



Lessons in Risk Management

Protecting Nursery Investments by Planning Now for Protection Later, Today and Always...



Accident Prevention: General Safety Rules

Employers are sincerely interested in the safety and welfare of their employees. Accident prevention is essential in maintaining an efficient operation. Remember, your help in preventing accidents benefits you and your fellow employees. Employers all strive for a record of zero accidents.

- The major agents of injury are working surfaces, heavy objects and motor vehicles. These three agents cause over 50 percent of all serious injuries. Two major types of accidents are overexertion (lifting, pushing and pulling) and falls: these account for over 50 percent of all serious injuries. The result is that nearly 50 percent of all injuries are sprains and strains to the back and the major body joints: the shoulder, elbow and wrist, the hip, knee and ankle.
 - Learn to lift the proper way. Bend knees, keep back erect. Get help with heavy loads.
 - Mechanical devices should be used to lift heavy objects and repetitive lifting, carrying or handling of materials should be mechanized. Forklifts, loaders, conveyors, etc. should be used in place of "back power" whenever possible.

- Slip and fall accidents are the second leading cause of accidental death in the United States exceeded only by motor vehicle accidents. Over 13,000 persons die from falls every year. Most of your exposures to slips and falls can be minimized simply by
 - treating walking/working surfaces to make them non-slip ladder rungs, steps, Concrete floors, floorboards, etc. on trucks, tractors, and forklifts. This can be either painted on or the use of adhesive backed coverings can be employed.
 - Heavy duty foot wipes should be installed just inside doorways. In addition, mud scrapers should be installed. Finally, the floor surfaces inside the building should be coated with non-slip treatment for the first 10'.
 - Oil leaks should be promptly repaired and the oil cleaned off floors. Oil on the soles of shoes can cause a fall elsewhere.

- All accidents, injuries, hazardous practices, or conditions will be reported to supervisors immediately. Documentation of each accident is another important activity. It is not only necessary for complying with the law but also helps prevent similar accidents from occurring in the future.

Based on information from:

- *General Safety Rules* by Don Wilkerson and Texas Cooperative Extension. <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/greenhouse/nursery/guides/safety/example/example5.html>
- *Accident Statistics & Reports* by Don Wilkerson and Texas Cooperative Extension. <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/greenhouse/nursery/guides/safety/chapter/chapter7.html>
- *Hazard Abatement* by Don Wilkerson and Texas Cooperative Extension. <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/greenhouse/nursery/guides/safety/chapter/chapter5.html>
- *Accident Prevention* by William J. Becker and the Florida Cooperative Extension Service. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/as/as02500.pdf>