinted and posted in the shop areas to serve as a "heads up" or reminder. This would be an added benefit for both the senior employees and newer, less experienced ones as well:

- **Work areas should be kept clean and clear of clutter.**
- **Machinery and equipment should be kept clean, with guards and shields in place.**
- **Conventional and special waste containers should be clearly marked according to their purpose. (Ex. Scrap metal, scrap wood, used oil, etc.) A sufficient number of regular waste containers should be located conveniently around the shop for easy access for disposal.**
- **Protective equipment and special emergency equipment, such as emergency eyewash stations, should be maintained and in good working order.**
- **Fire extinguishers should be in plain view with unhindered access. Periodic checks should be made to be sure that they are charged and ready, in case of an emergency.**

- **Avoid overloading electric outlets.**
- **Cords, wires, lines, etc. should be kept away from walkways and traffic areas.**
- **Keep paper and other flammable materials away from heat sources.**
- **Aisles, doorways and exits should be kept clear.**
- **Make sure that stationary power tools are properly grounded.**
- **Portable power tools should be double insulated or be the three-grounded wire type.**
- **Ensure that the electrical power is sufficient to carry the load of power tools so that they can be operated without blowing fuses or tripping breakers.**
- **Keep shields and guards in place on grinders and saws at all times.**
- **When welding, keep the area well ventilated and make sure that flammable and combustible materials are kept away at a safe distance.**
- **Adequate lighting is always an advantage in shops. They make projects go faster with better quality and less fatigue for the technicians in the shop area. "The better the lighting; The better the quality of work."**
- **Be sure that you have adequate "jacks" for projects that require "in the air" work.**

During the height of planting and harvest seasons, it is easy to turn a "blind eye" to the shops' condition. However, if all employees are operating on the same page, it becomes easy to maintain a clean and orderly shop because all parties will want to maintain a positive attitude toward keeping the area clean and orderly.

Maintaining a clean and orderly shop will carry over to keeping the equipment clean and in good maintenance condition. When all employees get involved in the program and expect the shop and equipment to be clean and in acceptable working order, it will carry over to awareness for everyone.

A clean and orderly shop and equipment shows visitors, guests or other university employees that the unit cares about the appearance and professional ability of their shop. Also, it portrays a sense of pride for all employees.

**WHEN YOU'RE DONE MESSING UP
IT'S TIME TO
CLEAN UP YOUR MESS!**

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**WIPE IT UP-
AVOID A SLIP UP!!**