

Teacher's Guide

AG IN THE CLASSROOM—HELPING THE NEXT GENERATION UNDERSTAND THEIR CONNECTION TO AGRICULTURE

Resources

High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety has a large amount of information about farm safety.

Check out their Web-site at

<http://www.hicaahs.colostate.edu/>

or contact at: HI-CAHS

Department of Environmental Health

133 Environmental Health Building

Colorado State University

Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-1681

1-800-622-8673 or 1-970-491-6152

The National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety offers fact sheets, resources and links to related sites. Check out their Web-site at

<http://www.med.umich.edu/1libr/yourchild/farm.htm>

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has a Web-site with links and information about electrical safety and agricultural safety. Log onto:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/homepage.html>

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids is a Web-site dedicated to teaching children about farm safety. It is entertaining and contains safety brochures you can print out, games, safety tips, coloring pages and quizzes to test your safety knowledge. <http://www.fs4jk.org>

Tri-state Generation and Transmission Association has a Web-site for children that contains information about electricity, history, safety, fun, etc. <http://tristate.st.org>, then click on *Resource Center and Kids Korner*

United Power has a kids corner with coloring pages, puzzles and word scrambles. <http://www.unitedpower.com/kids.htm>

Comments, questions, suggestions and feedback about the *Colorado Reader* are welcome.

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FOR TEACHERS WHO HAVE STUDENTS WHO LIVE IN THE CITY ...

How to relate the farm safety information for your students.

Regardless of whether you live in the country or the city, many safety issues are the same. Others may have a different twist. Here are some suggestions for discussing these issues:

Colorado population is growing quickly, and the construction business is booming. Construction or mining sites and equipment pose a hazard for children who live in the city, mountains and suburbs. Unfortunately many children, especially boys, are drawn to these sites. Construction crews may not be aware of their presence, and the potential for mishap is great. Getting run over, falling or getting hurt by equipment are just some of the potential dangers these sites pose. Piles of sand and gravel are not places to play either. You can get stuck and suffocate in moving sand, just as you can in moving grain. Stress the importance of exploring such sites only with an adult and the owner's permission.

Drowning can be an issue no matter where you live. Some neighborhoods have ditches, ponds, rivers, gravel pits and unprotected pools. Talk with your students about possible drowning hazards in your community.

Domestic animals such as stray dogs and cats can be dangerous, and so can raccoons, squirrels, mice and other wild animals. Dogs and cats can bite or scratch and wild animals frequently carry diseases.

Insecticides and pesticides are potential hazard sfor children who help with yard work. As with farm chemicals, reading the directions and warning labels before you use them is important.

Most everyone knows the potential danger of roads and highways, but even your own back yard can be dangerous if care isn't taken. Rollovers and runover accidents can occur on riding lawn mowers, ATVs and even bikes. Talk with your students about getting the proper training and wearing protective clothing, eyewear and head gear to help prevent accidents.

Electricity is dangerous and must be treated with respect. Great caution should be taken when using ladders or other equipment around power lines. An adult should supervise any activity that is around electricity, transformer boxes and power lines.

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More About Farm Safety...

Agriculture ranks among the most hazardous industries. Farmers can get hurt or killed as can family members and others who visit farms and ranches. According to the High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety, there

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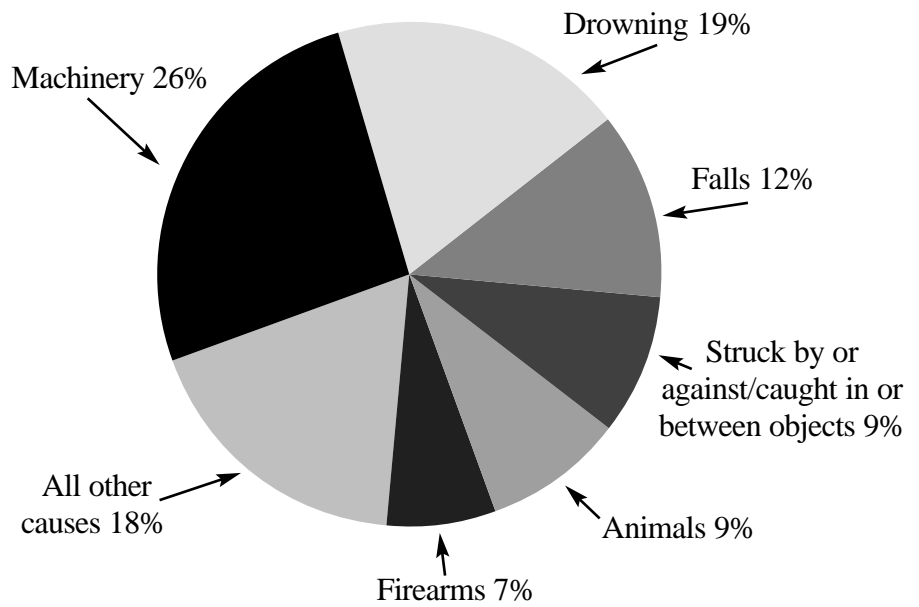
are nearly 1.7 million children under 20 years of age living on farms and ranches in the United States. These children are twice as likely to die from an accident as their urban counterparts.

