

CIF FEATURE STORY:

Provincial Safety Day Program

July 2018



Feature Story: Provincial Safety Day Program, Saskatchewan Association of Agricultural Societies & Exhibitions (SAASE)

The Saskatchewan Association of Agricultural Societies and Exhibitions (SAASE) has just begun the 2018 Provincial Safety Day Program. This is the 7th year of the program, which has grown to include 20 safety days in 18 communities, with over 6,000 school children attending from across Saskatchewan.

SAASE, in partnership with Saskatchewan's Agricultural Societies, the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF), the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, the Progressive Agriculture Foundation, the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA), Farm Credit Canada, and SaskPower are working to keep our children safe by teaching them about safety. The communities hosting safety days in 2018 include Assiniboia, Belle Plaine, Biggar, Canora, Eston, Humboldt, Lloydminster, Meadow Lake, Montmartre, Moose Jaw, North Battleford, Nipawin, Outlook, Prince Albert, Swift Current, Unity, Weyburn, and Yorkton. In addition to the communities hosting the safety days, school children from over thirty communities in the surrounding areas also attended.

The school children attending the safety day are generally bused to the safety day location. The safety days are set up by volunteers with the school children rotating through a series of safety station topics throughout the day. The stations are operated by companies helping out with the safety day, as well as volunteers. Communities hosting the safety day will have safety stations that are relevant to that area of the province. In 2017 the top ten safety stations were on Fire Safety, ATV Safety, Electrical Safety, Chemical Safety, Animal Safety, First Aid, Grain Safety, Tractor Safety, Lawn Equipment Safety, and Water Safety. The program would not happen without the dedication and commitment of the many volunteers, Agricultural Societies and companies – both provincially and locally that are involved. Over 500 volunteers from across Saskatchewan commit more than 6,000 hours to working with our youth to help keep them safe.

"In addition to supporting safety days in Saskatchewan communities, the Communities Initiative Fund has also been instrumental in developing a network of Safety Day Coordinator volunteers across Saskatchewan," shares Glen Duck, Executive Director of SAASE. **"Each year a Safety Day Coordinators workshop takes place in Regina. The workshop brings volunteers from across the province to learn about how to run a safety day, as well as the resources that are available through the Progressive Agriculture Foundation and the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association."**

The provincial safety day program is reaching communities all across Saskatchewan and teaching more than 6,000 children a year on how to stay safe. **"Our youth are our greatest resource and safety days teach our children in communities all across Saskatchewan how to stay safe,"** shares Glen. **"By teaching our children about safety, we are helping to change the safety culture in Saskatchewan as we move forward into the future."**

"Prairie South is grateful for the partnership that we hold with SAASE. Every year our students are engaged through hands on learning through dynamic activities & presentations as they attend one of the Safety Days. These learning experiences are so valuable for our students as it brings real world situations to the forefront & makes them think about what choices they can make, to be safe as they grow-up.**"**

- Brett Young, Career Development Consultant, Prairie South Schools

