



# AgSafety

Volume 2 Issue 1

## Agricultural Branch



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## Welcome New Members!

We want to thank everyone who has remained a loyal member of the Agricultural Branch and welcome the following members who recently joined. We have reached the 100-member mark, and the group continues to grow! If you have any colleagues who might be interested in joining the branch, please contact [Krista Sonneson](#) to request an information packet. If you know anyone who might be interested in joining ASSE, please contact [customer service](#).

- Mark Aaron
- Karen Adams
- Damon Andrew, Monsanto
- David Anglen, David Anglen Safety & Health
- Richard Baer
- Kyle Barnhart
- Roger Blank, Pacificorp
- Patrick Chastain
- Vicki Christy, Tate & Lyle
- Leslie Dalton
- Herbert Everett
- Christopher Fanelli
- Carole Fried, Innovative Technical Solutions, Inc.
- James Gastineau, Aon Risk Services Inc.
- William Green, Safeco Insurance
- Brian Hammer, Nationwide Agribusiness
- Dee Jepsen
- Dakota Jones
- James Kane
- Jared Leute
- Karla Maier, Korman Marketing Group
- Brian Manges
- Trecia Mullings, Jamaica Broilers Group Limited
- Melvin Myers
- Caroline Peterson, USDA/ARS NLAE
- Dana Price
- Vincent Ricevuto
- Cole Satterlund
- Doris Smith
- David Taylor
- James Trusley, Jim Beam Brands Co.
- Susanne Vader, URS
- Gordon White, BP Pipelines NA
- Ryan Young, Delfin Group USA

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## Cold Stress



Industries, such as agriculture, that are largely based outdoors, encounter challenging elements, such as extreme and unpredictable weather. This time of the year, the main concern is cold stress, especially in northern climates. The following frequently asked questions help workers understand what cold stress is, how it may affect their health and safety and how it can be prevented.

### How Cold is Too Cold?

When the body is unable to warm itself, cold-related stress may result. This may include tissue damage and possibly death. Four factors contribute to cold stress: cold air temperatures, high-velocity air movement, dampness of the air and contact with cold water or surfaces.

A cold environment forces the body to work harder to maintain its temperature. Cold air, water and snow all draw heat from the body. Wind chill is the combination of air temperature and wind speed.

For example, when the air temperature is 40°F and the wind speed is 35 mph, exposed skin receives conditions equivalent to the air temperature being 11°F. While it is obvious that below-freezing conditions combined with inadequate clothing could bring about cold stress, it is also important to understand that it can also be brought about by temperatures in the 50s coupled with some rain and wind.

### How Does the Body React to Cold Conditions?

When in a cold environment, most of your body's energy is used to keep your internal temperature warm. Over time, your body will begin to shift blood flow from your extremities (hands, feet, arms and legs) and outer skin to the core (chest and abdomen). This allows exposed skin and the extremities to cool rapidly and increases the risk of frostbite and hypothermia. Combine this with cold water, and trench foot may also be a problem.

The most common cold-induced problems are hypothermia, frostbite and trench foot.

### What is Hypothermia?

Hypothermia, which means "low heat," is a potentially serious health condition. This occurs when body heat is lost faster than it can be replaced. When the core body temperature drops below the normal 98.6°F to around 95°F, the onset of symptoms normally begins. The person may begin to shiver and stomp their feet to generate heat. Workers may lose coordination, have slurred speech and fumble with items in the hand. The skin will likely be pale and cold. As the body temperature continues to fall, these symptoms will worsen and shivering will stop. Workers may be unable to walk or stand. Once the body temperature falls to around 85°F, severe hypothermia will develop, and the person may become unconscious. At 78°F, the person could die.

Anyone working in a cold environment may be at risk for cold stress. However, older people may be at more risk than younger adults since older people are not able to generate heat as quickly. Certain medications may prevent the body from generating heat normally. These include anti-depressants, sedatives, tranquilizers and others.

Treatment depends on the severity of the hypothermia. For cases of mild hypothermia, move to a warm area and stay active. Remove wet clothes, replace with dry clothes or blankets and cover the head. To promote metabolism and to assist in raising the internal core temperature, drink a warm (not hot) sugary drink. Avoid drinks with caffeine. For more severe cases, do all of the above, plus contact emergency medical personnel (call 911 for an ambulance), cover all extremities completely, place very warm objects, such as hot packs or water bottles on the victim's head, neck, chest and groin. Arms and legs should be warmed last. In cases of severe hypothermia, treat the worker very gently and do not apply external heat to rewarm. Hospital treatment is required.