In Colorado during 1999, there were 28 children killed on farms and ranches. Accidents involving farm equipment or machinery were the leading cause of death. Most of the children who die or are injured are boys. Boys are most at risk of getting trapped and suffocating in flowing grain. Girls are more likely to have horse-related injuries.

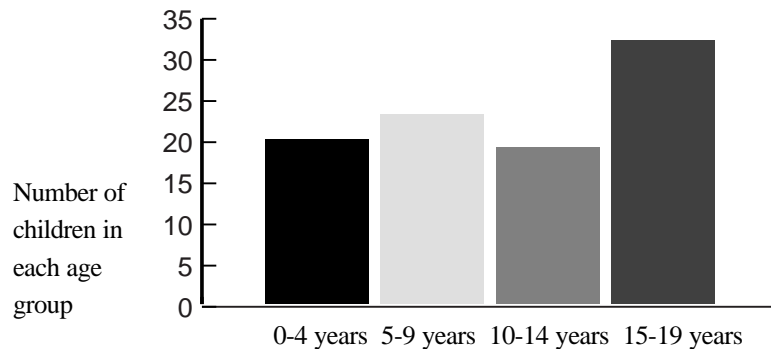
In addition to tractors, farm machinery and livestock, children on farms may be exposed to other situations capable of producing health hazards in the future. Some of these exposures are noise, vibration, pesticides, dangerous gases and airborne irritants. It's

important to remember—almost all accidents and injuries are preventable.

Leading causes of fatal farm injuries to persons less than 20 years old. Colorado 1982-1996 Source: NIOSH



Fatal farm injuries to persons less than 20 years old, by age group. United States, 1996 Source: NIOSH



SAFETY FACTS

- Most of the 200-plus deaths nationally among children on farms result from being innocent bystanders or passengers on farm equipment. Surveys indicate that many farm children are working in dangerous environments by the age of 10.
- In 1992, an estimated 34,636 emergency room visits were made by U.S. children and young adults as a result of horse-related injuries.
- Objects thrown from a lawn mower can reach speeds of 200 miles per hour or more.

