

**2019 AMS SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH POLICY STATEMENT**

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) continues to serve our nation performing vital marketing, grading and regulatory functions and is committed to ensuring the safety and health of all assigned employees and visitors. AMS is committed to excellence in occupational safety and health, and environmental stewardship through continuous improvement of our awareness, understanding, and performance. To that end, we as an agency and as individuals must embrace our responsibility to identify, correct, or report any situation, act, or condition that places unnecessary risk or exposure to unsafe acts or conditions to anyone in AMS workplaces or offices by:

- Ensuring that all AMS offices, laboratories, and other worksites maintain the highest standards, situational awareness, and are free of hazards that can result in death or physical harm.
- Complying with all applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), USDA, and AMS safety and health standards, regulations, and directives.
- Providing every employee with specialized or required safety and health training and personal protective equipment required for the work that he/she performs.
- Communicate AMS's occupational safety and health policies and programs to our visitors, customers, shareholders, and partners.

Occupational safety and health are integral to AMS's operation. AMS managers are responsible for implementing the Agency's safety and health programs, and reporting and investigating mishaps and potential hazards in the workplace. AMS employees are expected to participate in all phases of AMS's safety and health programs, and to conduct their daily tasks in a manner consistent with Agency objectives and applicable Federal, State, and USDA regulations and policies. We all need to work together to promote hazard awareness, foster better understanding of safety and health policies, and most importantly, to maintain safe and healthy performance practices and work environments.

Should an injury, accident, or other mishap occur, key actions to remember are: All on-the-job injuries and illnesses, regardless of severity, must be reported to the employee's supervisor. Any serious injury requiring the hospitalization of an employee, or time away, should be reported within 8 hours from the time of occurrence. Less serious events, but ones which could impact the employee and the program area's ability to carry out its mission, should be reported

within 48 hours. Undertaking these steps can help return valued employees to work following recovery, reduce the chance of reoccurrence, and simultaneously helps minimize or reduce costs.

Let's all remind ourselves what SAFETY means:

**S**ee safety as an important and essential part of daily operations.

**A**sk questions, if needed, to ensure that you know and understand safety operating procedures at your worksite.

**F**ollow instructions on how and when to wear personal protective equipment, if required.

**E**nsure all unsafe and unhealthful work conditions are reported and action is taken to immediately abate unsafe conditions.

**T**urn all employees' work conditions, which could cause serious injury or illness, into hazard-free areas by conducting supervisory safety inspections annually.

**Y**ield to any hazard that puts you or others in danger and immediately report the unsafe condition to higher authority.

For more information about AMS's safety program, please contact Mark L. Kemp, the AMS Safety and Occupational Health Program Manager, at 202-720-0061 or [Mark.L.Kemp@usda.gov](mailto:Mark.L.Kemp@usda.gov).

You can also contact your program safety coordinator; or consult AMS HB 4790, Agricultural Marketing Service Safety and Health Handbook on AGNIS.

I encourage all AMS employees to adhere to appropriate workplace safety practices. Together, we can prevent many work-related injuries.

/s/

Erin Morris  
AMS Associate Administrator