

What Child Safety Advocates Can Do

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A variety of activities are offered to prevent childhood agricultural injuries.

Encourage community-based childhood agricultural injury prevention activities--start with your local resources.

- Contact staff of your local county Extension office, health care facility, or local agricultural group.
- * Contact your state Extension Safety Specialist and MCH injury prevention representative.

Promote safe behaviors when you visit production agriculture sites. Many people view child safety advocates as role models.

- Use tractors with rollover protective structures and safety belts.
- Do not permit extra riders on tractors.
- Use personal protective equipment relevant to the work hazard.
- Transport children in proper seating and safety restraints in motorized vehicles.
- Promote physical barriers between children and agricultural hazards such as livestock, machinery with moving parts, and chemicals (e.g., fences, gates, guards, secured doors).
- Challenge traditions and farming practices that put children at risk for injury.
- Utilize developmentally appropriate guidelines in assigning agricultural tasks to children (see enclosed information).

Take the opportunity as a professional to offer the facts on childhood agricultural injuries to organizations in your community.

- Advocate for childhood injury prevention by contacting policy makers, media, and community leaders.
- Participate in community-wide safety training that promotes age- and developmentally appropriate participation of children in production agriculture.
- Work with media to present children in photographs and articles in safe situations (see enclosed USDA Fact Sheet).
- Represent children's perspective on advisory and decision-making boards.
- Encourage active and meaningful participation by youth in planning, implementing, and evaluating safety programs for peers.

Promote cooperation between local public health agencies and agencies responsible for enforcement of child labor laws.

- Monitor and promote the use of age- and developmentally appropriate roles for children.
- Increase access for farm operators, employees, and families to safety education opportunities.
- Understand the needs of children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers to protect them from agricultural hazards.
- Promote the enforcement of existing child labor laws.

State Maternal and Child Health agency staff should meet with staff of state agencies responsible for childhood agricultural safety and discuss methods to prevent childhood agricultural injury.

- Provide resources to communities to approach childhood injury prevention appropriate to the needs of the local population.
- Evaluate efficacy of current safety efforts.
- Collect childhood injury data in your state and community by identifying environmental events, circumstances, sources, trends and other conditions of childhood agricultural injury.
- Establish and maintain a trauma system responsive to the needs of injured children in agricultural settings.
- Make childhood injury data available to community planning efforts.
- Promote equipment manufacturing standards that address safety.
- Initiate research that contributes to the level of knowledge of childhood agricultural injuries.
- Work to establish childcare options for families of children in rural areas.
- Provide opportunities for first responder and CPR training.
- Review the national action plan - "*Children and Agriculture: Opportunities for Safety and Health*" for specific objectives and recommendations for media, educators, policy makers, health care providers, researchers, community groups, and farm/ranch operators and owners.
- Encourage rural health care providers to provide injury prevention counseling as part of routine health care.