

Cumbustible grain dust the subject of workshops

To increase safety awareness at grain elevators, feed mills and other grain-processing facilities, Kansas State University's Department of Grain Science and Industry is offering free workshops in English and Spanish on combustible dust hazards.

In Colby, the workshop will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Aug. 14, at the City Limits Convention Center.

Another will be offered Tuesday, Aug. 13, at the Southwest Research-Extension Office in Garden City, in English from 8 a.m. to noon and in Spanish from 1-5 p.m.

Project leader Kingsly Ambrose, assistant professor in grain science and industry, said the interactive workshops will deal with grain dust explosion hazards among workers and supervisors. The workshops, handouts and lec-

ture materials are free.

"It is important to educate supervisors and managers on training their employees using best practices to curtail the risk of dust explosions," said Dirk Maier, head of the Department of Grain Science and Industry. "This workshop will communicate practical risk information on dust hazards to mitigate fatalities and loss in grain handling and processing facilities."

Ambrose noted that grain dust explosions are caused by five factors: powder-fine grain dust, confinement of dust in an enclosed space, dust dispersion in the air, an ignition source, and oxygen. Reducing combustible dust, keeping it out of the air and controlling ignition sources significantly reduce the probability of an explosion.

The workshops will include

talks by K-State faculty, hands-on activities and an explosion demonstration. This initiative is being paid for with a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

"The long term goal of this team is to continue this effort of raising awareness about grain dust explosion hazards through training activities," Ambrose said. "We are collaborating with the Grain Elevator and Processing Society to offer a distance education course on grain dust explosions starting this fall."

To register for any of the workshops, go to www.grains.ksu.edu/igp and select the link under 'Upcoming Short Courses.'

For information, contact Ambrose at grainindust@k-state.edu or (785) 532-4091.



MARC ALWIN/Colby Free Press

Steve Alwin, owner of Raynor doors in Colby, stood in front of a van used by his business after winning national recognition from Raynor.

Colby business receives recognition from company

Raynor Doors of Colby received national recognition last month, receiving the Blue Sapphire Award and Premier Partner Commercial Award from Raynor Worldwide.

The Premier Partner award, one of only 10 presented nationwide this year, honors the company for increasing its sales

of their commercial products. These include garage doors and openers like those typically installed in machine sheds, shops and businesses.

The Colby business, a distributor for Raynor Worldwide, has served the northwest Kansas area for 33 years, installing residential and commercial ga-

rage doors for hundreds of miles around, said owner Steve Alwin.

Operations Manager Marc Alwin said it is an honor to receive these awards.

"It shows we do the kind of quality work that keeps our customers coming back," he said.

Kansans should take precautions when summer heat gets excessive

With summer officially here, Kansans can expect temperatures to be high much of the time.

With that in mind, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management wants everyone to watch their local weather forecasts for the following terms:

- Excessive heat outlook: Issued when the potential exists for excessive heat in the next three to seven days. An outlook provides considerable lead time to prepare for the event.

- Excessive heat watch: Issued when conditions are favorable for excessive heat in the next 12 to 48 hours.

- Excessive heat warning or Advisory: Issued when excessive heat is expected in the next 36 hours. The warning is used for conditions posing a threat to life or property.

Follow these common sense safety precautions to avoid heat-related injuries:

- Stay indoors as much as possible and limit exposure to the sun.

- Stay on the lowest floor out of the sunshine if air conditioning is not available.

- Consider spending the warmest part of the day in public buildings such as libraries, schools, movie theaters, shopping malls and other community facilities. Circulating air can cool the body by increasing the perspiration rate of evaporation.

- Eat well-balanced, light, regular meals.

- Drink plenty of water. Persons who have epilepsy or heart, kidney, or liver disease, are on fluid-restricted diets, or have a problem with fluid retention should consult a doctor before increasing liquid intake.

- Limit intake of alcoholic bev-

erages.

- Dress in loose-fitting, lightweight and light-colored clothing that covers as much skin as possible.

- Protect head and face by wearing a wide-brimmed hat.

- Check on family, friends and neighbors who do not have air conditioning and who spend much of their time alone.

- Never leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles.

- Avoid strenuous work during the warmest part of the day. Use a buddy system when working in extreme heat, and take frequent breaks.

- Keep an eye on friends and family to watch for signs of heat-related problems:

- Sunburn: Redness and pain. In severe cases, swelling of skin, blisters, fever, and headaches.

