



Department of Customer Service



# Keeping kids safe on farms

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July 2023

# Acknowledgement of Country



I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands that we are meeting here today. I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of NSW.

I also acknowledge and pay my respects to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people/colleagues joining us today.

# The role of SafeWork NSW



- Provide advice on improving work health and safety
- Issue licences and registrations for high-risk work activities
- Conduct investigations into workplace incidents
- Proactively engage with industries to enable work health and safety laws in NSW to be followed
- Work with industries to improve WHS across NSW
- Inspectors

# High risk harms

## Mobile plant

- Tractors
- Quad bikes
- Side by side vehicles
- Motor bikes
- Utes, farm vehicles
- Trucks





High risk harms



Chemical storage

Animals

Water bodies

Source – Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety

## Some statistics



- Farming incidents account for one in every five worker deaths.
- Children who live on farms are at greater risk of injury and death than their parents or other farm workers.
- 500 children are hospitalised for on farm injuries each year.

Sources – SafeWork NSW, Farmsafe Australia



## Mobile Plant – cars & utes



- Restrain children even if driving on the farm
- Walk around the vehicle before starting
- Remove keys and store in a safe place
- Do not allow children to ride in the trays of utes, regardless of the speed



## Mobile plant - tractors

- Do not allow children to ride as passengers on a tractor
- Do not allow children to ride in the tractor bucket
- Educate children to keep clear of moving tractors on the farm





## Mobile plant - motorbikes



- Make sure children always wear helmets when riding motorbikes.
- Children should only ride age and size appropriate motorbikes.
- Train your children to ride motorbikes, regularly watch them while they ride and call out dangerous riding.

# What can happen

## Fatalities 0-14 years between 2001 -2019

- Cars – 12
- Tractors – 14
- Motorbikes – 13
- Utes - 17

Source – Farmsafe Australia



## Quad bikes and SSV's

- Do not allow children under 16 years to operate or be a passenger on an adult size quad
- Seatbelts and helmets in SSV's
- Remove keys and store in a safe place when not in use
- Follow SSV manufacturers recommendations



## Active Riding

- Balances the quad bike
- Prevents a roll over
- Assess the ground conditions
- Shift body weight along the seat
- Maintains stable centre of gravity

# What can happen



- Between 2011 and 2022 168 quad bike related deaths
- 32 under 14 year old fatalities
- Quads are the leading cause of death for children 5-14 years and for children visiting farms

Source – SafeWork NSW and Farmsafe Australia



## Side by Side vehicles



Since 2001, 11 children have died in SSV incidents in Australia.

Keep kids safe:

- SAY NO to children under 16 operating a side-by-side vehicle.
- Many SSV manufacturers have specific passenger height and ability restrictions. Always follow the recommendations in your owner's manual.
- Children must wear a seat belt and a helmet as passengers in SSVs.

# Incidents investigated by SafeWork NSW





# Chemicals

- Keep all chemicals in a fully locked chemical shed
- Consider storage containers
- Ensure adequate first aid training and first aid kits available
- Safety Data Sheets available





## Animals Children should -

- Not enter yards or paddocks with animals without active supervision
- Be educated about animal behaviour
- Only ride horses suited to their age and riding ability?
- Be given instruction and supervised when riding and handling horses?

Source - Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety



## Water bodies

- Swimming pools, effluent ponds, channels or dams should be securely fenced?
- Tanks, wells and troughs fitted with lids/mesh.
- Unused dips and ditches filled in?
- Do you know resuscitation techniques?

# What can happen



Between 2001 and 2019 (0-14 years) fatalities

- Horses - 12
- Other animals - 4
- Water bodies - 70

Source –Farmsafe Australia



## Consider the risks on farm

- Prevent access to silos
- Electrical safety
- Actively supervise children

# Emergency Preparedness/Response



000/112 – Emergency Services



13 20 80 – Essential Energy



13 11 26 – Poisons hotline



13 11 14 – Lifeline



Look up and live



Emergency plus



What 3 words



Dial before you dig



NSW RFS

# Remote Work

Personal locator beacon



Must be registered with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)

# Resources available



SafeWork NSW Webpage -  
<https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/your-industry/agriculture,-forestry-and-fishing/farming/child-safety-on-farms>

Farmsafe - <https://www.farmsafe.org.au/>

Kidsafe NSW - <https://www.kidsafensw.org/>

# SafeWork NSW Resources




- Advisory visits
- Workshops and presentations
- MSD Farm morning teas
- Rebates
- Tools
- Videos
- Incident Information Releases
- Free training
- Young worker e-toolkit
- Speak up app
- Events



## Farming

Workers employed in agriculture are at greater risk of being killed or injured at work than most. Learn more about how to manage the risks and hazards on a farm, including working with animals, vehicles and chemicals.

### Book your MSD Farm Morning Tea



Eligible farming businesses can receive a free morning tea with a local SafeWork NSW Inspector to talk about managing hazardous manual tasks and musculoskeletal disorders (MSD).

