

LESSON 6 – CASE STUDIES

6.1 Man in critical condition after freak combine accident

Gearing Up Daily News

West Baden - Geoffrey Schultz, a 27-year-old rural West Baden man, was seriously injured when the header of his combine collapsed during a maintenance stop. Witnesses stated that it seemed that Schultz was trying to do maintenance on his combine when the header collapsed.

Cody Miller, Schultz's neighbor was driving by when he saw the accident occur. "He was standing underneath the header when suddenly it fell on him," explained Miller. "I don't know what he was doing under there, but it was sure lucky that I drove by; there was no one else at his place."

Miller rushed to the aid of Schultz calling the West Baden Fire and Rescue who reported to the scene. Schultz was then rushed to Good Samaritan Memorial Hospital where he is still in critical condition.

"Mr. Schultz suffered severe trauma to the head," Dr. Wes Lewis explained. "His skull was fractured severely and he is currently suffering from hemorrhaging on the brain, which could lead to brain damage. We are doing the most that we can do at this moment in time."

6.2 Man hurt after catching arm in corn picker

Gearing Up Daily News

Potosi - A 22-year-old Taylor County man was injured Thursday when his right arm went into the roller mechanism of the corn picker he was operating. Bill Dupont of Locust Grove Road was freed from the corn picker about 45 minutes after emergency personnel arrived. Rescuers don't know how long he was trapped before being treated at the scene by Taylor County Ambulance Service personnel and flown by StatFlight to Humana Hospital in Abilene.

Dupont is in serious condition, according to a Humana Hospital spokeswoman. He underwent surgery Friday and was scheduled for additional surgery Saturday, for circulatory problems in his arm.

Emergency personnel from the Potosi Fire Department and Eula Volunteer Fire Department were called to the field about 10:50 p.m. and worked to free Dupont, who was slipping into shock.

Richard Washington, Potosi fire chief, said the crew used high pressure air bags and the "jaws-of-life" to spread the machine apart.

Fire department reports show Dupont apparently had been hand-picking corn out of the clogged corn picker when the rollers grabbed onto his glove and shirt to pull him in.

He was working alone in the field.

Washington said someone noticed the corn picker Dupont was operating had been idling for a period of time and went to check out the situation.

Dupont suffered injuries to his arm and shoulder, according to Washington.

6.3 Jimmy Prowler recovering from burns

Gearing Up Daily News

Lafayette - Local farmer Jimmy Prowler is recovering well from burns he received while trying to extinguish a fire on his tractor Wednesday evening.

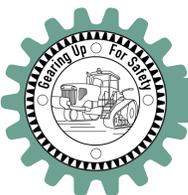
Prowler, 17, was working in the field just south of his home when debris located under his tractor's exhaust caught fire. Prowler stopped his tractor and moved quickly to try to extinguish the flames. In the process of extinguishing the fire, Prowler's shirt sleeve caught on fire and the blaze quickly climbed up his arm.

"It all happened so fast," Prowler said. "I was trying to put out the fire when I realized that I was on fire also."

Prowler reported that he had tried to put out the fire with his fire extinguisher but was unable to because it would not work properly. "I hadn't checked the fire extinguisher in over a year; I just assumed it would work."

Once he extinguished the fire on both himself and the tractor, using dirt, Prowler rushed to his home where his wife,

Judy, transported him to St. Elizabeth's Medical Center to receive treatment.



Dr. Jung Chin Chang, Prowler's doctor, stated the Prowler suffered second degree burns from his forearm up to his shoulder. "Hopefully Jimmy will heal in the next two to three weeks. We are going to try to keep him from scarring," Dr. Chang said.

Second degree burns caused some damage to the second layer of skin, the dermis. On average, a new epidermis grows in one to three weeks.

"Next time I go out I am going to clean off my tractor, and I am also going to make sure that my fire extinguisher works properly," Prowler said. "I never want to feel this pain again."

6.4 Child injured in harvesting operation

Gearing Up Daily News

Brownsville - A nine-year-old child from the Brownsville, Texas area was injured on Wednesday, while playing in a field of melons being harvested on the Mackovick Farms south of Yakima on 500 South. Caesar Lopez was trailing behind his mother, Marie, who was working alongside a powered field conveyor used to transfer the picked melons to a truck for crating. School was not in session so Caesar had accompanied his mother to the fields to spend the day.

Ralph Freeman of the Yakima Rescue Service believes the boy came into contact with the conveyor belt when the machine was turning around at the end of the field leaving him in front of, rather than behind, the conveyor. The boy's arm was pulled into the rollers under the conveyor and severely injured.

To free the boy, rescue workers had to cut the conveyor belt. The boy was then transported to Yakima and then on to Children's Hospital in Spokane. No further information on his condition is known at this time

6.5 Mountainview teen killed under green bean harvester

Gearing Up Daily News

Brownsville - An 18-year-old seasonal worker for the Milford Canning Company was killed when the header on the green bean harvester he was operating collapsed and crushed him underneath it.

Tom Anderson, Burley County Sheriff's Deputy, indicated that Manuel Chevis of Brownsville, Texas, was operating the harvester in a field south of Milford on a farm owned by Big Sky Farms. At approximately 2:00 a.m., the other workers in the field noticed that Chevis had stopped his machine and was working on the header. Eventually one of the workers came over to provide assistance and found him under the header, apparently dead. Upon examination of the machine, a hydraulic hose was found that had broken, releasing the oil supporting the header, causing it to collapse. A safety lock on the machine to prevent such a collapse was not in place.

The fatality will be investigated by staff from the State Department of Labor's OSHA office.

6.6 Dozens of friends, family harvest dead man's crop

Gearing Up Daily News

Westville - For a while this harvest season, it looked like the Barkman family's 550 acres of soybeans and corn would rot in the fields.

Timothy Barkman, a 30-year-old farmer from northwestern Nolan County, died Oct. 3 in a combine accident, leaving his crop in the field and his family in trouble.

But that all changed on Thursday, when dozens - estimates range from more than 60 to nearly 100 - of his friends dropped their own work and showed up on the Barkman's Westville farm to bring in the family's fall harvest.

"It is so hard to put into words just how I feel," said Timothy Barkman's widow, Judy Barkman. "I am so grateful to be in this community today."

It was a project that took planning fit for an army. Equipment had to be borrowed - 25 combines, about 15 semi trailers and dozens of other machines.

Without the help from family and friends, the Barkman family would have suffered great monetary losses and possibly would have had to sell their farm. "Without the help from this community, our family could have been homeless this winter; now we have more time to plan for our future," Judy Barkman said.

