

## Safety Week Theme Family Safety At Work or Play

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Economic Research Service  
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

The theme for the 1962 National Farm Safety Week, July 22-28, is "Family Safety — at Work and Play." This program is sponsored by the National Safety Council, with cooperation of the United States Department of Agriculture and the support of education-

al and farm organizations.

Statistics show that farm accidents peak in July and August because of increased farm activity at that time. This brings into focus the need for more emphasis on accident prevention and explains the timing of the National Farm Safety Week campaign.

In recent years, much additional information has become available on the pattern of

farm accidents. About a fifth of our farm folk each year sustain accidental injury causing at least one day's time lost from work or other activities. About 60 of each 100,000 farm people lose their lives annually because of accidents. Permanent injuries, including those that are partially as well as totally disabling, strike about 3 percent of our farm people annually. Another 16 percent have temporarily disabling injuries that involve time loss of a day or more. In addition, about 12 or 13 per-

cent of our farm people sustain minor injuries that do not meet the definition of a disabling accident or that are not reported.

The farm accident pattern seems to shape up as follows: For every 1,000 reported accidents that involve disability (and time loss from normal activities), about 1,034 persons are involved, and they sustain about 1,230 injuries.

Sometimes more than one person is involved in an accident or more than one injury is reported per person involved.

Farm accidents happen more frequently to those in the older-aged groups, but even in the age group 15 to 24 about half of the total annual mortality is due to accidents. But of course for this younger age group the all-cause death rate is low.

Recent studies indicate that farm accidents have not declined in proportion to the decline in farm population. Farms are isolated, little supervision is given to the work being done and there is often not much opportunity for an injured person to receive first aid promptly. Secondary highways are often hazardous for safe driving. The high incidence of accidents to farm people also is due to the fact that farming is a family job running more nearly around the clock than is the case for many other occupations.

We know that carelessness plays a much more important role in accident causation than do the agencies of injury frequently named as the cause. Such agencies as motor vehicles, falls (a result rather than a cause) and machinery account for a substantial part of the accident toll. Farm accidents can only be reduced by a fuller realization of the dangers involved and by being more vigilant at work and on the highways.

The wise farmer carries a fire extinguisher and first aid kit on tractors, trucks and self propelled machinery.

## Dry Weather Brings Warning From Goddard

HARRISBURG -- Forest and Waters Secretary Maurice K. Goddard today asked all Pennsylvanians to be especially careful with the use of fire in the State's woodlands and State Parks in view of the unusually dry spell of the past two months.

"Recent drought conditions have made our woods more susceptible to forest fires this summer than during a normal summer season when there is usually a greater amount of rain," Goddard stated. "In fact," he added, "the threat of forest fires is about as great now as during the spring and fall fire seasons when most forest fires occur."

Goddard particularly cautioned Pennsylvania campers about fires and the necessity of keeping cooking fires well under control. "Because the ground is so dry even the smallest woodland fire is very difficult to put out," he explained, pointing out that several fires had been reported throughout the Commonwealth over the past week.

"Motorists must also take care that they do not start fires," he emphasized, "by throwing lighted cigarettes out of their cars." The discarding of lighted cigarettes from car windows is inexcusable at any time, he stated, but at a time like this can do incalculable harm to our forests and endanger the lives of people.

"I just hope that we can get through this summer without any major tragedies resulting from forest fires," he reported "because the condition of the woods is downright dangerous." Goddard also stated that the past spring fire season was one of Pennsylvania's worst in recent years, burning some 35,000 acres of the State's woodlands.

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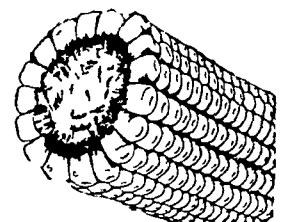
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