- First aid: Ointments for mild cases if blisters appear and do not break. If breaking occurs, apply sterile dressing. Serious, extensive cases should be seen by a physician.

- Heat cramps: Painful spasms usually in muscles of the legs and abdomen possible. Heavy sweating. First Aid: Firm pressure on cramping muscles, or gentle massage to relieve spasm. Give sips of water. If nausea occurs, stop giving water.

- Heat exhaustion: Heavy sweating, weakness, skin that is cold, clammy, and pale. Pulse thready. Normal temperature is possible. Fainting and vomiting.

- First aid: Get victim out of the sun. Lie down and loosen clothing. Apply wet, cool cloths. Fan or move victim to air conditioned room. Give sips of water. If nausea occurs, stop giving water. If vomiting continues, seek immedi-

ate attention.

- Heat stroke (or sunstroke): High body temperature (106 degrees or higher). Hot, dry skin. Rapid and strong pulse. Possible unconsciousness.

- First aid: Get victim out of the sun. Lie down and loosen clothing. Apply wet, cool cloths. Seek immediate medical attention.

- Pets can suffer from the heat, so take these precautions:

- Never leave a pet unattended in the car on a warm or sunny day;

- When taking a dog for a walk on a hot day, plan for shorter walks midday when temperatures peak, and longer walks in the morning and evening when it's cooler. Hot sidewalks can burn the pads on a dog's paws, so walk on the grass when possible;

- Pet rabbits should be kept indoors because they don't tolerate heat well.

- Shade and water are a must. Anytime your pet is outside, make sure he or she has protection from heat and sun (a doghouse does not provide relief from heat), and plenty of fresh, cool water. Heat stroke can be fatal for pets.

- Recognize the signs of heatstroke. In case of an emergency, it's important to be able to identify the symptoms. When in doubt, contact your veterinarian immediately. Some signs of heatstroke are: heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid heartbeat, restlessness, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, lack of coordination, profuse salivation, vomiting, a deep red or purple tongue and unconsciousness.

- If the animal shows symptoms of heatstroke, take steps immediately to gradually lower the body temperature and contact your veterinarian as soon as possible.

Forestry coordinator passionate about his job

Each time Bob Atchison sees kids playing in a park, a family having a picnic, or an American bald eagle building a nest in a tall Kansas cottonwood, he tends to get more passionate about his job.

As the rural forestry coordinator for the Kansas Forest Service, Atchison has a broad perspective toward the state's 5.2 million acres of forest land.

"Healthy forests, woodlands and windbreaks are as important to our national infrastructure as roads and bridges," Atchison said. "The jobs and products they produce are worth protecting."

In Kansas, 95 percent of forest land is privately owned. It's why Atchison and others connected to the state's forest service spent much of the past three years drafting an action plan to help educate families, and support them in protecting this natural resource.

The Kansas Forest Action Plan is part of an effort headed by the National Association of State Foresters and the U.S. Forest Service to manage and maintain the country's 423 million acres of private forests, and 100 million acres of urban forests.

Atchison said there are three

types of forests in Kansas: agro-forests that include windbreaks and streamside trees that surround croplands; community or urban forests that line main streets, parks and yards in local communities; and the rural forests and woodlands located primarily in the eastern third of Kansas.

These forests are crucial for everyday life, he said, because trees and other woodlands can filter air and water, making them safer for humans. But they also contribute to quality of life because they provide recreational opportunities and even a nice place to relax in the shade.

Plus, it is estimated that forestry-related businesses contribute \$1.3 billion to the state's economy, and support more than 6,700 jobs.

"Kansas forests provide important economic and environmental benefits to the people of the state," Atchison said.

The Kansas Forest Action Plan was finalized in early 2013 and is now being implemented. It identifies threats to Kansas forests and will help state officials target resources efficiently, "especially in these tough economic times,"

Atchison said.

Those threats include pests such as emerald ash borer; thousand cankers disease of black walnut; pine wilt; and exotic invasive plants like tamarisk, Russian olive and Amur honeysuckle that threaten the health of woodlands and wildlife.

"If we don't act soon to protect our forests, woodlands and windbreaks in Kansas, they could be damaged forever," Atchison said.

The plan can be accessed online at www.kansasforests.org/about/about.shtml. More information also is available by contacting the Kansas Forest Service at (785) 532-3300.

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