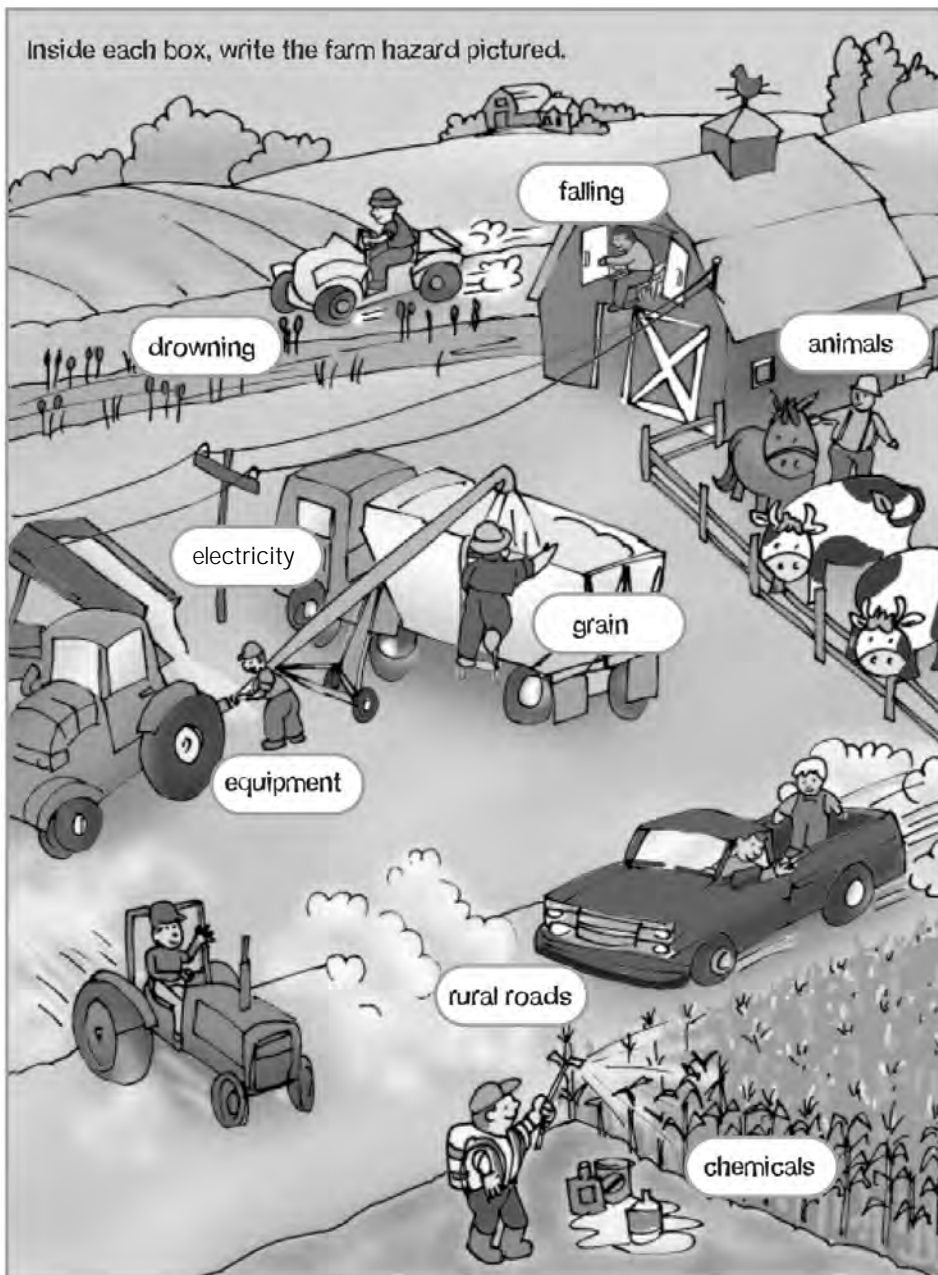
Role-Playing Activity and Discussion: 9-1-1

Talk to your students about the fact that all of Colorado is served by 9-1-1. Note that non-emergency calls to 9-1-1 should not be made and can create delays in handling real emergency situations.

Discuss some possible NON-EMERGENCY situations including:

- minor illness or injury not requiring immediate help such as the flu/common cold or ongoing aches and pain
- Minor cuts
- Broken fingers or toes
- Emotional upsets
- Routine transportation to medical offices, clinics and hospitals

Page 3: Answer to Farm Hazard Quiz



- Vomiting blood
- Sudden fainting /unconsciousness
- Convulsions/seizures (uncontrolled jerking, movements – the patient may fall to the floor)
- Severe allergic reaction (difficulty breathing/unresponsive)
- Major burns (white or charred skin: blisters and redness over large area)
- Someone who will not wake up, even when you shake them

More emergency situations include injuries from:

- Traffic accidents
- Head Injury
- Significant falls
- Physical entrapment (e.g., car accident with victim trapped in the vehicle)

Select a couple of students to participate in a role-playing activity. Using a couple of unplugged phones, set up a desk for a 9-1-1 dispatcher and have another student use the other phone as a caller.

Review EMERGENCY situations including life-threatening scenarios such as:

- Breathing difficulty/shortness of breath/ breathing cessation
- Choking (can't talk or breathe)
- Constant chest pain - in adults (lasting longer than two minutes)
- Uncontrollable bleeding/large amount of blood loss
- Drowning
- Electrocution
- Drug overdose/poisoning
- Gunshot wounds, stabbings

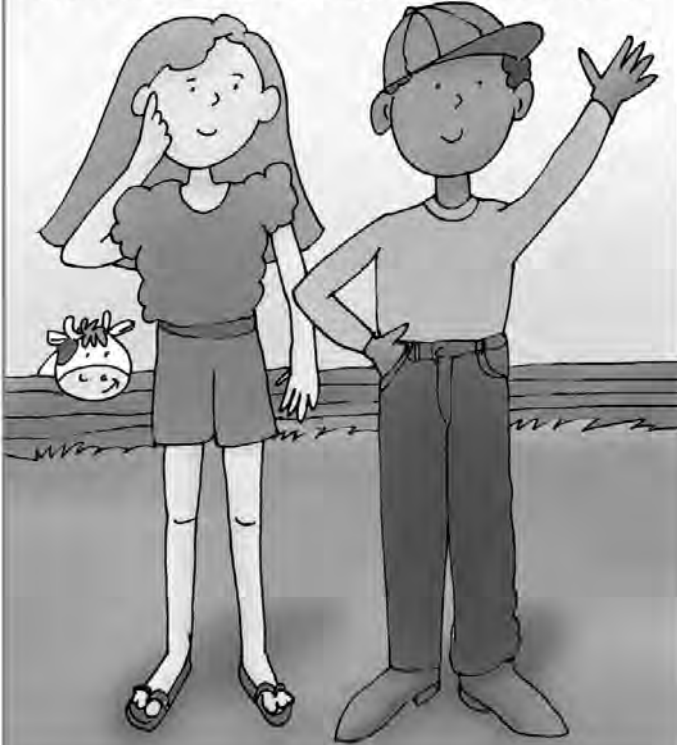
Some of the questions the dispatcher can ask:

