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Southwest Center

FOR AGRICULTURAL HEALTH, INJURY PREVENTION, AND EDUCATION

Monthly Safety Blast

Produced by the Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education

June 2018

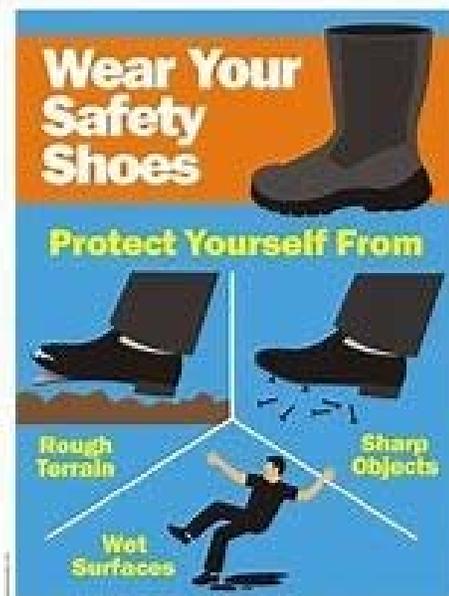
Footwear Protection

Working in the agricultural field presents many occupational hazards. Many injuries can be prevented by wearing appropriate personal protective equipment. For example, foot injuries can be prevented by exercising caution and wearing the right footwear. Injuries are quite common while working on the farm. Be aware of your environment, a cow could step on your foot or possibly be ran over by a piece of machinery.

Shoelaces can be particularly dangerous. People have been seriously injured when they were pulled into power take off shafts by dangling shoelaces. If you are on a tractor and you notice your shoelaces are untied, you need to stop immediately, make sure everything is turned off and then tie your shoes. Some industries require workers to wear steel toe boots while others simply recommend closed toe shoes. The recommended foot protection varies depending on the occupational hazards. The American National Standard Institute (ANSI) recommends wearing steel toe boots while performing job duties. For agricultural work, proper footwear should be a priority to reduce any injuries. Roger Huard, Vice President of Product Development for Wolverine, recommends that a good pair of work boots should be as important as the tools in your shop.

Footwear Standards

The American National Standard Institute (ANSI) Standard Z41-1999 "Personal Protection- Footwear Protection" should be consulted in any work environment susceptible to foot injuries. Refer to The American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) who establishes performance requirements for protective footwear such as impact resistance, compression resistance, electric shock protection, and cut and puncture resistance.



Recommendations

- Apply a protective coating to make footwear water-resistant.
- Inspect footwear daily for damage.
- Repair or replace worn or defective footwear.
- Lace up shoes/boots fully to ensure comfort.



Take the [Footwear Protection](#) quiz to test your knowledge!

Resources:

- <https://extension.psu.edu/head-eye-and-foot-protection-for-farm-workers>
- https://www.agriculture.com/machinery/tools/footwear-f-farmers_244-ar28046
- <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/pubs/videoresource/fsfootwear.pdf>

Disclaimer: The facts and information listed above are merely suggestions for your safety, but are in no way a comprehensive and exhaustive list of all actions needed to insure your safety.

Monthly Blast written by our 2018 Intern, Tristan Johnson

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Produced by the Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education. For more information, contact us at 903-877-5998 or by email to aqcenter@uthct.edu.
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