



October is **Safe Work Month**

# Farm safety matters

## Agricultural safety forum



Friday, 25 October 2024

[#safetyisourbusiness](#)

[#safeworkmonth](#)





# Master of Ceremonies

Andrew Ballam, General Manager Regulatory  
Training and Business Services, WorkSafe

Department of Energy, Mines, Industry  
Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS)





# Acknowledgement of Country



# Housekeeping



**Mobile phones** off or silent please



**Restrooms**



**Smoking notice:** This venue is a smoke-free venue



This forum is being filmed and photography will take place

In the event of an emergency, please follow the directions of Mantra staff

# Event program

The event program can be accessed  
via this QR code



# Ask questions using Slido

Scan QR code using your mobile device  
or

Go to [slido.com](https://slido.com) and enter event code  
**#FSM**





# Welcome address

Sally North

WorkSafe Commissioner





# Guarding of farm machinery and plant

Geoff Kennedy

Senior Inspector, WorkSafe, DEMIRS





# Common farm machinery risks

- Contact with moving parts
- Getting trapped between moving parts or materials
- Hit by materials thrown from the plant

A risk assessment involves:

- Assessing the risk
- Controlling the risks
- Reviewing the control



# Power take-off

Used to transfer mechanical energy from an engine to an external implement.

- Grain auger
- Slasher
- Post hole digger
- Boom spray pump



# Couplings

Power output coupling:

- attached to tractor
- has permanently attached guard
- held securely in place when in use



# Power input coupling

- Permanently attached to implement
- No nip-points



# PTO shaft guard

Must extend into the power input coupling and the power output coupling areas as far as practicable.

Can be rotating or fixed.



## Don't:

- take the short-cut
- use it if the guard is damaged
- use it if it is too loose
- remove the guard sleeve
- work on the shaft or implement if the engine is running



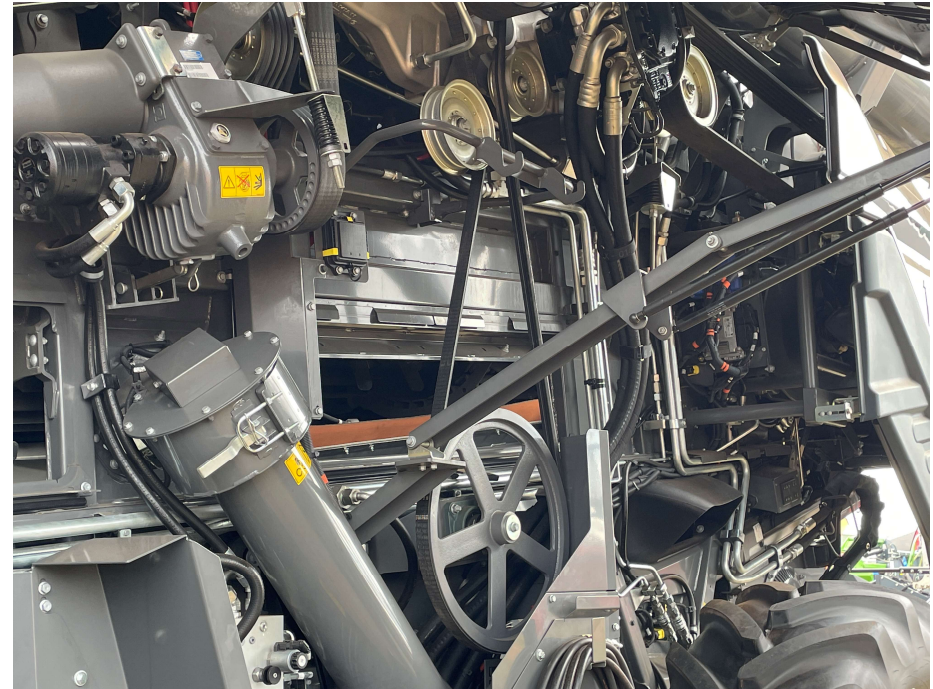
# Grain augers: Safety solutions

To reduce the risks of incidents and injuries occurring:

