

# LESSON 15 – CASE STUDIES

## 15.1 Dairy farmer's daughter burned in milk house fire

### *Gearing Up Daily News*

*Milford* - Dawn Minter, age 16, was severely burned while attempting to re-ignite a water heater in the milk house of her father's dairy farm located on State Road 28 south of Milford. While washing up from morning milking, Dawn noticed that there was no more hot water and after checking the water heater, found that the gas flame had gone out. When she struck a match at the base of the heater it ignited a pool of gas fumes that had gathered in the pit surrounding the bulk milk tank.

Her father, Harvey Minter, heard the explosion from the milking parlor and rushed in to find Dawn on the floor with small flames leaping off the floor. Using a wash-down hose he extinguished the flames and immediately called 911. Because the dispatcher thought the barn was on fire, fire departments from Westville, Milford, and Chalmers responded. There was no fire when they arrived, but an ambulance was called in to transport Dawn to Memorial Hospital.

According to the girl's father, Dawn experienced serious burns to her face, arms, and hands.

She is being kept in the hospital to be monitored over the next couple of days. He did not know why the water heater's gas burner had gone out.

## 15.2 Injuries to tobacco migrant farmers in Kentucky

### *Gearing Up Daily News*

*Sommerset* – Raising tobacco, like all other types of crops, has many hazards that can lead to injury, disability, or death. Most injuries that occur around tobacco operations are a result of falls, cutting and piercing instruments, or sprains and strains. Tobacco farming remains a multi-step process that is not highly mechanized. A 21-year-old migrant worker and his 16-year-old cousin, fell from the rafters of the barn, where tobacco was hanging to dry. The younger worker was holding a tobacco stick which pieced the leg of the older man who fell first from the truck bed, while trying to adjust the tobacco leaves.

Jesse Smoke, the younger worker, received cuts and bruises from the fall, but his cousin Miguel Match, suffered blood loss and minor nerve damage in his left thigh. It took 45-60 minutes before emergency medical help came. They both were taken to the hospital with Smoke being released later that same day and Match admitted for additional tests.

Jesse commented that he thought he had "killed his cousin" when he fell with the tobacco stick in his hand.

## 15.3 Michael Jennings killed in tractor accident

### *Gearing Up Daily News*

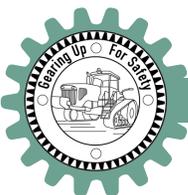
*Vernon* - Michael Jennings was killed in a tractor accident Saturday, Nov. 3, in a woodlot on the Jennings property.

According to a report on file at the Sheriff's Office, the victim and Darren Jennings were moving logs. Michael Jennings had a log chained to the tractor and started across a small ditch. As the front wheels started out of the ditch, the tractor flipped backwards, coming to rest on the victim.

Darren Jennings rushed to his aid but was unable to assist him. Darren then proceeded to drive back to the Jennings home where he called rescue personnel.

The report stated that Jennings was pronounced dead upon arrival at Saint Mary of the Woods Memorial Hospital by Dr. Richard Barkman, county coroner.

Ricky Wallace, EMT, who arrived at the scene, said that if they had been able to get to Jennings sooner they might have been able to save his life. Neither of the men had a cell phone or radio that could have been used to call for assistance.



## 15.4 Quick thinking saves Burlington boy's sight

### *Gearing Up Daily News*

*Burlington* - The quick thinking of a hired seasonal worker on a farm owned by Carl Smoot of Burlington was responsible for preventing severe burns and eye injuries to Smoot's 12-year-old son, Justin. The boy had climbed up on an unattended tank-wagon used to transport anhydrous ammonia and had loosened one of the valves. The boy was struck in the face and upper cheek with a blast of fumes. Rival Sanchez, a farm laborer living on the Smoot farm, saw the boy fall from the tank. He immediately left the carrot harvesting operation he was involved with and came to the boy's assistance.

Sanchez then carried the boy to a nearby irrigation canal and flushed off the ammonia with water. He said that he had learned the importance of water as first aid for ammonia burns during a recent safety meeting held at the farm. Candice Brown of the Burlington Fire-Rescue Service said that without the immediate application of water, Justin would have suffered permanent injuries.

## 15.5 Local cotton farmer dies from snake bite

### *Gearing Up Daily News*

*Memphis* - Long time cotton farmer and leader in the local agricultural community, Carl Hoeffler, passes away at Memphis Memorial Hospital due to complications from a snake bite. Mr. Hoeffler was inspecting a field of cotton along a stream bank when he apparently reached down and broke off a cotton plant to examine it when he was bitten. It is uncertain what type of snake it was, but water moccasins or cotton mouth snakes are known to inhabit the area.

According to the state Poison Control Center, fatalities from venomous snakes is extremely rare, because snakes rarely want to be present when humans are around. It also was noted that some people may have a more severe medical response to a bite and experience life threatening complications such as impaired breathing or extensive swelling of the extremities. Snake bites normally involve the lower part of the leg, but in this case the bite occurred to the hand. No further information is available concerning funeral arrangements.

## 15.6 Chainsaw accident critically injures Tyler man

### *Gearing Up Daily News*

*Tyler* - An accident Saturday with a chain saw has left a Tyler man in critical condition, Cherokee County police said. Robbie Martinez, 19, was cutting wood at his family farm on County Road 1215 southwest of Tyler Saturday afternoon. Apparently, the chainsaw kicked, flew up and cut Martinez on the top of the head.

Martinez was found unconscious by a jogger around 1:40 p.m. He was taken to the UT-Tyler Medical Center where he remained in intensive care today.