- What's wrong? What's the emergency? Is there a medical or fire emergency?
- Where is the emergency? Give the address and telephone number including building number, apartment number, nearest cross street. The name of the building is also helpful.
- Who needs help? Give the dispatcher the age and number of people.
- Is the person conscious?
- Is the person breathing?

Ask the caller to remain calm and give direct
(continued on page 4)

Page 5: Dressing Properly Answers

Who is ready to help feed the cows?



There's a reason that farmers and ranchers dress the way they do. Their clothing helps protect them. On the lines below, write about how each piece of clothing the boy is wearing protects him.
Cap protects him from the sun. Long sleeves protect him from sun and scratches. Long pants protect his legs from injury. Steel toed boots protect his feet from animals and falling objects.

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answers to the questions asked. They should speak slowly and clearly.

Some of the things the caller can do while they are waiting for help to arrive:

- Tell the patient that help is on the way.
- Keep off the phone after the 9-1-1 call is made, in case they need to call you back.
- Ask someone to wait out front to meet the ambulance and lead the way.
- Wave a flashlight or turn on car flashers or porch light if it's dark or visibility is poor.
- Put pets, especially dogs, in a separate area.
- Gather or make a list of the medications that the patient is using and give to emergency personnel.

Page 6: More about electricity...

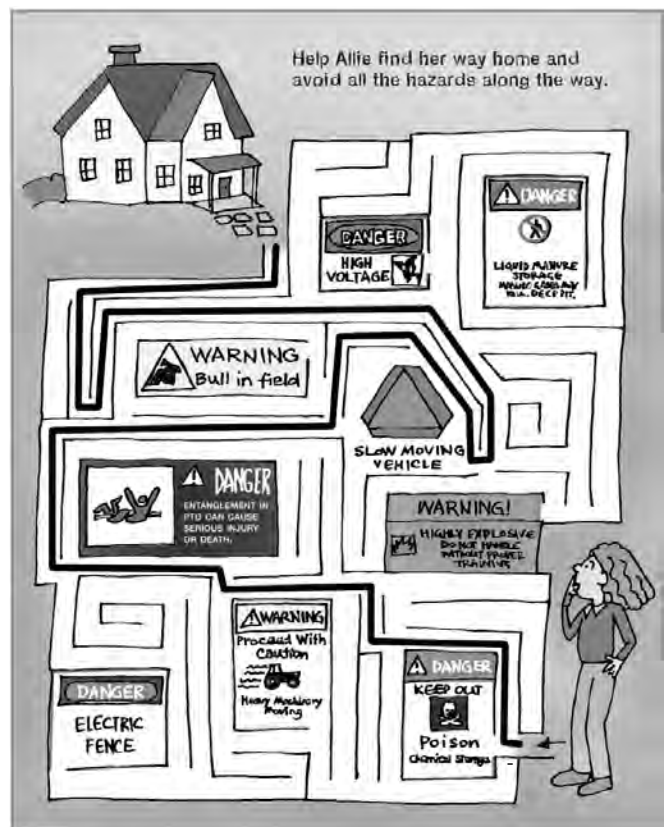
Some additional electricity safety rules include:

1. Never fly kites with a wire or a wet string even

in good weather. Static electricity can build up enough on the kite and string to be dangerous.

2. Avoid overloading wall outlets or extension cords. Overloaded extension cords can cause fires. Don't cover cords with rugs or other objects. They can overheat or get worn and start a fire.
3. Have a working fire extinguisher and smoke detectors in your home. Don't use water on an electric fire. Use only fire extinguishers made for electrical fires.
4. If you see a car that has hit a telephone/electric pole, you should tell the people to stay in their car. The best way to help is to call 9-1-1.

Page 7: Hazardous Sign Maze Answer:



ELECTRIC FACT

- Metal, water and your body (which is 70% water) conduct electricity. That's why you can get shocked or electrocuted by touching an uninsulated piece of electric wire.