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## AGRICULTURAL SAFETY TOPICS

### FIRST ON THE SCENE

#### Objective:

To know how to handle injuries and first aid requirements.

#### Background:

Unlike automobile accidents farm rescues are more difficult due to the ruggedness of the farm equipment and poor accessibility to the scene. Standard rescue equipment, such as hydraulic rescue tools and metal-cutting saws, easily removes automobile pieces but may not work on more solidly built agricultural machinery.

When first on the scene:

- **Designate a leader** – A worker who has had first aid training or the senior worker should assume leadership. This person directs the rescue until emergency services arrive and should update them on treatment administered.
- **Assign a specific person to call for help** – The ambulance dispatcher will need to know location and condition of field (muddy, steep, rough), type of equipment involved in the accident, number of victims and the extent of their injuries.
- **Assess the rescue situation** – Evaluate the situation and ensure it is safe. Develop an escape plan. Stabilize equipment to minimize the chance of collapse or further injury.
- **Establish a hazard zone** – This allows the rescuers room to work at freeing the victim. Only the rescuers should be in the area. This area may contain hazards such as fire, toxic or flammable gases and structural damage.
- **Provide emergency first aid** – Restore breathing and circulation if necessary. If bleeding, apply pressure to related pressure points. Administer any additional first aid treatment.
- **Stay calm** – Calm the victim by keeping one rescuer near the victim at all times.
- **If amputation occurs** – Locate the appendage and wrap it in a moist towel. Keep it on ice, but do not let it freeze. If the appendage is in pieces, send each piece to the hospital as it is found.

## AGRICULTURAL SAFETY TOPICS – FIRST ON THE SCENE

### First Aid

First aid is the immediate care given to a person who is injured or who suddenly becomes ill. Prompt delivery of first aid can save lives, reduce the chance of permanent damage and minimize the time off work.

In Ontario, the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act*, Regulation 1101/90 First Aid Requirements, require trained first aiders and first aid kits. The specific requirements depend on the number of workers employed in any one shift and the type of work being done. Consult the regulations for minimum requirements that apply to your workplace. As a best practice it is recommended that first aid kits (if it can be protected from the weather) are available on tractors so that it is easily accessible in case of emergency.

### Review The Following Points:

- Have trained first aiders and first aid kits available.
- Appoint a worker to lead until emergency services arrive.
- Call for emergency help (911) as quickly as possible.
- Assess the situation and start first aid. Establish a hazard zone.
- Locate any appendage and transfer to the care unit.

Based upon: Ohio State University Extension. *First on the Scene*. Retrieved from website <http://ohioline.osu.edu/atts/modules.html>

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Revised: November 2014