

Equipment Dealers Volunteer to Save Lives

BY KIMBERLY HERR

EPHRATA — Shaking hands reach for the phone to dial 911. There has been a farm accident.

An ambulance, rescue squad and fire company are immediately dispatched. Within one minute another call is made. The phone rings at the office of a local farm equipment dealer. And soon, he too is on his way to the accident.

This scene is part of the new Farm Equipment Rescue Program, which was initiated March 1 by the Lancaster County Fireman's Association, in cooperation with the Lancaster Farmer's Association.

"Vehicle accident rescues we see almost on a weekly basis," said Randall Gockley, Lancaster County fire service coordinator.

"But with farm accidents you are only talking five or six in one year."

Consequently, according to Gockley, rescue personnel sometimes do not have the experience or the knowledge of the equipment which is necessary in helping the accident victim as quickly as possible. The person who does have that experience and



Raymond Rutt, mechanic at Binkley and Hurst Bros., Inc., Lititz, stands next to a harvester, a piece of equipment that could be involved in a farm accident, if not handled properly. Binkley and Hurst Bros., Inc., is one of the dealerships participating in the new Farm Equipment Rescue Program.



Randall Gockley, Lancaster County fire services coordinator, was instrumental in getting the Farm Equipment Rescue Program off the ground. Gockley, shown here with some of his fire equipment collections, explained that Lancaster County was the only county he knew of that had such a program.

knowledge is the farm equipment dealer. He or she may be the one to help the most during a farm accident.

In a letter drafted to farm equipment dealers, Gockley explained how the dealer can be of assistance.

"The current concept of rescue procedures is not to remove the victim from the wreckage, but to remove the wreckage from around the victim," he said. "By having a representative of a farm equipment firm responding, we are gaining that knowledge and expertise in equipment. The advice and guidance you may give will help speed rescue and possibly save lives."

According to Gockley, there were five or six farm accidents in Lancaster County last year. Most of them occurred during the spring, summer and early fall months, but this program will not be limited to the accident-prone seasons.

"This is a year-long, 24-hour a day program," Gockley explained.

For accidents that may occur when the dealer's office is closed, Gockley explained each dealer has provided him with home phone numbers of some of their employees who would be willing to go on after-hours calls.

Gockley emphasized that when the dealers arrive on the accident scene and report to the officer in (Turn to Page B18)

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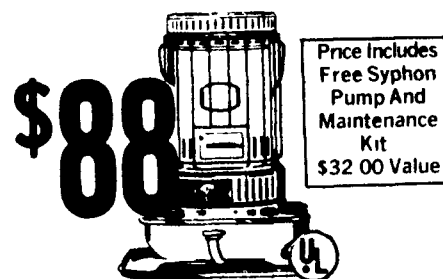
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