

Visual Effects on Farm Safety

The agriculture work environment is very unique; it has a wide range of safety hazards that are very difficult to assess unless a detailed observation is conducted on specific work practices performed on the fields. To ensure a proper understanding on agriculture work hazards, visual content must be included in training materials. This will enhance the quality of training and provide safety professionals with an effective tool to teach farm safety related topics. This is even more critical when training is given to agricultural workers and operators with limited learning skills or language barriers. There is a need to improve the visual content of farm safety training materials, and efforts should be put to capture real scenarios to show potential work hazards and what control measures need to be taken to reduce risk. Visual effect is essential to conceptualize the nature of safety in agriculture. It not only will improve safety, but provide valuable information to safety specialists and scholars in this subject matter to improve how agriculture safety standards are assessed and regulated. Additionally, visual content will facilitate valuable information to understand how OSHA general industry standards can help to interpret and teach certain agricultural work practices. In 2011, the University of Florida and the Institute of Food and Agriculture Science (IFAS) begins to develop a series of farm safety training videos in different agricultural crop production. Videos were filmed on site capturing agricultural practices implemented by local growers and showing environmental scenarios of their production area. The impact and response for growers and farmers was very positive. Between 2013 and 2014, three hundred copies of the farm safety videos were requested and sent to agricultural companies. A survey was conducted on twenty farmers and the following are some result findings: 20 (100%) responded that they will use the farm safety videos in their training programs; 19 (95%) responded that using real and local scenarios will improve worker safety; 20 (100%) responded that they expect some reduction in farm injuries and incidents. Out of the 300 videos requested by farmers, 40% (120) of the requests were for the Tractor Safety video. This video has some special effects to show hazards when working and driving tractors on farm and public roads. You can watch the tractor safety video at:

<http://www.pbcgov.com/coextension/agriculture/training/farm-safety-education/farmsafetyvideos/>

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