
•CULTIVATION•

The Newsletter for The Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education

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From the Director...

A Shrimper's Response to the Gulf Oil Spill

Eleven oil rig workers died in the April 20th explosion on Deepwater Horizon; over 45,000 volunteer clean up workers responded to the disaster ; and countless commercial fishermen docked their vessels as the fishing waters closed. Currently, an estimated 90 to 180 million gallons of oil remain in the Gulf waters. Experts have predicted that the oil spill will have a greater negative impact on the environment than on human health; however, the workers affected by the spill are undoubtedly suffering physically and mentally. As of June 24th, 400 oil exposure complaints and 100 oil spill related illnesses had been reported. The emotional and mental toll on impacted workers is not as easy to quantify. The press release below was written by a valued stakeholder to the research project: *Innovative Approaches to Worker Health Protection Among Shrimp Fishermen of the Gulf Coast*. The narrative chronicles the recent struggles faced by commercial fishermen.

“PRESS RELEASE ;in the past 5 years to the present and onto the future, i see the fishermen very tired, because the Hurricane Katrina disaster in year 2005. Hurricane Katrina destroyed hundreds of fishermen vessels. The fishermen tried to fix the damages as much as they could in order to have their lives back to normal. After the fishermen repaired their vessels and put their lives back together, Hurricanes Gustav and Ike hit Louisiana in the year of 2008. Not many vessels were damaged, but the trees were blown into the bayou and Gulf of Mexico. Fishermen could not work due the tree branches and such in the water. The branches would tear the nets to shreds. The seafood industries came to a halt and the importing and exporting of seafood slowed down. The prices for shrimp were cheap. The diesel price was too high for the fishermen. The fishermen could not afford the diesel due to the slow down in the seafood industry. This year the fishermen were happy, because of the shrimp price went up. This year would have been a lot of shrimp in the bayou and Gulf, but due to the oil spill by the company, B.P., there has been a delay in the shrimping season. There is no way to stop the oil spill yet. If the oil leakage can not be stopped, then between now and August the Hurricane season will return and the bad weather would push the oil to the land areas. The land areas are the shrimps, fish, oysters, crabs, and etc. habitat. This is were they multiply and are raised. If this is to happen, about 5-10 years from now, there would be no seafood available and the shrimping season will be closed. The fishermen is concerned about their jobs and how they would be able to take care of their families. They will lose their vessels, jobs, homes, cars, and etc. They would not be able to pay the bills. The families would be torn apart. President Barack Obama, senators, ad congressman has visited Venice, Louisiana about the oil spill. What are their ideas about this situation. All the fishermen are asking for help from the locals, districts, parishes, states, and the government.

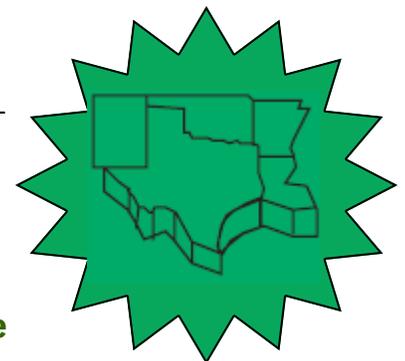
ROBERT PHONG NGUYEN-commercial fishermen shrimper from 1986 to now “



Meet the Advisory Board

Featured Member: Chuck Tucker, M.S. Agriculture

Charles (Chuck) Tucker is the Director of Organization and Member Programs for the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation. Chuck has held numerous positions within the OMP department in his 24 year career, including three years directing the safety efforts. In his current position, Chuck is responsible for the member program efforts of ArFB including safety, Ag in the Classroom, community development, rural health and the organizational efforts of 76 county Farm Bureaus and 227, 000 member families.



Summer 2010

Chemical/Pesticide Look a Like Display

The SW Ag Center frequently receives requests for chemical and pesticide safety education. Audiences range from preschool age children to migrant farmworkers and family forestry businesses. Copious materials currently exist to assist educators in delivering chemical and pesticide safety information, but a visual demonstration of dangerous household items and their safe look-alikes was needed.

The display created addresses two look-a-like concerns: similar packaging and similar substances. Some chemical containers look like drinks or food. They frequently have fruit, like lemons or apples, on their labels to indicate the scent of the product. They may also have an hour glass shape with a grip in the middle like many drinks. Over the counter and prescription drugs are also considered chemicals. Many pills and powders in homes look like candy or other familiar food items. For example, some pain relievers look like tic tacs. Household and commercial pesticides can also pose look-a-like problems. Some flea killers are in powder form and closely resemble powdered sugar or flour.

The chemical/pesticide look-a-like display is contained in a sturdy plastic rolling case. Similar substances are safely shown in closed, numbered test tubes. They are arranged in matching pairs to facilitate an interactive game: Safe or Unsafe. Similar substances are paired on the opposite site.



For more information on how to build your own look-a-like display or to request a demonstration, contact Amanda at 903-877-5998 or by email to amanda.wickman@uthct.edu.