[Find out more →](#)

Select a box below for information specific to your area:

<p><b>A-Z farm safety guide</b></p> <p>Identify risks on a farm and what you can do about it</p> <p><a href="#">Find out more →</a></p>	<p><b>Chemicals on farms</b></p> <p>Advice for using chemicals safely</p> <p><a href="#">Find out more →</a></p>	<p><b>Child safety on farms</b></p> <p>Information to keep children safe on farms</p> <p><a href="#">Find out more →</a></p>
<p><b>Confined spaces</b></p> <p>Safety tips for working in confined spaces</p> <p><a href="#">Find out more →</a></p>	<p><b>Diseases on farms</b></p> <p>Information to reduce the risk of diseases on farms</p> <p><a href="#">Find out more →</a></p>	<p><b>Equipment on farms</b></p> <p>Advice on operating farm machinery and equipment</p> <p><a href="#">Find out more →</a></p>




## THE A-Z OF FARM SAFETY

SAFework NSW



## Child safety on farms

Farms are exciting places for children but there are many risks and there are things you can do to ensure they remain safe.

Children who live on farms are at greater risk of injury and death than their parents or other farm workers.

In fact, the under-16 age group is one of the most vulnerable to work-related farm accidents in NSW. Children visiting farms account for more than 20 per cent of all child deaths on farms.

Children learn by imitation. If you practice and value farm safety, so will your child.

Here are some safety tips to follow when you have children on your farm.



### Fact sheet: Child safety on farms

A list of do's and don'ts when children are on your farm.

[Find out more →](#)

# Farm Emergency Card



**Ambulance, Fire, Police: Dial 000 from a landline, Dial 112 from a mobile phone**

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Colour of gate/mailbox/fence: \_\_\_\_\_

Rural Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Directions to Front Gate: \_\_\_\_\_

**GPS Coordinates:**  
 Landmark: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Coordinates: \_\_\_\_\_  
 What3words: \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contacts:**  
 SES 132 500  
 Poisons Information 13 11 26  
 Healthdirect (24 hour health advice) 1800 022 222  
 Lifeline 13 11 14

Rural Fire Brigade: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Local Police Station: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Local Energy Supplier: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency UHF Channel: \_\_\_\_\_

**Farm Contacts:**  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

**Neighbours Contacts:**  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

First Aid Kits are located: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency assembly point: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information visit [safework.nsw.gov.au](http://safework.nsw.gov.au) or call 13 10 50.

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# Safe Recovery Card



Ensure your farm vehicle or equipment is **RECOVERED** safely

**R**ethink using farm equipment if there is a likelihood of getting bogged

**E**xercise caution and have a **recovery plan** in place

**C**ommunication is vital between you and the assisting vehicle

**O**nly use **recovery points** on the vehicle approved by the manufacturer

**V**ary **tyre pressure** by deflating to manufacturer's recommendations

**E**xclude all persons from the tow-line area by creating an **exclusion zone**

**R**ecovery straps and attachments should be **rated** for the weight and type of work involved

**E**nsure recovery equipment is **maintained** according to manufacturer's instructions

**D**amper use will reduce recoil and minimise the chances of injury

For more information visit [safework.nsw.gov.au](http://safework.nsw.gov.au) or call 13 10 50.

# Safety around your tractor



- 1. Make sure you know your way around the tractor.** Read and follow the manufacturer's operating instructions.
- 2. When changing tyres always use a tyre safety cage or other approved guard.**
- 3. All tractors between 500 and 15,000 kgs must be fitted with an approved Roll Over Protective Structure (ROPS).**
- 4. Adjust the seat so that all controls are in reach.** Seat belts should be worn with tractors fitted with ROPS or enclosed cabin.
- 5. Always back up steep slopes. Never traverse across steep slopes.**
- 6. Never drive close to the edge of embankments, trenches or ditches.**
- 7. Always recover bogged vehicles as per the manufacturer's instructions.**
- 8. Always stay well clear of overhead powerlines.**
- 9. Power take-off (PTO) shafts must be fully guarded, eg with a PTO guard.**
- 10. Always apply the park brake when not in the driver's seat.**
- 11. Always remove keys when the tractor is not in use.**
- 12. Always stay alert and LOOK OUT for people.**

**ROPS and wearing seat belts save lives**





## Small Business Rebate



- up to \$1000 towards safety solutions for your business
- Applied more than 5 years ago?
- Now eligible to apply again.
- Now includes OPDs - *ATV LifeGuard and QuadBar Flexi*
- Compliant helmets for current quad bike and SSV owners

# Rebate ideas



Example of livestock sliding segregating gate

- Sliding segregation gate for livestock
- Cattle crush
- Lamb marking cradle
- Head bales



Example of emergency stop switch

- Machine guarding
- Emergency stop switches
- Power take-off guards



Example of rollover protection on a tractor

- Rollover protective structures
- Side access steps or platforms
- Safety bar for wool press



- **Personal locator Beacons**

Do you have any questions?



