

Health & Safety Advice

Health and Safety in the workplace is constantly under public and political scrutiny, with the primary sector subject to more scrutiny than most. Workplace statistics show that agriculture consistently accounts for more than 30% of all workplace fatalities and cost ACC over \$42 million dollars in 2013, for workplace and industry related injuries.

These injuries and fatalities affect more than the injured person alone. They affect their colleagues, friends, family and the wider community. In many instances they increase pressure on loved ones and their colleagues as they recover and get back on their feet or cope with the loss of someone.

Employees are required to take all practicable steps to ensure their own safety and that of others in the workplace. However it is the employer's overall responsibility to ensure that a safe and hazard-free workplace exists and should an incident occur it could result in a prosecution by WorkSafe NZ. A recent example of this includes a sharemilker, who was prosecuted for the death of a farm worker when his ATV flipped. The sharemilker was ordered to pay reparations of \$75,000 to the family as well as a fine of \$28,150.

By drawing on our experience, and by teaming up with experts, we've put together some advice which can help you protect yourself, your employees and your family.

On Property Risks

The risks that those living and working in rural areas face are vastly different to those faced in the city. Heightened risk of physical injury exists in agriculture partly due to working in isolated areas, with large, heavy and loud equipment with many moving components, and in part as a result of a significant amount of time being spent with animals that will do what they want, when they want!

Injuries can be avoided through good choices, planning and identification of physical hazards:

- Implement a Farm Safety Plan that outlines your systems and processes to help maintain a safe working environment.
- Train all staff on your properties on health and safety practices and encourage open discussion about these practices.
- Take the time to identify hazards and signpost them for all employees and visitors to see.
- Ask employees to notify you of any hazards they see that need to be mitigated.
- Document all of this.

Service Suppliers

FMG has taken the hassle out of finding Health & Safety service suppliers by compiling a list of FMG preferred suppliers who can help provide health and safety solutions for your farming system and are aligned to the needs of our rural clients.



0508 ONFARM



0800 555 339



0800 545 747