- ensure that all guards are in place before augers are operated, especially after maintenance
- ensure auger drive train components are guarded (belts, pulleys, drive shafts and rotating screw fittings)
- locate mobile augers on firm, preferably flat ground, and operate at a shallow angle (less than 45 degrees) to prevent overbalancing
- lower mobile augers when they are being transported
- never start augers before checking the area is clear of people

# Belts and pulleys

- Turn it off
- No loose sleeves on shirts
- Don't leave tools where they can be flung





# Working on headers

- Support the comb (when working on it)
- Ensure the engine is turned off



# Hazards with headers

- Becoming entangled with the levelling or discharge augers in the grain tank
- Falling from the machine, especially during pre/post season cleaning
- Contacting overhead power lines
- Being run over
- Contact with the knife, reel or stripper rotor
- Contact with the straw chopper or spreader
- Being trapped under the header or injured by the header falling from its transport trailer
- Being injured by the drive mechanisms or trapped when automatic sensors operate

# Wool presses

- Guarded and interlocked door mechanism, to exclude hand and arm access
- Emergency stop button or bar fitted
- Signage to identify stop button
- Check power cable
- Look for leaks and cracks
- Only use if properly trained
- Report if faulty



# Farm machinery hazards

Machinery requires certain competencies to ensure it is safe:

- design/manufacture
- correct use
- repairs and alterations
- servicing and Inspecting
- correct tools
- right location for maintenance
- isolate the machine if it is defective

**IMPORTANT:** isolate the power source before working on the machine.

# Dangerous machinery

- Report the hazard immediately
- Tag the equipment/machinery deemed unsafe
- Machinery is inspected, repaired or maintained by a qualified person
- Removal only by the correct authority





# Quad dilemma – choosing the right vehicle for the task

Craig Sullivan

Inspector, WorkSafe, DEMIRS



# Statistics

Quad Bike Fatalities 2019/20 – 2023/24	5
Quad Bike Injuries 2019/20 – 2023/24	13
Quad Bike Related I/N's 2019/20 – 2023/24	122
Quad I/N's Helmet 2019/20 – 2023/24	48

Source: Safety Data WorkSafe

# Quad Bikes

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1. Rollover
2. Equipment and Attachments
3. Operator Characteristics
4. Environment





# Side-by-Sides

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1. Helmets
2. Doors and Nets
3. Seat Belts
4. Loads
5. Environment



