



AgriSafetyNet

Agricultural Safety Through Lifelong Learning

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Module 5

FIRST AID



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Description of the module

The purpose of this course is to provide basic information on first aid and to make people aware of life-threatening factors linked to a farmer or any agriculture-related position. Having finished this course, the participants should be able to deal with dangerous situations by applying basic first aid rules and be aware of the importance of first aid and when it may save people's lives. The significance of first aid goes far beyond farming situations; it is indispensable on a daily basis. Hence the need to make courses like this.

Course syllabus

1. First aid according to law
2. When first aid saves lives
3. Calling for help
4. Diagram of the procedure during the rescue operation
5. What the injured or other person reporting the accident should do
6. First aid when working with plant protection products
7. For farms, distributors and other entities working with plant protection products
8. Ability to give first aid in case of emergency by agricultural family members

Contents

1. First aid according to law

The legal obligation to provide assistance is set out in all EU countries in the relevant law regulation and which states more-less:

1. Who does not provide assistance to a person in a situation threatening with immediate danger of loss of life or serious damage to health, being able to provide it without endangering themselves or another person in danger of loss of life or serious damage to health - shall be punishable by imprisonment.

2. Who does not provide assistance for which it is necessary to undergo medical treatment or in conditions in which immediate assistance is possible from the institution or the person appointed to do so, does not commit a crime.¹

2. When first aid saves lives

First aid at the accident site saves lives when the injured party experiences:

- breathing disorders (apnoea)
- cardiac arrest
- haemorrhage

The main task is to determine whether the processes that directly determine the victim's life are preserved: palpable pulse, breath, patency

Lifesaving ad hoc activities include:

- Evacuation of the victim from the danger area
- Resuscitation
- Control of severe bleeding
- Laying on the side
- Fight against shock
- Securing the accident site

¹To be adjusted according to the relevant EU countries regulations

3. Calling for aid

Calling for aid must contain five details:

1. Where did it happen?
2. What happened?
3. How many victims are there?
4. What are the injuries?
5. Who is calling for help?

4. Diagram of the procedure during the rescue operation

- Call for help
- Assess the consciousness of the injured person (attempted verbal contact and his orientation in the environment)
- Open airway
- Place the injured person in the recovery position
- In case of apnoea or inefficient breathing, start artificial respiration using the "mouth-to-mouth" method, and in case of cardiac arrest, proceed to external cardiac massage
- In case of bleeding, stop the haemorrhage, lay the victim flat with the legs raised above the torso (to increase blood supply to the brain and heart)
- Protect the patient from moisture and heat loss (cover with a blanket or waterproof material)
- Ensure proper breathing
- Carry out the rescue operation until the arrival of medical personnel

5. What the injured or other person reporting the accident should do

The injured person or other person reporting the accident should in particular:

- secure the place and objects related to the accident, if possible
- provide access to the accident site and items related to the accident
- indicate the witnesses of the accident
- provide your treatment records

- provide information and comprehensive assistance to an employee of the Fund authorized by the President of the Fund to conduct evidentiary proceedings regarding the determination of the circumstances and causes of an accident.

6. First aid when working with plant protection products

What to do when:

- The poisoned is UNCONSCIOUS AND DOES NOT BREATHE - do artificial respiration (mouth-to-mouth or mouth-to-nose until the doctor arrives!)
- The poisoned is UNCONSCIOUS, BUT BREATHES - put him or her in a lateral position - on the side (placing the head on the side prevents the tongue from sinking)
- Transport the unconscious on the side
- The poisoned is RESTLESS, AGITATED AND HAS CONVULSIONS - give the poisoned (but not during the seizures) 2 tablets of Luminal. Do not give anything by mouth or induce vomiting during seizures. You can do artificial mouth breathing by mouth or nose
- EYES ARE CONTAMINATED - flush eyes with plenty of distilled water, then add 2 drops of Sol. Neomycin and 2 drops of glycerine
- Direct patient to an ophthalmologist immediately after providing first aid
- There has been poisoning with CARBAMINATES OR PHOSPHORIC COMPOUNDS give an ampoule of atropine orally. If the patient is unconscious, give a subcutaneous or intramuscular injection. If after 15 minutes the symptoms do not improve or get worse, give another ampoule and after another 15 minutes a third
- Do not give atropine if the poisoned is bruising!
- Poisoned is coughing - give 2 tablets of Pentoxyverine

IF POISONING HAS BEEN THROUGH:

- LEATHER - put on disposable gloves from the first-aid kit
- Take off contaminated clothing. Remove the remains of the poison with gauze.
- RESPIRATORY SYSTEM - take the poisoned out of reach of the poison. Relax your clothes. Protect him from the sun, but also from cooling

- **INFLAMMATORY SYSTEM** - If no more than 6 hours have passed since poisoning, try to induce vomiting. Give the table salt solution and irritate the back wall of the throat. If necessary, give brine twice more (every 10-15 min.) Give paraffin orally (to prevent the poison from being absorbed into the digestive system). If there is no diarrhoea, give bitter salt
- If the poisoned person is unconscious, do not enter anything into the mouth or induce vomiting
- Do not give castor oil and other fats (including milk!) as they facilitate the absorption of pesticides

7. For farms, distributors and other entities working with plant protection products²

Ordinal number	Name of medicament / agent	Quantity in the first aid kit
1	Atropine (Atropinum sulfuricum) in ampoules 0.001 g	4 amp.
2	2 Luminal (Luminalum) tablets 0.1 g	3 pieces
3	3 Codeini phosphas hemihydricus - tablets	5 pieces
4	4 eye drops (gentamicin 0.3%) with 10 ml each)	1 piece
5	Bitter salt (Magnesium sulfuricum) in a pack containing 15 g	1 pack
6	Kitchen salt (Natrium chloratum) in packs of 20 g	3 packs
7	Mento-paraffinol in packs of 12 g	1 pack
8	Syringe with a disposable needle (for atropine)	4 sets
9	Disposable gloves	2 pairs
10	Sterile distilled water	1 pack
11	Gas compresses	3 packs

² According to the relevant country law

12	Flat container (use first aid kit)	1 piece
13	Disposable cup	3 pieces

8. Ability to give first aid in case of emergency by agricultural family members

Agriculture in Europe is a basic branch of the economy in which several million people work. The accident rate in agriculture is almost twice as high as in other sectors of the economy. This is due to the fact that the working environment of farmers is extremely diverse, and the accident hazards concern the same person. During the work performed by the farmer there are as many as 19 significant threats, so the scale of the problem is very large. The farmer is in contact with machines (physical factors), plant protection products and fertilizers (chemical agents), insects, moulds (biological agents)³. This situation does not occur in other branches of the economy, where jobs are permanent. The largest group among accidents in individual farming are those related to moving around the farm. The second place in the structure is occupied by accidents related to animal husbandry, while the third - agricultural technique⁴

A large number of accident occurrences are caused by non-compliance with health and safety rules, improper operation of limbs in the danger zone and coordination of collective work, as well as failure to read the instructions. Accidents are also favoured by the wrong work pace and rush, especially in variable atmospheric conditions⁵. In view of such a high accident rate in agriculture, it is important to be able to respond properly and prevent accidents. Hence an idea to make an enquiry destined for farmers and their families.

Research results indicate that despite many opportunities to undergo health and safety courses and numerous activities of Social Security Services to reduce accidents in agriculture, pre-medical knowledge of many farmers (22%) is based mainly on information from the mass media and their own life experience. First aid rules are

³ Romanowska-Słomka, Cież 2006

⁴ Cież 1996

⁵ Kaczmarek 2011

constantly being improved and changed, so the messages of the respondents were not always up to date. The first aid rules are constantly being improved and changed, so the messages of the respondents were not always up to date.

For the last time the "ERC Resuscitation Guidelines" were updated in 2020 by the European Resuscitation Council⁶. Over half of the respondents (56%) declared their readiness to help in case of necessity of carrying out resuscitation themselves. The rest of the respondents, due to stress accompanying in such situations and their incomplete knowledge, would not actively participate in the rescue operation. In similar studies, as much as 61% of drivers living in the countryside declared to help road accident victims. Rare situations such as: the need to provide resuscitation, viper bite, or epilepsy attack turned out to be the most difficult subject areas for respondents. Accident rate in EU agriculture is gradually decreasing, however, it is still very high⁷. Preparation for providing assistance in such situations, taking into account remote location of farms from the nearest emergency ambulance stations is downright necessary. Particular emphasis should be put on resuscitation – especially a practical part to increase the knowledge and thus the confidence of those providing help.



⁶https://cprguidelines.eu/sites/573c777f5e61585a053d7ba5/content_entry5cd01dea4c84860815e4d2ce/5cd524484c84860815e4d301/files/First_Aid.pdf?

⁷ **Necessary** to update by each partner about own country

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References

Rozprawy społeczne: Umiejętność udzielania pierwszej pomocy w nagłych wypadkach przez członków rodzin rolniczych

<http://rozprawy->

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