If worker is in water and unable to exit, secure collars, belts, hoods, etc. in an attempt to maintain warmer water against the body. Move all extremities as close to the torso as possible to conserve body heat.

### What is Frostbite?

Frostbite occurs when the skin actually freezes and loses water. In severe cases, amputation of the frostbitten area may be required. While frostbite usually occurs when the temperatures are 30°F or lower, wind chill factors can allow frostbite to occur in above-freezing temperatures. Frostbite typically affects the extremities, particularly the feet and hands. The affected body part will be cold, tingling, stinging or aching followed by numbness. Skin color turns red, then purple, then white and is cold to the touch. There may be blisters in severe cases.

Do not rub the area to warm it. Wrap the area in a soft cloth, move the worker to a warm area, and contact medical personnel. Do not leave the worker alone. If help is delayed, immerse in warm (maximum 105°F), not hot, water. Do not pour water on affected part. If there is a chance that the affected part will get cold again, do not warm. Warming and recooling will cause severe tissue damage.

### What is Trench Foot?

Trench foot or immersion foot is caused by having feet immersed in cold water at temperatures above freezing for long periods of time. It is similar to frostbite but is considered less severe. Symptoms usually consist of tingling, itching or burning sensation. Blisters may be present.

Soak feet in warm water, then wrap with dry cloth bandages. Drink a warm, sugary drink.

### What Preventive Measures Should I Take?

Plan for work in cold weather. Wearing appropriate clothing and being aware of how your body is reacting to the cold are important to preventing cold stress. Avoiding alcohol, certain medications and smoking can also help to minimize the risk.

Protective clothing is the most important way to avoid cold stress. The type of fabric also makes a difference. Cotton loses its insulation value when it becomes wet. Wool, silk and most synthetics, on the other hand, retain their insulation even when wet.

When working in cold environments:

- Wear at least three layers of clothing: an inner layer of wool, silk or synthetic to wick moisture away from the body; a middle layer of wool or synthetic to provide insulation even when wet; and an outer wind and rain protection layer that allows some ventilation to prevent overheating.
- Wear a hat or hood. Up to 40% of body heat can be lost when the head is left exposed.
- Wear insulated boots or other footwear.
- Keep a change of dry clothing available in case work clothes become wet.
- With the exception of the wicking layer, do not wear tight clothing. Loose clothing allows better ventilation of heat away from the body.
- Do not underestimate the wetting effects of perspiration. Often, wicking and venting of the body's sweat and heat are more important than protecting from rain or snow.
- Work practices and planning are important preventative measures. Drink plenty of liquids and avoid caffeine and alcohol. It is easy to become dehydrated in cold weather. If possible, heavy work should be scheduled during the warmer parts of the day. Take breaks out of the cold. Try to work in pairs to keep an eye on each other and watch for signs of cold stress. Avoid fatigue since energy is needed to keep muscles warm. Take frequent breaks and consume warm, high-calorie food, such as pasta to maintain energy reserves.
- Engineering controls can be effective in reducing the risk of cold stress. Radiant heaters may be used to warm workers. Shielding work areas from drafts or wind will reduce wind chill. Use insulating material on equipment handles, especially metal handles, when temperatures drop below 30°F.
- Training in recognition and treatment is important. Supervisors, workers and coworkers should watch for signs of cold stress and should allow workers to interrupt their work if they are extremely uncomfortable. Supervisors should also ensure that work schedules allow



appropriate rest periods and should ensure that liquids are available. They should use appropriate engineering controls, PPE and work practices to reduce the risk of cold stress. All of these measures should be incorporated into the relevant health and safety plans.

## Worker Entry into Grain Storage Bins

### Engulfment & Suffocation Hazards

Grain storage bin entry is dangerous and exposes workers to serious suffocation hazards—a leading cause of fatalities in the agricultural industry. Suffocation can occur when workers are engulfed (buried or covered) by grain or when bins develop hazardous atmospheres or a lack of oxygen.

