



UW-Extension Dane County EMT Extrication Training

Each year about 40 Wisconsinites die from farm related injuries. Additionally, there are approximately 16,000 nonfatal farm related injuries. Farm machinery is often involved as farmers, their families or employees are inadvertently pulled into or entrapped by farm machinery, crushed by tractor rollovers, submerged in flowing grain or suffer other injuries. The occupational death rate in agriculture is over six times higher than the average for all industries. One of the problems many EMS personnel encounter with farm equipment accidents is its heavy construction. The best option is often equipment disassembly. In the past six years, UW-Extension Dane County agents have worked with Dane County Farm Bureau (DCFB) to train over 400 county emergency medical technicians (EMTs), paramedics and firefighters in farm safety. Attendees identified a specific need for farm equipment extrication.

Response:

Dane County UW-Extension coordinated with DCFB, Hanley Implement Co., Rural Insurance and Kaltenberg Seeds - who donated an old combine, to conduct an extrication demonstration. The demonstration goals were:

- build a coalition to work on farm safety issues
- increase first responder familiarity with farm equipment operations enabling them to better handle farm machinery accidents
- learn the skills to determine how the accident happened, what steps to take to stabilize the situation for victims and first responders, evaluate the best actions to extricate the victim
- provide a hands-on demonstration allowing attendees to use their knowledge and equipment to extricate dummies from farm machinery accidents.

Results:

Forty-one firefighters, EMTs and first responders attended a half-day training session that included training in extrication from snapper rolls, feed auger, main drive belts, and a rollover situation. Participants also learned how to shut down power units, release pressure on equipment, remove belts and chains, and determine equipment weak points. When asked about the best part of the demonstration, responses included participating in hands-on cutting and extricating and trying to cut the actual equipment.

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June 2007+