

Farm Safety Assessment

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Pass on a legacy of safety.

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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, lightning 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 serviced annually?
- Are fire extinguishers visually inspected monthly to ensure proper charge?
- Have employees received hands-on training on how to use a fire extinguisher to put out beginning or 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 Protect Equipment (PPE) assessment form been completed and requirements established for the use of PPE?
- Are safety glasses with side shields required in the shop and during other activities where there is the hazard of eye injuries due to flying debris, 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 or herbicides)?
- Is hearing protection required during all operations/tasks where noise levels are at or above 85 dB (i.e. generally at the point where it is hare 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 and racks 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, etc.)?
- Are fiberglass ladders available when working around electrical wiring?
- Are ladders firmly secured to a roof, platform or other 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 or 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 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 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 1,100 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 accumulation?

Machine Guarding

- Are guards installed on grinding wheels, drill presses and other shop equipment? Look at pulleys, fans gears, conveyors, power tools, nip tools, chains, etc.
- Are 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 who operate powered vehicles (i.e. forklifts, scissor-lifts, bobcats, etc.) properly trained and has this training been documented?
- Are tractors equipped with rollover protection (ROPs) and are seat belts available and required?
- Is the PTO master shield in place and in good condition?
- Are the operators' 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 provided with slow moving vehicle (SMV) signs are the signs and 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 separated by a distance of at least 20 feet?
- Are compressed gas cylinders chained (i.e. wall, cart, rack, etc.) and maintained upright, with regular 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 atmosphere (oxygen, flammable gases, carbon monoxide, etc.)?
- Are these spaces ventilated at least 30 minutes before entry and continually ventilated during occupancy?
- Are warnings posted 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 present 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 Calls

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Self Assessment - Top Three Improvements

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Pass On A Legacy Of Safety

Farming traditions run deep in Alabama. Passing that legacy on to future generations ensures that the world's demand for locally grown food and fiber will continue. Farm safety should be a part of that legacy.

When safety is as much a part of farming as using the right tool for the right job, the future will be sustainable for your children — and theirs.

For more farm safety information, visit www.alfafarmers.org/farmsafety and discover:

- Farm Safety Assessment
- Skin Cancer Prevention
- Distracted Driving Information



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