Engulfment can occur when a worker does the following:

- Stands on moving/flowing grain (Figure 1): The moving grain acts like quicksand and buries the worker in seconds.
- Stands on or below a bridging condition (Figure 2): Bridging occurs when grain clumps together because of moisture or mold, creating an empty space beneath the grain as it is unloaded. If a worker stands on or below the bridged grain, it can collapse, either under the worker's weight or unexpectedly, thus burying the worker.
- Stands next to an accumulated pile of grain on the side of the bin (Figure 3): The grain pile can collapse onto the worker unexpectedly or when the worker attempts to dislodge it.

The grain's behavior and weight make it extremely difficult for a worker to get out of the grain without assistance. Incidents in grain bins often result in multiple fatalities because coworkers attempt rescue and fall victim as well. These fatalities are preventable if employers follow work practices and provide training and equipment as required by OSHA's Inspection of Grain Handling Facilities standard, 29 CFR 1910.272.

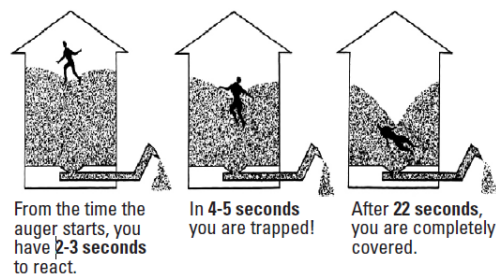


Figure 1. Flowing grain can bury a worker in seconds.

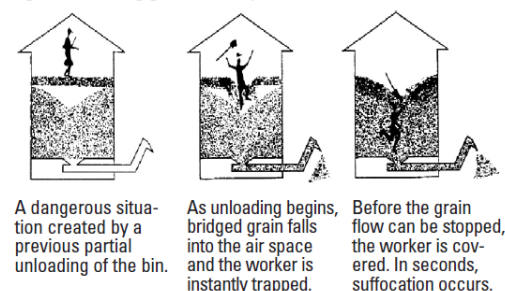


Figure 2. "Bridging" condition that results in engulfment.

Where workers enter storage bins, employers must:

- De-energize (turn off) and disconnect, lockout/tagout or block off all mechanical, electrical, hydraulic and pneumatic equipment that presents a danger, particularly grain-moving equipment. Grain must not be emptied or moved into or out of the bin while workers are inside because it creates a suction that can pull the worker into the grain in seconds.
- Prohibit walking down grain and similar practices where a worker walks on grain to make it flow.
- Prohibit entry onto or below a bridging condition or where grain is built up on the side of the bin.
- Provide each worker entering a bin from a level at or above stored grain, or when a worker will walk or stand on stored grain with a body harness with a lifeline or a boatswain's chair. Ensure that the lifeline is positioned and of sufficient length to prevent a worker from sinking further than waist-deep in grain.
- Provide workers with rescue equipment, such as winch systems, that are specifically suited for rescue from the bin (Figure 4).



Beware of a steep pile of grain... because it may tumble down... and result in suffocation.

Figure 3. Accumulation on bin side that results in engulfment.



The person on the inside of the bin is secured to the outside of the bin. The person on the roof can pass instructions and assist in lifting. The person on the ground can go for help or assist in pulling.

Figure 4. Illustration of successful rescue of worker during "bridging" condition.

## Federal Safety Regulations Not Applicable to Farm Vehicles

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) sought public comment on three issues related to the applicability of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) to operators of farm vehicles, including the interpretation of interstate commerce as it applies to movement of farm products; whether farmers operating under share-cropping agreements are common or contract carriers; and whether FMCSA should issue new guidance on implements of husbandry. After considering comments from the public, FMCSA has determined that no further guidance is needed on interpreting interstate commerce and implements of husbandry. FMCSA is issuing guidance that farmers operating under share-cropping or similar arrangements are not common or contract carriers and, therefore, are eligible for the CDL exemption if a State elects to adopt the exemption.

For more information, click [here](#).

## Saddle-Mount Braking Requirements

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration amends the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations to eliminate the requirement for operational brakes on the last saddle-mounted truck or tractor in a triple saddle-mount combination, except when a full mount is present.

This is in response to a petition for rulemaking from the Automobile Carriers Conference of the American Trucking Associations, which stated that this requirement degrades the braking performance of these combinations because the lightly loaded axle of the last vehicle tends to lock up under heavy braking.

