

Shop Safety

Farm shops are the scene of many accidents. Most of these incidents involve hand and eye injuries. These injuries include lacerations, contusions and can be as serious as an amputation. Other injuries involve burns, cuts, abrasions, and sprains to various parts of the body.

KEY POINTS

- Ensure the proper use of tools and equipment in the shop and procedures to keep them in good repair.
- Follow safe methods of lifting heavy objects.
- Emphasize proper conduct in the work area to avoid incidents and injuries. This should include a discussion of horseplay and practical jokes.
- Be familiar with chemicals and materials used and know where the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are located.
- Personal protective equipment should be available for use and in good condition.
- No one should attempt to adjust, service, or repair any equipment or machine unless they have trained and are authorized to do so.

SHOP SAFETY RULES

Education of the worker is an important element in incident prevention. It is important that safe work practices are followed in the shop and that safety rules are established. Some of the most common rules include:

- Work areas should be kept clean and clear from clutter.

- Machinery and equipment should be kept clean, with guards in place.
- Special waste containers, if any, should be appropriately marked.
- Protective equipment and special emergency equipment, such as an emergency eyewash station, should be properly maintained and in good working order.
- Fire extinguishers should be in plain view and mounted on a wall with easy access.
- Do not overload electrical outlets.
- Cords, wires, air hoses, etc. should be kept away from aisles and traffic areas.
- Keep paper and other materials away from heat sources.
- Aisles, doorways and exits should be kept clear.
- Make sure shop machinery, like drill presses and other machines, are properly grounded and anchored to the floor.
- Keep tool rests and guards in place on grinders and saws at all times.
- Portable power tools should be double insulated or of the three-wire grounded type.
- Ensure ample electrical supply so power tools can be operated without blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers.
- Jack stands and blocks should be available and used to prevent equipment from collapsing or falling.

- When welding, keep the area well ventilated and make sure flammable and combustible materials are kept safely away.
- Cutting torches should be equipped with blowback preventers.
- Compressed gas cylinders should be properly stored and secured to prevent them from falling.
- Air compressors should be well maintained and drained daily. There should be a working gauge and a sign posted indicating "This Machine Starts Automatically".

MACHINE SAFETY

Machines are the cause of many incidents. Make sure farm workers are trained in the following areas:

- Safe methods of machine operations. Employees should be supervised to ensure that safe operating procedures are being followed.
- Location of power shut-off switches and when possible in reach of the operator's position at each machine.
- Lock-out each machine during maintenance, service, adjustment, and repair.
- Grinding wheel guards should enclosed approximately three-quarters of the wheel.
- Work rests on grinders should be adjusted so they are not more than one-eighth inch from the wheel.

For more information, contact your Zenith Safety & Health Consultant.