# Choosing the Right Vehicle





# Hazardous substances - do you really know what you're working with?

Lee Holland  
AusChem Trainer

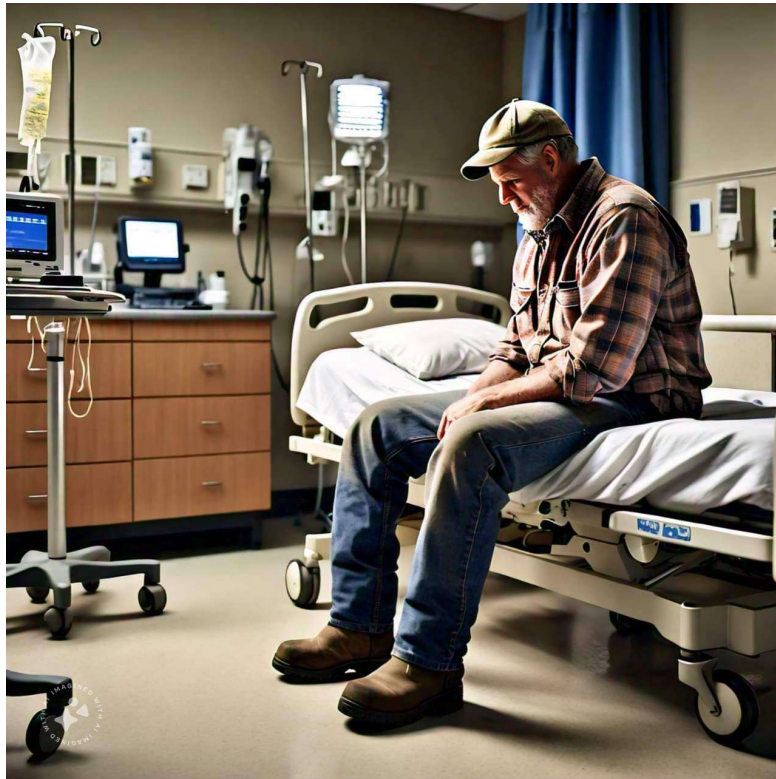


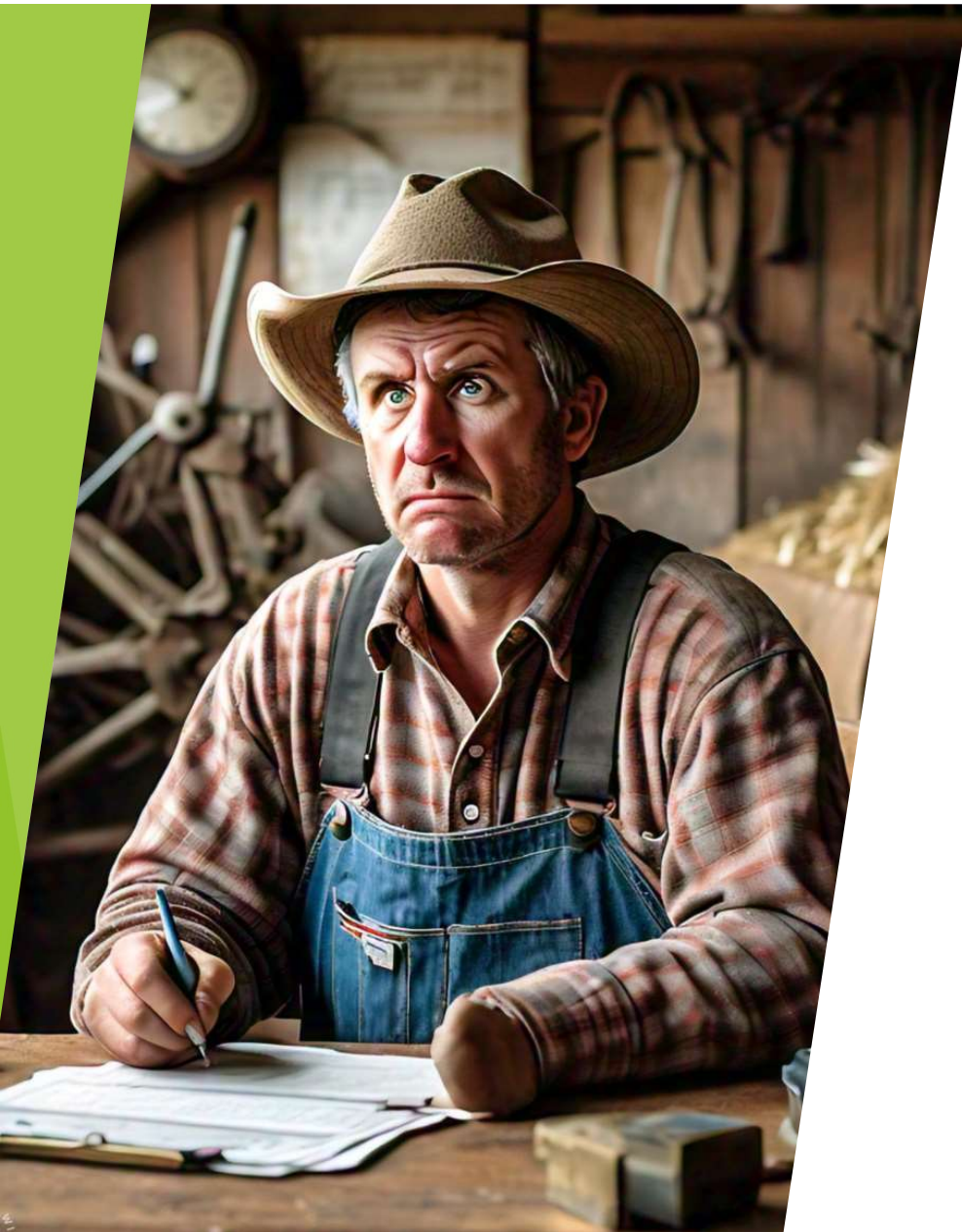


# Hazardous Substances Farm Chemicals

Do you REALLY know what you are working with?

