PREVENT INJURY FROM FARM HAZARDS

Farm Safety should never be taken lightly. Each year, 2,600 farm residents are killed and 230,000 disabled in farm-related injuries. It is important to take the necessary precautions to protect yourself and your employees at all times. Review the following guidelines to help keep your farm and employees as safe as possible.

Spring Planting Season
» Wear eye protection.
» Use air-purifying respirators to filter molds and dust.
» Use chemical cartridge respirators to filter toxic gas and vapor.
» Use gloves with the correct protective liners for the chemicals being handled.

Fall Harvesting
» Ventilate silo headspace 30 minutes before entering.
» Always disengage the power take-off before getting off a tractor.
» Never step across a rotating power shaft.
» Avoid wearing loose-fitting clothing near moving parts.
» When grain carts or wagons are to be unhitched from tractors, make sure wheel chocks are available to prevent rollaway accidents.
» Keep the ground around loading or unloading areas free of debris and grain.
» Bystanders should stay clear of operating equipment.
» Be aware of pinch points on machinery and avoid getting too close.

Protect Your Land and Animals
» A good fence can protect your land and animals against vehicles, crime and injuries.
» One of the best fences to protect your farm or ranch is a legal barbed wire cattle fence that contains no less than three wires.
» The top wire of your fence should be no less than four feet from the ground, but five feet is recommended.
» The bottom wire of your fence should be no less than one-and-a-half feet or more than two feet from the ground.
» All wires should be stretched and securely fastened to posts.
» Posts should be no more than one rod apart.
» Posts should be set to a minimum depth of two-and-a-half feet in the ground and four feet above ground.
» Your local agriculture extension can help you obtain a copy of the fence laws that apply in your area.
Keeping Kids Protected

» Make sure kids are given age-appropriate tasks and are properly supervised.

» Children ages three to nine should be closely monitored. They are not at an age where it is safe to give farming tasks as they are more likely to fall from farm equipment, drink or eat dangerous substances or wander away without an adult.

» School-aged and adolescent children may show interest in helping out around the farm or ranch and can be given chores with strict guidelines and rules. They should be educated on proper use of equipment and understand the dangers of working on a farm or ranch.

» Once a child approaches adulthood they are able to handle many more tasks and chores. With involvement in agriculture-related activities, such as 4-H, they can better understand the functionality and operations of a farm and can be given more chores, tasks and responsibilities.

Farm Vehicle Safety

» Make sure to use a Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblem on all vehicles that are travelling at less than 25 miles per hour on public roadways; including farm tractors, self-propelled machinery, ATVs and horse-drawn buggies.

» Mount SMV emblems point up, at the rear of the vehicle near its centerline.

» Position the emblem between two and six feet above the ground.

» You can buy a SMV mounting bracket for all vehicles and transfer the emblem from each vehicle as needed.

For more information about American Family’s Safety Consulting Services, visit www.amfam.com

DISCLAIMER

The recommendations printed here follow generally accepted safety standards. Compliance with these recommendations does not guarantee that you will be in conformance with any building code, or federal, state or local regulations regarding safety or fire. Compliance does not ensure the absolute safety of you, your operations or place of business.