The final rule took effect on October 13, 2011. For more information, click [here](#).

- Station an observer who is equipped to provide assistance and to perform rescue operations outside the bin (Figure 4).
- Ensure that communications (visual, voice or signal line) are maintained between the observer and the workers who entered the bin.
- Test the air within a bin for oxygen content and the presence of hazardous gases before entry.
- Provide and continue ventilation until any unsafe atmospheric conditions are eliminated.
- If toxicity or oxygen deficiency cannot be eliminated, workers must wear appropriate respirators.
- Issue a permit each time a worker enters a bin, unless the employer is present during the entire entry operation. The permit must certify that these precautions have been implemented before workers enter the bin.

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## The National Occupational Research Agenda Partnering Award



The National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Partnering Award for Worker Health and Safety honors groups who have demonstrated exemplary teamwork, innovative thinking and strong science in their collaborative partnerships on occupational health and safety research.

The 2011 award recipient is the Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) Rebate Program. The ROPS Rebate Program Partnership was launched in November 2006 to address the NORA Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (AFF) program's single highest priority: "To reduce the number of fatalities due to overturns of tractors in agriculture by 50%, through the use of ROPS or similar technologies, by 2018." Tractor overturns are the most frequent cause of death in agriculture and estimates from Kentucky indicate that for every overturn fatality, there are approximately five non-fatal injuries, 13% of which lead to a permanent disability. Based on estimates from the National Safety Council and estimates on the number of annual tractor overturn deaths, tractor overturns cost society well over \$100 million annually.

Although tractor overturn fatalities have been virtually eliminated in other developed countries through a combination of legislation and financial assistance, these mandates do not exist in the US. Consequently, roughly half of U.S. tractors lack ROPS protection. Repeated education interventions and more recently proposed policy interventions have failed to successfully promote installation of ROPS.

In 2004, the Northeast Center for Agricultural Health (NEC) was awarded supplemental funding from NIOSH to undertake the formative research needed to develop a social marketing intervention aimed at increasing the installation of ROPS in New York State. Initial data from telephone surveys indicated that over 76,000 tractors in New York were unprotected. Survey data gathered on farmer's readiness to install ROPS indicated that while readily acknowledging the importance of

ROPS, three-quarters of NY farmers were not considering retrofitting unprotected tractors. These data also indicated that small crop and livestock (SCL) farms accounted for 86% of farms with none or only one ROPS-protected tractor. Due to the elevated risk of SCL farms, this group was selected as the intervention target.

Social marketing was the strategy selected to develop the ROPS intervention program. Social marketing is mostly commonly employed when the target audience is knowledgeable about an issue but is insufficiently motivated or capable of acting. To motivate individuals to make healthy choices, researchers seek to understand the issue from the community's perspective. With this understanding, researchers can then work to make the healthy behavior easier, more appealing and/or more cost-effective.

To prepare for the development of the ROPS intervention, considerable formative qualitative research was conducted with various members of the SCL community. This included extensive in-depth interviews, the results of which were then reviewed by regional SCL farmer advisory groups. These regional SCL farmer advisory groups were organized early in the formative research phase and met on a biannual basis to review research data, to direct different aspects of intervention development and to network with the agricultural community to raise funds and social, as well as political, support for the program.

The data gathered in interviews identified complex reasons why farmers were 1) not considering retrofitting and 2) perceived little personal risk from tractor overturn. The high price of ROPS, as well as, the logistical difficulty comparing, selecting, ordering and shipping ROPS were identified as the most significant logistical barriers. Concerns about injury to family members and employees and the desire to avoid permanent injury, emerged as potential motivators.

With considerable assistance from advertising consultants these findings were converted into marketing themes and potential advertising messages. These were tested with more than 20 small focus groups drawn from the SCL target audience and reviewed by the SCL farmer advisory



group. Based upon comments from the farmers, the three top-rated messages were extensively revised. The National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS) surveyed 1,500 SCL farmers regarding their preferred information sources, and a formal marketing plan was developed.

