

MAFES Dawg Tracks



August 24, 2009

Responding to Farm Accidents



In Mississippi, over a 10 year span from 1990 through 2000, there were 135 tractor deaths. This statistic is related to tractor accidents only. Of these 135 accidents, 48% were from rollovers, 22% from miscellaneous types of accidents, 17% were from run-over's, 15% were from power takeoff accidents and 12% were from highway related accidents.

According to the report, in most all of these cases, a farm employee or family member was probably first on the scene. In many farm situations, an employee would be the first on the scene or in technical terms, the first responder.

As the first responder, you may possibly be faced with a situation of making a life-saving decision. You want this decision to be one that won't put your victim in further danger.

The first response in agricultural related incidents, like those in any other environment, is critical. These types of accidents most likely will occur in isolated areas, could possibly involve entrapment, and sometimes in structures that are hard to enter.

You may not have the convenience of a telephone or even be alone. The stress of being alone with no phone can cause indecision, delays, or maybe an incorrect decision about what action to take.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A FIRST RESPONDER:

- The first and most important rule is to keep calm. Fear and anxieties are normal when you have a severely injured person in your midst. Mental preparation and training can help the first responder overcome those emotions and act rational.
- Get professional help for the victim by activating or calling the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) or 9-1-1.
- Make sure that you and the victim aren't in any more danger.
- Provide the best care that you can until the EMS arrives.

We should also keep in mind that the rules of the first responder may not apply because of the location and circumstances. We may be faced with looking at alternatives to the basic rules and making other choices. There may not be a phone available or there may not be another person in the area to help.

ACTIVATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS):

- ❖ Should you help the victim or contact EMS? This would depend on several factors. Is the victim breathing? If breathing stops, irreversible brain damage can occur in 4 to 6 minutes. You may have to apply cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) before leaving the scene or trying to get help.
- ❖ Obviously, if it is possible, activate the EMS as soon as possible. The general rule is: **The faster the victim receives medical care, the greater is his or her chance for survival.** You may be in a position to flag a passing motorist or send someone for help, depending upon the location of the incident.
- ❖ If you call emergency personnel, never hang up the phone until the dispatcher or operator tells you to. The dispatcher could possibly start the emergency response procedure and come back for more information.

INFORMATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES' PERSONNEL:

- Provide the location of the accident with approx. miles, distances, and landmarks that can be identified in daylight or darkness.
- State your name and telephone number and where it is that you are calling from.
- Give a quick and brief description of the accident.
- Give the conditions and number of persons involved in the accident.
- If aid has been given to the victim, relay this to the dispatcher and ask if there might be other aid you can give until their (EMS) arrival.
- Provide a spotter to guide the ambulance into the location of the victim and who can stay with the victim.
- Provide information to the dispatcher if there are special conditions that they need to be aware of, or that might impair their entrance and warrants special attention (ex.- broken gas lines, downed power lines, etc.)

Once you have contacted the EMS, provide the treatment that you can and continue first aid until the EMS arrives. Remember with spinal injuries, don't move the victim unless the circumstances are more dangerous than the gamble of moving may create.

As a first responder in an emergency, the very best thing you can do is to stay calm, and if the victim is conscious, give him or her assurance that help is on the way. From that point, remain rational and make reasonable choices to enhance and improve the victim's chances of survival.

**SAFETY IS AS SIMPLE AS A-B-C
ALWAYS BE CAREFUL!!**

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**~SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S
RESPONSIBILITY~**

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BE SAFE !

BE ALERT !

BE ALIVE !

Ted Gordon-Risk Mgmt. / Loss Control Mgr.
MAFES / MSU-ES
(662) 566 -2201

Excerpts: www.cdc.gov/nasd

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