

# SADA MEMBER UPDATE OCTOBER 2022

## WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

### OCTOBER IS NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

SafeWork SA some time ago worked with the farming community to create the Farmers' Guidebook WHS. In that Guidebook, it is noted that *"there is no question that farms are unique workplaces, and the combination of hazards makes primary industries one of the most dangerous sectors in which to work. In South Australia 4.5% of the total workforce works in agriculture; however, almost 19% of workplace deaths occur on farms."*

AgHealth Australia has reported that, during the period 1 January to 30 June 2022:

1. A total of 21 on-farm deaths were reported.
2. Quads (n=4) were reported most frequently as the agent of injury causing death.
3. Of the total number of cases, males were involved in 19 (90.5%).
4. In the corresponding period for 2021, there were 20 cases.

For more information, visit <https://agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/22-083.pdf>

Since 2001:

- 1,651 people have lost their life on a farm due to non-intentional injury in Australia.
- Of these, 1,454 cases (88.1%) have been finalised and 'closed' by a coroner.
- Persons in the 50+ years category (n=887) accounted for 53.7% of all reported incidents.
- Children under 15 years were present in 237 cases (14.4%).
- Males were involved in 1,457 cases (88.2%).
- Tractors (n=262) and quads (n=208) are the leading agents causing fatal injury since 2001.

Other findings include:

- 58 non-fatal on-farm injury events were reported in the Australian media.
- Of those seven (12.1%) of the injury events involved children aged under 15 years. Quads (n=9).
- The study also found farmers over 55 years of age were involved in 58 per cent of all work-related incidents and were significantly more likely to die than their younger colleagues.
- These incidents were followed by horses (n=8), tractors (n=5), motorbikes (n=5) and side by sides (n =5). These five agents (n=32) accounted for more than 55% of all incidents reported.
- Farm structures, including dams and powerlines, were causes of 11 per cent of fatal injuries, with environmental factors like tree felling behind seven per cent.
- Injuries were caused by accidents on quad bikes and utes, and machinery like tractors and forklifts.
- The researchers used national coronial data to examine trends of unintentional farm deaths from 2001 to 2020, identifying 1584 fatalities, or roughly seventy-nine per year.

Ms Peachey, from Sydney University's school of rural health, said prevention measures like helmets, rollover safety structures on tractors, pool fencing and banning children from riding quad bikes would help reduce much of the burden.

Researcher Kerri-Lynn Peachey has been reported to have stated it is important to make sure farmers come home. "You may see bumper stickers that state 'no farms, no food' but think about 'no farmer, no farm'," she said.

"Failure to directly address these issues will result in little to no improvement in the health and safety record for the agricultural sector, which has significant impacts on individuals, families, businesses and whole communities."

The Northern Territory was reported to have the largest rate of fatal farm injuries, while South Australia, thankfully, had the lowest.

While the figures revealed a small reduction in farm fatalities, there is a need to refocus on farm safety, especially among the older generation, the study's authors said.

**For queries, please contact Chas Cini on 8331 2422.**



**Mediation and Employment  
Relations Service**

135 Fullarton Road Rose Park SA 5067 Phone: 08 8331 2422

Email: [chas@mers.com.au](mailto:chas@mers.com.au) Website: [www.mers.com.au](http://www.mers.com.au)

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### FARMERS WHS GUIDEBOOK

<https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/industry/agriculture/farmers-guidebook-to-work-health-and-safety>

#### PERSON CONDUCTING A BUSINESS OR UNDERTAKING (PCBU)

This covers a broad range of modern work relationships and business structures. These include someone operating a business or undertaking for-profit or not-for-profit, whether alone or with others. The definition of a PCBU focuses on work arrangements and the relationships involved in carrying out that work and includes an employer.

#### CODES OF PRACTICE

<b>FIRST AID</b> <a href="https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/136264/First-aid-in-the-workplace.pdf">https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/136264/First-aid-in-the-workplace.pdf</a>	<b>MANUAL HANDLING</b> <a href="https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/136265/Hazardous-Manual-Tasks.pdf">https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/136265/Hazardous-Manual-Tasks.pdf</a>	<b>HOW TO MANAGE WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS</b> <a href="https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/136267/How-to-manage-work-health-and-safety-risks.pdf">https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/136267/How-to-manage-work-health-and-safety-risks.pdf</a>
<b>PREPARATION OF SAFETY DATA SHEETS FOR HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS</b> <a href="https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/136277/Preparation-of-safety-data-sheets-for-hazardous-chemicals.pdf">https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/136277/Preparation-of-safety-data-sheets-for-hazardous-chemicals.pdf</a>	<b>LABELLING HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS</b> <a href="https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/136269/Labeling-Hazardous-Chemicals.pdf">https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/136269/Labeling-Hazardous-Chemicals.pdf</a>	<b>MANAGING RISKS WITH HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS</b> <a href="https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/136274/Managing-risks-of-hazardous-chemicals.pdf">https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/136274/Managing-risks-of-hazardous-chemicals.pdf</a>
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<b>MANAGING RISKS OF PLANT IN THE WORKPLACE</b> <a href="https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/136275/Managing-risks-of-plant-in-the-workplace.pdf">https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/136275/Managing-risks-of-plant-in-the-workplace.pdf</a>	<b>MANAGING THE WORK ENVIRONMENT AND FACILITIES</b> <a href="https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/136276/Managing-the-work-environment-and-facilities.pdf">https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/136276/Managing-the-work-environment-and-facilities.pdf</a>	<b>WELDING PROCESSES</b> <a href="https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/136279/Welding-processes.pdf">https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/136279/Welding-processes.pdf</a>
<b>CONSULTATION CO-OPERATION CO-ORDINATION</b> <a href="https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/136280/Consultation-cooperation-coordination.pdf">https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/136280/Consultation-cooperation-coordination.pdf</a>	<b>CLOTHING OUTWORKERS</b> <a href="https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/resources/codes-of-practice/clothing-outworkers">https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/resources/codes-of-practice/clothing-outworkers</a>	<b>LIVESTOCK TRANSPORT</b> <a href="https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/industry/agriculture/livestock-transport">https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/industry/agriculture/livestock-transport</a>

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## Workplace Induction

To reduce the risks of hazards, accidents, and injuries, the Farmers Guidebook MAKES provisions for employees and contractors. It is important that every employee (pages 6 and 125) and contractor (page 149) receive their induction at the time of commencing employment or engagement.

## Return to Work Levy Rates

Injuries and fatalities apart from the human costs also impact on your workers compensation levy and the industry levy.

## Return to Work Levy

There will be an increase in the employers' levy in this state from 1 July 2022. The employers' levy also considers the costs of injuries in each industry. The industry rates in Horticulture are shown on the ReturnToWorkSA website at <https://www.rtwsa.com/insurance/insurance-with-us/premium-calculations/industry-classifications-and-rates>.

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