In addition to developing persuasive messages, a toll-free hotline was established to assist farmers with identifying the various ROPS options for their tractor. This hotline provided farmers with information on comparative prices, availability, shipping costs, issues to consider when self-installing and contact information for ordering ROPS. To address the considerable cost of purchasing and installing ROPS (\$700-\$1,000), a series of meetings with NY legislators culminated in a \$200,000 grant to provide farmers with partial rebates (70% of all costs up to a maximum of \$765) for the cost of retrofitting. These efforts were greatly enhanced by farm bureau partnerships. As well as providing political support, the NY Farm Bureau provided promotional opportunities through mailings to memberships, free advertising and articles about the ROPS program in their monthly publication. The Northeast Equipment Dealers Association and Farm Family Insurance also provided considerable promotional assistance, using networks and member mailings to develop interest in, as well as support for, the program.

The evaluation of the intervention program was extensive. The hotline provided a wealth of data on numbers of calls, numbers of retrofits, types of tractors retrofitted, manner of installation, problems encountered and farmer satisfaction with the program. A quasi-randomized, controlled trial was also designed to test the efficacy and impact of different incentive combinations (i.e., rebates-only region, rebates + promotion region or "the social marketing region," promotion-only region and a control region). Promotional activities included newspaper interviews, radio talk shows and TV news briefs, which were targeted by zip code to prevent media coverage from traveling into study regions not targeted for promotion.

Telephone interviews by NASS gathered pre- and post-intervention data on stage of change regarding ROPS retrofitting and determinants of

planned behavior from representative samples of SCL farmers in each of the test regions. Program partners from John Deere also worked to provide data on pre- and post-intervention ROPS sales in the different study regions.

Results from the pilot study were encouraging. John Deere data indicated a ten-fold increase in ROPS sales in the social marketing region. NASS surveys of SCL farmers in each of the regions documented significant increases in stage of change in the social marketing region and rebates only region ( $p < .016$ ), as compared to other intervention regions. Farmers in the social marketing region displayed significantly greater advertisement recall ( $p < .0001$ ). The most significant increase in intention to retrofit was demonstrated in the social marketing region ( $p < .003$ ).

Based on the results from the pilot study, the incentives and interventions employed in the social marketing region were expanded throughout NY. At the end of the initial 12 months of the program expansion, more than 900 farmers had contacted the hotline, with roughly 300 committing to order a ROPS kit. After four years, 840 farmers have installed ROPS through the program, and 63 potentially fatal incidents have been documented among roughly 500 of these participants. A cost-benefit analysis of the study indicated that based on injuries and fatalities prevented as a result of the intervention, a net savings could be demonstrated in the program's third year. In addition, 99% of program participants said they would recommend the program to other farmers, and 98% said they felt safer driving their tractors now that ROPS had been installed.

In 2010 and 2011, the program expanded into Vermont, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire and several other states, such as Iowa, Maryland and Ohio, have indicated interest in bringing the program to their states. A ROPS rebate program website has also been developed, which provides information on the ROPS rebate program in participating states, tractor safety information, things to consider for participants seeking to self-install, tractor dealer information, tractor videos and opportunities to sign up for the program online.



The development and implementation of the ROPS Rebate Program consisted of several stages, and project partners were often involved to a greater or lesser extent depending on these stages. The lead agency throughout the process, however, has been NEC. In the initial formative research phase, NEC researchers applied for feasibility grant funding, participated in the development of the study design and led efforts to collect and analyze the formative research data. However, several partners were involved in these initial efforts, as well.

NASS assisted by collecting survey data from several segments of the NY farm community. These data were used to identify the intervention target population. The SCL was also organized early on and provided oversight on research activities, feedback regarding research results and recommendations for subject recruiting. Once the formative research phase was completed, several new members joined the project team to develop and implement the intervention. These included NEDA, Farm Family Insurance, NY Farm Bureau and John Deere.

NEDA provided outreach opportunities by encouraging their network of tractor dealerships throughout the state to promote the program both visually (posters, counter displays, business cards, posters) and verbally with farm customers (instructing salesmen to talk with customers about the program).

Farm Family Insurance also provided both promotional opportunities (mailings to customers), as well as financial contributions to help purchase paid advertising for the program.

NY Farm Bureau provided considerable promotional support by placing free program ads in the monthly Farm Bureau publication, *Grassroots*, and by mailing program information directly to their members. Farm Bureau was also instrumental in gathering political and grassroots support for the program and for state funding for rebates.

