

Planting Safety This Spring

And we're off to the races. These past couple of weeks in central IL have sure been beautiful and the smell of fresh tilled dirt is in the air. How much better can it get?

The spring also provides a heightened opportunity though for something to go terribly wrong and we must stay prepared and vigilant in our health and safety.

Workplace Safety and Prevention Services in Canada, along with support from Imperial Oil and ExxonMobil developed a safety campaign a few years ago called "Stop, Think, Act." Think about the injuries and fatalities that could be prevented if everyone did that every day. Taking that extra minute or even half a minute to stop and think before we act.

Here is the full concept.



Stop:

- What could go wrong?
- How bad could it be?
- Has anything changed?



Think:

- Do I clearly understand the task?
- Am I physically and mentally ready?
- Do I have the right tools and equipment?



Act:

- Make it safe.
- Use the right tools and procedures.
- Reduce the risks.

You can't help but be excited to get started on a new planting season with new opportunities. The positivity is good for the mind and body so be sure to use it and enjoy it.

We hope that these tips will help you and those working on your farm remain warm and safe. For more information, please contact the Carle Center for Rural Health and Farm Safety at (217) 365-7961.