You know how the product works in the paddock, but have you ever thought about how it might be impacting on your health?





There is information, freely available to help keep you safe, but do you know how to find it, and how to interpret the data?

OR  
Is it all “Double Dutch” to you?





Let's have a look at each of the signal headings, and what they mean.

The signal headings revolve around the LD50.

The term LD50 refers to the Lethal Dose of the active constituent, required to kill 50% of a batch of lab animals in a single dose.

It is measured in mg per kg of body weight. 50mg is 1/100<sup>th</sup> of a teaspoon.



# Schedule 7

## **DANGEROUS POISON**

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN  
READ SAFETY DIRECTIONS BEFORE OPENING OR USING  
CAN KILL IF SWALLOWED  
DO NOT PUT IN DRINK BOTTLES  
KEEP LOCKED UP

 **Spray.Seed<sup>®</sup> 250**  
Herbicide

syngenta.

### ACTIVE CONSTITUENTS:

135 g/L PARAQUAT present as PARAQUAT DICHLORIDE  
115 g/L DIQUAT present as DIQUAT DIBROMIDE  
ALSO CONTAINS: 30 g/L POLYETHANOXY (15) TALLOW AMINE

GROUP **22** HERBICIDE

For the control of a wide range of grasses and broadleaf weeds.  
Can be utilised in crop establishment programs.  
Contains non-ionic wetter.

Syngenta Australia Pty Ltd  
Level 1, 2 Lyonpark Road, Macquarie Park NSW 2113

In a transport emergency dial 000, Police or Fire Brigade  
For specialist advice in an emergency only, call 1800 033 111 (24 hours)

APVMA Approval No: 46516/137913B

The upper threshold for a schedule 7 product is 50mg/per kg of body weight.

\*This is the amount of the pure active constituent, not the blended product

Some products are also given a schedule 7 rating if they have other characteristics which increases their hazard rating.

Paraquat and more recently, Bromoxynil has been reclassified as a schedule 7 and will now carry the “Dangerous Poison” Signal heading.

## Schedule 6



50 - 500mg /kg body weight.

## Schedule 5



500 - 5000mg / kg body weight.

# Unscheduled



Unscheduled products are not considered to be highly toxic as it requires in excess of 5000mg / kg of body weight to bring about death, however that doesn't mean they are harmless.

Acute toxicity isn't the only health hazard associated with chemical exposure. There are also long term or chronic health effects that need to be considered.

How do we find out what the specific LD50 is, and what other areas of our health might be impacted, if we get things wrong?

We consult our Safety Data Sheets. (SDS)  
These are freely available on the manufacturer's website.

But where do we look... and what are we looking for?

There is a lot of confusing stuff in an SDS and you might say to yourself "I'm too busy to read all that!!."



# Where do I start with my SDS's??

## There is so much to read!?!@#@!



- ▶ **Break it down into smaller pieces.**
- ▶ **Prioritise Sections 2, 4 and 11.**
- ▶ **Always read Section 2 - Hazards Identification. This will give you an immediate feel for the product.**
- ▶ **Always read Section 4 - First Aid Measures. There is no point floundering and trying to work out what to do, once you are already in crisis mode.**
- ▶ **Always read Section 11 Toxicological Information. This is where you will find the LD50, and the likelihood of a product contributing to chronic complaints such as cancer, blood disorders, impaired fertility and birth defects, just to name a few.**
- ▶ **Always check your label, (or Section 8 of the SDS), for PPE requirements and make sure that you wear the required items whenever you are interacting with the products - this includes when you are preparing your chemicals for use, mixing and cleaning up.**

Start by looking at the pictograms. They will give you some immediate clues about the products.