- 1-Jelly Beans
- 2-Benedryl
- 3-Powdered Sugar
- 4-Flea Killer



HOT Online Resources

[Migrant Farmworker Occupational Health Reference Manual](http://www.migrantclinician.org/toolsource/resource/migrant-farmworker-occupational-health-reference-manual.html)

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This comprehensive manual was developed by the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine & Health and the Migrant Clinicians Network for the diagnosis and treatment of occupational injuries in migrant and seasonal farmworkers. The information in the manual focuses on agricultural occupations in the Northeast.

[Migrant and Seasonal Farm Worker Emergency Preparedness Planning Guide](http://eweb.naccho.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?WebCode=LoginRequired&expires=yes&Site=naccho)

[http://eweb.naccho.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?](http://eweb.naccho.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?WebCode=LoginRequired&expires=yes&Site=naccho)

[WebCode=LoginRequired&expires=yes&Site=naccho](http://eweb.naccho.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?WebCode=LoginRequired&expires=yes&Site=naccho)

The Migrant and Seasonal Farm Worker Emergency Preparedness Planning Guide is designed to assist local health departments and emergency preparedness officials become better prepared to assist migrant and seasonal farm workers in the case of an emergency. Note: You have to complete a free new visitor registration to view this resource online.

[NIOSH Fast Facts-Heat Stress](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/)

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/>

This fact sheet addresses heat stress, from exertion or hot environments, that places workers at risk for illnesses such as heat stroke, heat exhaustion, or heat cramps.

[National Agricultural Safety Database \(NASD\)](http://www.nasdonline.org/)

<http://www.nasdonline.org/>

The NASD is a searchable database for videos, fact sheets, trainings, CDs, and more related to almost every topic in agricultural safety. Interactive safety training materials delivered through NASD were recently awarded 2010 Blue Ribbons for Educational Aids by the American Society for Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ASABE).

[Ranch TV](http://www.ranchtv.org/)

<http://www.ranchtv.org/>

RanchTV is a virtual video library which is designed to teach beef cattle producers the best management practice for beef quality. They believe that these practices potentially will help the producer's bottom-line and will aid in the production of high quality and safe beef products for the consumer.

[ROPS Retrofit Guide](http://warehouse.ca.uky.edu/rops/ropshome.asp)

<http://warehouse.ca.uky.edu/rops/ropshome.asp>

The new online guide is designed for farmers, dealers, and technicians not only in Kentucky but also throughout the United States and Canada. It enables users to quickly determine what ROPS are available for which tractors, which companies supply retrofit ROPS, and how and where to obtain these ROPS.

Tractor Safety Certification Goes Regional!

Past & Recent Activities

- Several years ago, the SW Ag Center engaged current Master Trainers in *Texas* and *Oklahoma* to conduct Community Lead Instructor trainings and Master Trainer workshops for agricultural science teachers and agricultural extension agents.
- Last year we ventured into *Arkansas* and introduced the certification program to the ag science teachers at their annual in-service.
- This year we reached the other two states in the region-*New Mexico* and *Louisiana*. The tractor certification program was presented to ag teachers in both states at their annual summer conferences.

Future Activities

- A Community Lead Instructor Training is scheduled for August 5th at Camp Couchdale in *Arkansas* to respond to the teachers' demand. They are excited to get certified and to offer the program to their students.
- The SW Ag Center will work with the *New Mexico* Agricultural Education Teachers Association to add a Master Trainer Workshop to their 2011 summer conference, per their request.
- Louisiana teachers are excited to incorporate the Master Trainer Workshop into their 2011 summer leadership camp. Some teachers can't wait and will join the Arkansas teachers at Camp Couchdale on August 5th.
- The SW Ag Center will work with Master Trainer Kevin Hackett to organize tractor safety activities in the region in 2010.

Sustainable Activities

- Master Trainer, Bob Williams, Ph.D., continues to host a Community Lead Instructor training at the Vocational Ag Teachers Association of *Texas* summer conference each year.

CERTIFICATION OVERVIEWS

Community Lead Instructor

- Requires 1 day training
- Allows ag teachers & ag extension agents to certify 14-15 years old for employment in tractor and machinery
- Allows ag teachers & ag extension agents to certify anyone 16 or older in safe tractor and machinery operation

Master Trainer

- Requires 2 days of training
- Allows ag teachers & ag extension agents to certify 14-15 years old for employment in tractor and machinery
- Allows ag teachers & ag extension agents to certify anyone 16 or older in safe tractor and machinery operation
- Allows ag teachers & ag extension agents to train additional Community Lead Instructors after they have certified a group of students

Tractor Certification for Youth

- Can only be signed by ag teachers or ag extension agents
- Requires 24 hours of instruction
- Requires passing scores on a written test, skills test and driving test
- Covers General Ag , Tractor, and Machinery Safety



Image courtesy of the Environmental Protection Agency.