John Deere worked with NEC researchers to evaluate the impact of the program by tracking ROPS sales in intervention and control counties. This proved to be one of the most effective ways of measuring the intervention's impact on behavior

change. NASS and the SCL were equally involved in the intervention implementation and evaluation phase. NASS conducted the baseline and follow-up surveys that were used to measure changes in readiness and intentions to retrofit, while the SCL continued to monitor the implementation of the intervention, provide feedback on intervention activities and evaluation results and worked with members of the farm community to promote and build support for the program. Most importantly, the SCL selected the most appropriate advertisements and media channels.

Once the NY implementation phase was completed, plans to export this program into neighboring states were made. In this phase, NEC worked with existing partners and Pennsylvania State University, the University of Vermont Extension and the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture. Each of these state-based partners conducted its own formative research, implemented their own state-based programs, worked to raise their own funding for ROPS rebates and evaluated the intervention with the assistance of NEC and local groups of farmers and agricultural service providers.

Awarded to:

#### **Principal Partners**

John May, M.D., The Northeast Center for Agricultural and Occupational Health  
Julie Sorensen, Ph.D., The Northeast Center for Agricultural and Occupational Health

#### **Other Partners**

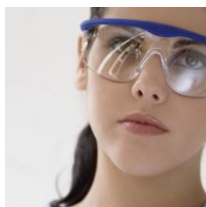
John Lyons, The Small Crop and Livestock Farmer Advisory Group  
Jim Judski, The Small Crop and Livestock Farmer Advisory Group  
Carl Taber, The Small Crop and Livestock Farmer Advisory Group  
James Minn, The Small Crop and Livestock Farmer Advisory Group  
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 David Collins, The Small Crop and Livestock Farmer Advisory Group  
 Ralph Gaiss, The Northeast Equipment Dealers Association  
 Rosemary Shader, Farm Family Insurance  
 Dennis Murphy, Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University  
 Aaron Yoder, Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University  
 George Cook, The University of Vermont Extension  
 Matt Myers, The University of Vermont Extension  
 Lorraine Merrill, The New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food  
 Julie Suarez, The New York Farm Bureau  
 Mike DeSpain, John Deere and Company  
 King Whetstone, National Agricultural Statistics Service  
 John Strand, Academy for Educational Development (AED) Center for Social Marketing and Behavior Change  
 Bithiah Lafontant, AED Center for Social Marketing and Behavior Change

## 87.1 Update: Eye & Face Protection

ASSE has signed an agreement with the International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA) to offer the current version of the standard, "Occupational and Educational Personal Eye and Face Protection Devices" (ANSI/ISEA Z87.1-2010), to ASSE members. The standard is offered electronically as part of a [package](#) that includes the 2003 and 1989 (reaffirmed 1998) versions of the standard.



For decades, ASSE was the ANSI Accredited Z87 Committee's secretariat. The committee moved to ISEA in 2004.

- [Interview with Jack Hirschmann](#)
- [Case Study of Eye Injury & the Z87.1 Standard](#)

## Resource Snapshot

Agricultural Branch Website: [www.asse.org/ps/agricultural](http://www.asse.org/ps/agricultural)  
 Spanish Documents: [www.asse.org/spalw](http://www.asse.org/spalw)  
 Technical Resources: [www.asse.org/ps/resources](http://www.asse.org/ps/resources)  
 Body of Knowledge: [www.safetybok.org](http://www.safetybok.org)  
 Networking Opportunities: [www.asse.org/connect](http://www.asse.org/connect)  
 Publication Opportunities: [www.asse.org/ps/write](http://www.asse.org/ps/write)  
 Volunteer Opportunities: [www.asse.org/ps/volunteer](http://www.asse.org/ps/volunteer)

## ASSE Kids' Poster Contest

*Entries Due February 14, 2012*



Today, 12 people a day die from on-the-job injuries in the U.S. Recent federal statistics show that in 2010, 4,547 workers died from on-the-job injuries and millions more suffered injuries and illnesses. ASSE's holds an annual poster contest for children aged 5-14 to increase awareness of this issue. The winning poster from each of the five age groups will be featured on the annual North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week poster distributed worldwide. The five grand prize winners and 15 runners-up each receive prizes and are recognized at NAOSH kick-off events in Washington, DC, in May 2012. The posters that best illustrate safety on the job will win the contest.

