



The Lone Star

Agricultural Safety & Health Newsletter
Biological & Agricultural Engineering Department - Texas A&M University

Falling Objects Hazard Demonstration

Objective:

Show participants the dangers associated with heavy objects.

After this Demonstration, the Student Should be Able to:

1. Understand the dangers of heavy objects.
2. Identify potential hazards on farm.

Preparation:

1. Obtain a heavy corral gate and a watermelon.
2. Lean corral gate against a building or posts.

Procedure:

1. Ask participants how many have gates, dual wheels, posts and other objects leaning against a fence or building on their farm.
 2. Ask the participants how many of them climb on these objects.
 3. Ask participants why this is dangerous.
 4. Discuss how many people don't recognize these hazards because the objects just don't appear to be dangerous.
 5. Place the watermelon on the ground so that the top of the gate will hit it.
 6. Stand the gate up, and release it so it falls on the watermelon. Note: If you are using the watermelon, don't allow participants to eat it afterward.
 7. Point out to participants that anything that could crush a watermelon to this extent could cause serious head trauma if it hit them.
 8. Stand the gate up and show participants how to secure it to prevent it from falling (or show them how to keep it flat on the ground).
 9. Ask participants to give examples of similar hazards that are not often thought of as being dangerous.
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