Safety “Kohn” Standard

Information provided by Thomas Kohn, CALS Safety Coordinator

What is “Cold Stress” management?
The passage of summer to fall happened on September 22 this year which is called the Autumnal Equinox. We may still have a few warm sunny days ahead of us but we need to start preparing for not so hospitable weather that will inevitably come.

What constitutes cold stress, and its effects can vary across different areas of the country. In regions that do not normally receive winter weather, near freezing temperatures are considered factors for "cold stress." Increased wind speed also causes heat to leave the body more rapidly (wind chill effect). Wetness or dampness, even from body sweat, also facilitates heat loss from the body. Cold stress occurs by driving down the skin temperature, and eventually the internal body temperature. When the body is unable to warm itself, serious cold-related illnesses and injuries may occur, and permanent tissue damage and death may result. Types of cold stress may include trench foot, frostbite, and hypothermia.

Click on links for additional information
Cold Weather training for Ag. Research Stations
OSHA Winter Weather – Plan, Equip, Train.
NIOSH – Cold Stress information page
UMASH – Cold Stress Toolkit

CALS Safety Website

Worker Protection Standard (WPS) training is required annually for any personnel that may be exposed to pesticides in the fields or greenhouses. Visit https://safety.cals.wisc.edu/cals-safety-training/ to learn more and register for trainings.

NFPA Fire Prevention Week is October 9-15, 2022
Theme – “Fire Won’t Wait. Plan Your Escape”

The Fire Prevention Week 2022 theme, promotes potentially life-saving messages that can mean the difference between life and death in a fire. Developing a home escape plan with all members of the household and practicing it regularly ensures that everyone knows what to do when the smoke alarm sounds and uses that time wisely.

According to NFPA data, home — the place people feel safest from fire — is actually where they are at greatest risk, with three-quarters (74 percent) of all U.S. fire deaths occurring in homes. When a home fire does occur, it’s more likely to be serious; people are more likely to die in a home fire today than they were in 1980.