

Safety First



Safety comes first on any job. Here are some tips for preventing injuries:

General: Package no more than 1,000 seedlings in a bale or bag to prevent back strain.

Haul workers and tools or supplies together only when tools are enclosed in a toolbox that is securely fastened to the bed and securely closed or when tools are fastened together and securely lashed to floor.

Use safety cans for storing and handling fuel.

Planting: Use care when handling seedlings treated with chemicals. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water or other hand cleaner after handling chemicals. Change clothes if they become soiled with chemicals.

See that tree planters wear nonskid boots; snug fitting clothing; cuffless, snag-proof, and tear-resistant trousers; gloves; and long-sleeved shirts.

Make sure planters in wooded areas wear hardhats and eye protecting devices (safety glasses, goggles, or eye shields). Provide the planting crew with pocket First Aid Kits and equip the work truck with a larger First Aid Kit.

Make snake bite kits available.

Provide wire cutting pliers with carrying holsters to remove metal strapping around bales and bags.

Carry planting bars at the side (not on the shoulder when walking). Keep planters at least 10 feet apart when they are carrying tools.

Advise the planters to watch their footing on rocky slopes and in and around gullies.

Insist that tractor and planter operators wear hardhats.

Put a warning signal device on planting machines so the planter can signal to tractor operator to stop in case of emergency.