

# Local firemen learn farm equipment rescue

**BY CURT HARLER**  
**RHEEMS** — Firemen and ambulance crews from a large number of Lancaster County companies are attending a course in farm machinery rescue operations.

The purpose of the sessions is to teach emergency crews how to extract a person trapped in moving parts of any piece of farm equipment safely and swiftly.

The course, sponsored by the Lancaster Farmers' Association Womens Safety Committee, consists of four seminars. This is the second

year the course has been offered.

Shirley Garner, Mt. Joy, explained the purpose of the training seminars is to teach emergency crews to operate farm equipment, to turn machinery off, to be aware of potentially dangerous operating parts of machines.

Many of the non-farm firemen participating in the course are not familiar with power take off systems. Several presumed machinery was operated by direct ground drive mechanisms of some sort and that operating parts would stop once the machine itself stopped moving.

Those who were aware of PTO systems often were not familiar with how to turn the system off.

On hand to explain the in's and out's of farm equipment was Ken Messick, son of the owner of Messick's Farm Equipment where the seminars are being held.

The rescue company members are encouraged to poke around all sorts of equipment including tractors, hay balers, corn pickers, PTO units, and other live farm machinery.

Firemen are able to tear apart junk machinery with a Hurst tool to get them familiar with the strenght of

metal used in farm machinery.

They learn the differences in strength between the older, heavier metals and the newer lightweight metals with similar strenght.

While most of the work they did was with New Holland and International Harvester equipment (because that's what Messick's handles), the rescue crews are encouraged to go out to local

farms or other equipment dealerships and get familiar with the location of stop switches and other power controls on other brands of machinery.

In addition to the hands-on work with used machinery, the fire crews are showed films of farm equipment in action.

The movies were not necessarily farm safety oriented. The basic idea, as Shirley Garner explained, was to get the non-farm

firemen familiar with what a piece of equipment does in the field, its power, and what it looks like in action.

The Lancaster County program is one of the first such seminars offered anywhere.

Similar programs are underway in Utah and Kansas. The Lancaster Farmers' Association women developed their program with help from

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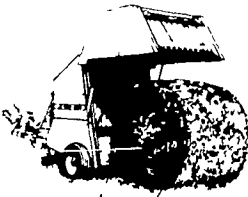
Shirley Garner, Lancaster County Farmers' Association Womens Safety Committee, provides background information on farm equipment rescue to about 35 firemen at a training session Tuesday evening. The course teaches prompt removal of persons trapped in farm equipment.

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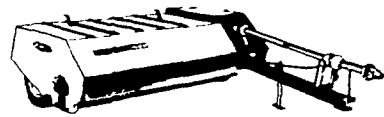
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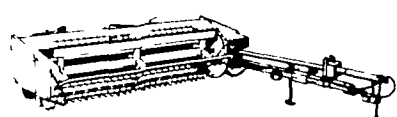
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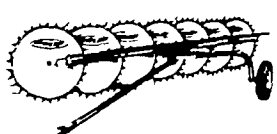
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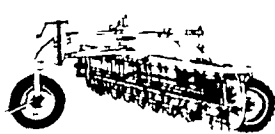


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