A Harvest of Safety and Health

The National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) is dedicated to preventing illnesses, injuries and deaths among farmers and ranchers, agricultural and horticultural workers, their families, and their employees. NECAS, which opened on the Northeast Iowa Community College Peosta campus in 1997, is the only organization with a hands-on farm equipment safety training center. The facility also houses classrooms and a library and resource center.

Our concern for safety in rural areas goes beyond farms and ranches. The need for services spreads from citrus groves in the South to vineyards in the West. It covers cattle ranches in Wyoming, fisheries in Maine, and thousands of ventures in between.

Services

Like any business, agriculture can be financially set back by safety violations, injuries, illnesses and deaths. NECAS offers safety education and proactive programs to help prevent incidents that affect your agribusiness safety and welfare. NECAS also provides training to emergency responders who manage incidents involving agricultural injuries and equipment.

All of these trainings can be conducted at NECAS or at another preferred location. Grant funding may be available to cover the training cost.

NECAS is a partnership in safety and health between:

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All information is accurate at time of publication and is subject to change without notice.

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Ag Rescue Training for Public Safety
Tractor Rollover Extrication
This training provides an in-depth look at the causes of tractor rollovers and safety devices that help stabilize tractors, like Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS). The hands-on portion of the training covers care of the trauma patient, cribbing and proper use of extrication tools. Students will learn how to conduct a tractor rollover rescue safely by performing several evolutions of patient extrication. Full NFPA compliant gear is required. A tractor to roll over and something to roll it over with must be provided.

Combine/Auger Extrication
The combine/auger extrication training includes a demonstration on how a combine works, as well as how a person can become entrapped in a combine or an auger. The hands-on portion of the training covers care of the trauma patient, auger entanglements, cribbing and proper use of extrication tools. Students will perform several evolutions of patient extrication. A fully functioning combine (for demonstration purposes only), along with a scrap four- or six-row combine head and an auger (both to tear apart) must be provided.

Grain Bin Rescue
This training provides information about grain bin design and structure, as well as the four most common ways that people become entrapped in grain bins. The hands-on portion of the training covers lockout/tagout procedures and extraction of a fully engulfed and a partially engulfed victim. Full NFPA compliant gear, hearing protection and safety glasses are required to participate in the hands-on portion of the training. Two scrap grain bin panels (to cut into) and 110 bushels of grain (to be used in our simulator) must be provided.

Agricultural Trauma - Classroom Only (EMS)
The agricultural trauma class provides an overview of agricultural emergencies and their frequency, as well as circumstances that can lead to injuries and fatalities on the farm. This training addresses difficulties associated with conducting on-farm rescues and equips EMS providers with information and strategies to respond to a variety of agricultural emergencies, including tractor rollovers and grain bin entrapments.

Anhydrous Ammonia Emergency Response
This training provides information about the hazards associated with anhydrous ammonia and nurse tanks, as well as emergency response for incidents involving anhydrous ammonia, such as fires, leaks/spills and burns. The hands-on portion of the training utilizes our state-of-the-art anhydrous ammonia training trailer for participants to perform several evolutions of emergency response to an anhydrous ammonia release. Two fully functioning pumpers must be provided and full NFPA compliant gear with SCBA is required to participate in the hands-on portion.

Grain Storage Fire and Explosion
This training familiarizes firefighters with how to respond to fires or explosions at grain storage facilities, such as grain elevators, grain bins, silos and feed mills. Emphasis is on recognizing hazards and challenges, as well as strategies and tactics to extinguish these fires. This training also covers NFPA’s Life Safety Code when managing these incidents.

Manure Pit Rescue
This training addresses procedures for safely entering the confined space of a manure pit to perform rescue operations in low oxygen situations, including the importance of air quality monitoring before, during and after rescue, proper use of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), harnessing, rope rigging for below grade rescue and the use of a rescue tripod. Students will have the opportunity to work through several evolutions in various roles with our one-of-a-kind training prop. Full NFPA compliant gear with SCBA is required to participate in the hands-on portion and 150 gallons of water must be provided.