



# Tailgate Safety Training for Landscaping and Horticultural Services

Agricultural Safety Program, 590 Woody Hayes Drive, Columbus, OH 43210

## First on the Scene

**Objective: Develop crisis intervention skills.**

### *How to Use This Module*

Those who are first on the scene of an accident play a critical role. For this module:

- Read the information below on what to do when you are first on the scene.
- Ask other workers for examples of their own experiences as first on the scene; relate your experiences too.
- Review the important points.
- Take the True/False quiz to check your learning.

## Background

When an accident happens in the green industries, rescues are often more difficult:

- Equipment is very rugged. Standard rescue equipment, such as hydraulic rescue tools and metal-cutting saws, easily removes automobile pieces but may not work on more solidly built machinery.
- The accident scene may be a remote location.
- Access to the scene may be poor.
- Rescue workers may not be familiar with green industry operations.

## When You Are First on the Scene

Intervention should never endanger the rescuer or bystanders or put the victim in graver danger. If possible, put an emergency phone number in speed dial. Or post emergency phone numbers near all phones. A local volunteer fire department or emergency rescue squad member would be an ideal trainer.

- **Designate a leader.** A worker who has had first aid training or the senior worker should assume leadership. This person should direct the rescue until the emergency squad arrives and should update the squad on treatment administered.
- **Assign a specific person to call for help.** The ambulance dispatcher will need to know the location and condition of the scene (muddy, steep, rough), type of equipment involved in the accident, number of victims, and the extent of their injuries.
- **Assess the rescue situation.** Evaluate the situation and develop an escape plan. Stabilize equipment to

minimize the chance of collapse or further injury. Know the limitations of the helpers and available equipment.

- **Establish a hazard zone.** Only the rescuers should be in the area. Keep all others out of danger and out of the way. The scene may contain hazards such as fire, toxic or flammable gases, chemicals, pesticides, and structural damage.
- **Provide emergency first aid.** Restore breathing and circulation if necessary. If there is bleeding, apply pressure to related pressure points. Administer any additional first aid treatment.
- **Provide ventilation.** In a confined space, the victim may need clean fresh air — for example, in an injury during pesticide application inside a greenhouse.
- **Stay calm.** Calm the victim by keeping one rescuer near the victim at all times.
- **If amputation occurs:** Locate the appendage and wrap it in a moist towel. Keep it on ice, but do not let it freeze. If the appendage is in pieces, send each piece to the hospital as it is found.

## Review These Important Points

- Appoint a worker to lead until the emergency squad arrives.
- Call for emergency help as quickly as possible.
- Assess the situation and start first aid.
- Establish a hazard zone.
- Locate any appendage and transfer to the care unit.

## About These Modules

The author team for the training modules in the landscape and horticultural tailgate training series includes Dee Jepsen, Program Director, Agricultural Safety and Health, Ohio State University Extension; Michael Wonacott, Research Specialist, Vocational Education; Peter Ling, Greenhouse Specialist; and Thomas Bean, Agricultural Safety Specialist. Modules were developed with funding from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Grant Number 46E3-HT09.

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Answer Key: 1 = T, 2 = T, 3 = T, 4 = T, 5 = T.

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*Name* \_\_\_\_\_

### True or False?

1. Someone should take the leadership of the rescue activity as soon as possible. T F
2. If additional help is needed, do not hesitate to call. T F
3. After locating a missing appendage, wrap it in a moist towel and place it on ice. T F
4. Plan the rescue and then take action. T F
5. One rescuer should remain with the victim at all times. T F