

## Maintenance Safety

About 15,000 eye injuries occur on American farms every year, along with burns, cuts, abrasions and sprains to body parts. Many of these injuries happen in farm shops, especially hand and eye injuries. Most farmers and their employees perform their own maintenance on equipment, and operate potentially dangerous farm shop tools.

### TRUE STORY

A farm shop employee was sharpening drill bits with a shop bench grinder. While he was using the grinder stone, it shattered and pieces of stone flew into his face and eyes. He sustained cuts to the face and hands, and received eye abrasion injuries. He was not wearing a face shield or leather gloves.

### What could have prevented this accident?

- Wear safety glasses, a face shield, and leather gloves when operating a bench grinder.
- Inspect shop tools periodically. Check grinding wheels for cracks and flaws.
- Adjust the tool rest to 1/8 of an inch from the grinding wheel and ensure it's firmly in place.

### Choose the Right Fire Extinguisher

Every fire extinguisher is rated for the type of fire it can put out. Before you use an extinguisher, check its rating to see if it can extinguish the fire. This information should be clearly listed on the fire extinguisher.

### Tips for Farm Shop Safety

- Demonstrate and follow safe work practices at all times in the farm shop. Education promotes injury prevention.
- Use shop tools and equipment properly; follow all safety and repair procedures.
- Avoid horseplay and inappropriate practical jokes in the farm shop.
- Review all hazard communication relating to farm maintenance, including safety warning signs and Material Safety Data Sheets.
- Wear personal protective equipment such as safety glasses, gloves, and face shields.

## EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

### Employer:

- Establish and enforce specific shop safety rules.
- Train workers to use all tools and equipment properly and instruct them to keep manufacturer's guards in place at all times.
- Insist that workers wear personal protective equipment at all times when operating equipment and using tools.
- Establish a system to inspect all shop tools periodically.

### Employee:

- Follow all safety rules when operating tools and equipment.
- Never remove guards and other protective devices from equipment.
- Use equipment for intended design purposes only.
- Tag any defective or damaged equipment "Out of Service" and immediately report the problem to your supervisor.
- Ask your supervisor immediately if you have a safety question.

Zenith provides workplace safety resources at: **TheZenith.com**<sup>®</sup>