

FARM SAFETY ASSESSMENT

 **Rural Mutual**
Insurance Company



To learn more about farm safety visit us at www.ruralins.com/farmsafety.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Are emergency numbers, including the name of the nearest emergency medical facility, posted in accessible areas?
- Are directions to the farm/shop posted next to the phone or in an accessible area?
- Is there at least one person trained in First Aid/CPR on-site at all times?
- Are there designated places to go during a tornado, lightening storm, or emergency situation?
- Are fire extinguishers kept in each building near the exits, near flammable material storage, and hazardous operations (i.e., welding)?
- Are fire extinguishers kept on tractors and harvesting equipment?
- Are all fire extinguishers inspected annually?
- Are extinguishers visually inspected monthly and serviced annually to ensure proper charge?
- Have employees received hands-on training on how to use a fire extinguisher to extinguish incipient stage (i.e., beginning, initial) fires?
- Are exit doors and exit pathways maintained and clear?
- Are exit doors labeled as exits and equipped with illuminated exit signs?
- Are manure pits fenced and/or posted with signs stating "Warning, Manure Pit, Do Not Enter" or similar language?

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT/HAZARD ASSESSMENT

- Has a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) assessment form been completed and requirements established for the use of PPE?
- Are safety glasses with sideshields, at a minimum, required in the shop and during other activities where there is the hazard of eye injuries due to flying particles, dirt, etc?
- Is there an emergency eyewash station provided in the shop and emergency eyewash bottles provided in vehicles where there is the potential for eye contact with injurious or corrosive materials (i.e., cleaners, dirt, solvents, pesticides and herbicides)?
- Is hearing protection required during all operations/tasks where noise levels are at or above 85 dBA (i.e., generally at point where it is hard to hear conversations)?
- Are steel-toed shoes/boots required in the shop and during other activities where there are potential foot injuries due to crushing or puncture (i.e., heavy equipment, vehicles, material handling)?

BACK INJURY PREVENTION/SAFE LIFTING

- Have employees been trained in safe lifting/back injury prevention techniques (i.e., posture, help with lifts, use carts and tools, minimize twisting, etc.)

HOUSEKEEPING/WALKING-WORKING SURFACES

- Is adequate lighting/emergency lighting provided in the shop?
- Are floors free of debris, clutter, and slip/trip hazards?
- Are storage shelves/racking rated for the weight of the load and anchored to the wall and floor?
- Are stacked materials stable, aligned, and stacked to a safe height?

LADDERS

- Are damaged ladders repaired or replaced (i.e., bent rungs, broken welds, missing feet)?
- Are fiberglass ladders available when working around electrical wiring?
- Are ladders firmly secured to roof, platform, object when climbing (i.e., prevent sliding/slipping)?

ELECTRICAL

- Are electrical outlets near/in wet areas provided with GFCI protection?
- Do extension cords have ground plugs and are they NOT damaged, cut, frayed, taped?
- Are electrical cords not used in place of permanent wiring and NOT run across aisles, through walls or attached to building support structure?
- Are electrical panel doors closed and a clear distance of at least 36" maintained in front of them?
- Is mechanical equipment that is being serviced or maintained locked-out (lock and lock-out devices used to isolate equipment from energy sources preventing the accidental start-up or release of energy) and have employees that perform lock out activities been trained with this training documented?



FLAMMABLE LIQUID STORAGE

- Are flammables stored in approved containers and cabinets away from sources of ignition?
- Are fuel tanks (i.e., gas, diesel, propane) double walled construction with spill containment (if over 1100 gallons) or otherwise protected from vehicle damage by barriers?
- Are “No Smoking Signs” posted on/near fuel tanks and is this policy obeyed?
- Are flammable liquid containers bonded and grounded during dispensing?
- Is Waste Oil recycled or disposed of on a regular basis to prevent abundant accumulations?

MACHINE GUARDING

- Are guards installed on grinding wheels, drill presses, and other shop equipment (Note: grinder work rests a maximum of 1/8 inch to wheel, tongue guard maximum of ¼ inch to wheel)? Look at pulleys, fans, gears, conveyors, power tools, nip points, chains, etc.
- Equipment and power tool cords in good repair?

VEHICLE USE POLICY

- Is there a written vehicle policy that requires drivers to wear seat belts and prohibits the use of cell phones while driving?
- Are employee motor vehicle records (MVRs) reviewed at time of hire and on an annual basis?
- Are employees that operate powered vehicles (i.e., forklifts, scissors-lifts, bobcats) properly trained and has this training been documented?
- Are tractors equipped with roll over protection (ROPs) and are seat belts available and required?
- Is the PTO master shield in place and in good condition?
- Are the operator’s platforms free of grease, mud and tools?
- Do all lights and flashers work?
- Are cab windows and mirrors clean to maintain clear visibility?
- Are tires in good condition and inflated to the recommended pressure?
- Can brakes be locked together for road travel?
- Are controls clearly marked and gauges working properly?
- Are safety hitch pins available and used?
- Are vehicles/equipment equipped with fire extinguishers and first-aid kits?
- Are vehicles/equipment provided with slow moving vehicle (SMV) signs in good condition?
- Are PTOs, belts, chains, pulleys, and sprockets guarded on all equipment?

WELDING SAFETY/COMPRESSED GAS STORAGE

- Are oxygen and acetylene tanks in storage (or other incompatible compressed gases) separated by a distance of at least 20 feet?
- Are compressed gas cylinders chained (i.e., wall, cart, rack) and maintained upright, with regulator cap in place?
- Are compressed gas cylinders stored away from emergency exits?
- Is welding performed in a well ventilated area, away from combustible materials, and with a fire watch following welding activities?

CONFINED SPACE ENTRY

- Are there silos, grain bins, and/or manure pits present? If so, are they entered?
- Is there a written procedure for confined space entry?
- Have employees been trained on confined space entry procedures?
- Is the air in these confined spaces monitored for hazardous atmospheres (oxygen, flammable gases, carbon monoxide, etc)?
- Are these spaces ventilated at least 30 minutes before entry and continually ventilated during entry?
- Are warnings posted in locations where automatic starting equipment is located?
- Can power be locked out to prevent unloading mechanisms and automatic equipment from starting?
- Is there at least one other employee as an “Attendant” while these spaces are entered?
- Is there a plan in place to rescue an employee if they become incapacitated?
- Are there procedures in place for having safety harnesses/equipment and an employee outside monitoring when someone is in a confined space?



Farm Safety Close Call - Share Your Story:

Farm Safety Self Assessment - Top 3 Improvement Areas:

1.

2.

3.



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