To enter, a child must be sponsored by an ASSE member. Those seeking an ASSE member to request sponsorship can check with their [local ASSE chapter](#).

The rules and entry form are below:

- [Poster Contest Rules](#)
- [Poster Contest Entry Form](#)
- [Poster Contest Presentation](#)
- [2011 NAOSH Poster](#)
- [2011 NAOSH Poster Contest Winners](#)
- [Template letter](#) members can use to solicit participation in the poster contest from their local schools

Poster contest winners will be announced the first week of March on [ASSE's website](#). In addition to being featured on the NAOSH poster, the posters are displayed in Washington, DC, during NAOSH Week at the Department of Labor, the U.S. Capitol and at [ASSE's annual Professional Development Conference and Exposition](#) to be held in Denver in June 2012.

## Awards & Honors Nominations

Agricultural Branch members are highly encouraged to nominate peers for an award to recognize their exceptional work and service. Winners will be acknowledged at the annual conference, on the ASSE website and in press releases. Below are some awards Ag Branch members are eligible for:

- Council on Practices & Standards Safety Professional of the Year
- Environmental Practice Specialty Safety Professional of the Year
- Agricultural Branch Significant Contributor Award

To find out more about the Council on Practices & Standards' awards program, visit <http://www.asse.org/ps/awards>.

## Safety 2012



ASSE's Safety 2012 conference will be held in Denver, June 3-6, and [ASSE's Colorado Chapter](#) is excited to help members start planning. Click [here](#) for an interactive map of hotels near the convention center. You can also visit [Google Maps](#), enter "Denver, CO" in the search bar and "search nearby" for local attractions and restaurants. Click [here](#) for full conference details.

If you are interested in presenting at Safety 2013, please keep in mind that proposals are due by July 2012. For more information, click [here](#). You can submit online or via e-mail at [pdcspeaker@asse.org](mailto:pdcspeaker@asse.org).

If you would like to be sponsored by the Agricultural Branch, please send your proposal to [ksonneson@asse.org](mailto:ksonneson@asse.org) indicating your interest.

## The Future of the Agricultural Branch

ASSE and the Agricultural Branch would like to thank the following members who have volunteered to serve on the advisory committee for 2011-2012. We thank you all for your time and dedication to the branch and the safety community.

Chair: [Mike Wolf](#)

Secretary: [Melvin Myers](#)

Membership Development: [Karla Maier](#)

If you would like to get more involved and work with this great group of volunteers, please visit <http://www.asse.org/cops/volunteers> for more information. There are several openings on the Agricultural Branch Advisory Committee so get involved today!

## Connect with Us on LinkedIn!

Do you have a technical question or need to connect with another expert? Ask your fellow members on the [Agricultural Branch's LinkedIn page](#).

Our LinkedIn page allows you to leverage your ASSE membership, through networking with your fellow members, to improve safety in your workplace.



Nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System will occur on Wednesday, November 9 at 2:00 PM EST via TV and radio stations  
FEMA, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), will conduct the first nationwide Emergency Alert System (EAS) Test on November 9, at 2:00...  
posted 17 days ago

[See more >](#)



Links to CDC/NIOSH resources in Spanish added to AG Safety Resources  
farmersdaily.com  
La agricultura se encuentra entre las industrias más peligrosas. Los agricultores están en alto riesgo de sufrir lesiones mortales y no mortales, enfermedades pulmonares relacionadas con el trabajo, pérdida de la audición...  
posted 24 days ago

[See more >](#)



Intoxicated Tractor Operator Injures 28 in Hay ride accident  
Photo courtesy of Sandusky Register SANDUSKY, Ohio -- Some 28 people were injured in a hayride accident that occurred the night of Oct. 22 in Perkins...  
posted 27 days ago

[See more >](#)



Can You Hear Me? An Introduction to Hearing Loss in Agriculture - Free Webinar  
Can You Hear Me? An Introduction to Hearing Loss in Agriculture Tuesday, November 15, 2011 9:00-10:15 am Eastern 1.2 ...  
posted 27 days ago

[See more >](#)



NIOSH-sponsored agricultural research  
You are probably aware that there are 10 NIOSH-sponsored agricultural research centers across the nation. Each is assigned to a specific...  
posted 27 days ago

[See more >](#)

