AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Agricultural work is one of the most hazardous occupations in the United States. In work-related fatality rates among U.S. industries, agriculture ranks first. Agriculture has approximately 140,000 disabling injuries annually. A majority of agricultural accidents involve some type of machinery or equipment. The safety tips below can help reduce injuries and accidents.

General Tips for a Safe Working Environment

- An effective site safety program requires ISEM’s “Follow the Five” steps
  1. Define scope of activity
  2. Identify and analyze hazards
  3. Develop and implement controls
  4. Perform activity within the controls
  5. Provide feedback and make improvements
- Safety First – All researchers, visiting researchers, agricultural employees and contractors must follow safe procedures in the conduct of their work.
- Equipment must be operated only by trained and authorized individuals
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) should be appropriate for the identified hazards(s)

Preventing Accidents When Working with Farm Equipment

- Knowledge of hazards is essential
- Keep all guards and shields in place and well maintained
- Pay attention to the warnings in equipment manuals and decals affixed to equipment
- Lockout/ Blockout equipment prior to repairing, adjusting, or cleaning:
  1. Always disengage the power
  2. Shut off the engine or motor
  3. Pocket the key
  4. Wait for all parts to start moving
  5. Lockout power and if appropriate, block moving parts
  6. Test to make sure power is disconnected, return switch to off position
  7. Check that equipment is clear of personnel before turning on the power

Planning for Agricultural Emergencies

- Planning can help reduce the impact of accidents or injuries resulting from tractor overturns, power take off/ machinery entanglements, grain Bin/ Silo/ Manure storage, chemicals, electricity, tree/ vegetation cutting, and tools, or livestock

Visit www.ehs.ucr.edu for additional information or call EH&S at 827-5528 if you have any questions.