GHS Pictogram		
		
Oxidizers	Flammables, Self Reactives, Pyrophorics, Self-Heating, Emits Flammable Gas, Organic Peroxides	Explosives, Self Reactives, Organic Peroxides
		
Acutely Toxic (severe)	Burns Skin, Damages Eyes, Corrosive to Metals	Gases Under Pressure
		
Carcinogen, Respiratory Sensitizer, Reproductive Toxicity, Target Organ Toxicity, Mutagenicity, Aspiration Toxicity	Toxic to aquatic environment	Acutely toxic(harmful), Irritant to skin, eyes or respiratory tract, Skin sensitizer, Hazardous to the Ozone layer.

Always look at Section 2 - Hazards Identification. This will give you an overview of the product, and it's potential to cause harm.

7:32PM Wed 9 Oct syngenta.my.salesforce.com

Phone Number: (02) 8014 5200  
Emergency Phone Number: 24 hours - 1800 033 111

**Section 2: Hazards Identification**

**Classification of the Hazardous Chemical:**  
Corrosive to metals - Category 1  
Acute toxicity (Oral) - Category 4  
Acute toxicity (Inhalation) - Category 1  
Skin irritation - Category 2  
Serious eye damage - Category 1  
Skin sensitization - Category 1  
Specific target organ toxicity - repeated exposure - Category 1

**Signal Word:**  
Danger


**Hazard Statement(s):**  
H260 May be corrosive to metals.  
H302 Harmful if swallowed.  
H311 Toxic in contact with skin.  
H315 Causes skin irritation.  
H317 May cause an allergic skin reaction.  
H318 Causes serious eye damage.  
H330 Fatal if inhaled.  
H332 May cause respiratory irritation.  
H372 Causes damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure.

**Precautionary Statement(s):**  
P102 Keep out of reach of children.  
P201 Wear protective gloves/ protective clothing/ eye protection/face protection.  
P304 + P340 IF INHALED: Remove victim to fresh air and keep at rest in a position comfortable for breathing.  
P305 + P351 + P338 IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing.  
P310 Immediately call a POISON CENTER or doctor/physician.  
P360 Absorb spillage to prevent material damage.  
P501 Collect spillage.  
P501 Dispose of contents/ container to an approved waste disposal plant.

Syngenta Australia Pty Ltd  
SPRAY SEED 250 Herbicide

Page 2 of 9  
20 October 2021

**Hazard Symbols:**



**Section 3: Composition and information on ingredients**

**SUBSTANCE**

Chemical Identity of Pure Substance: Paraquat dichloride      Diquat dibromide

7:30PM Wed 9 Oct cdh.rn.farm.com

**Additional Information**  
This Safety Data Sheet describes the properties of the concentrated product. The physical properties and the assessments may not apply to the properties of the product once it has been diluted for application.

**Section 2 - Hazard(s) Identification**

**GHS classification of the substance/mixture**  
Classified as Hazardous according to the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and labelling of Chemicals (GHS) including Work, health and safety regulations, Australia.  
Classified as Dangerous Goods according to the Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail, (7th edition)  
Flammable liquids: Category 2  
Acute toxicity: Category 2 - Oral  
Acute toxicity: Category 3 - Dermal  
Acute toxicity: Category 3 - Inhalation  
Specific target organ toxicity (single exposure): Category 1


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Hazardous to the Aquatic Environment - Acute Hazard: Category 1  
Hazardous to the Aquatic Environment - Long-Term Hazard: Category 1

**Signal Word (s)**  
DANGER

**Hazard Statement (s)**  
H225 Highly flammable liquid and vapour.  
H300 Fatal if swallowed.  
H311 Toxic in contact with skin.  
H315 Causes skin irritation.  
H330 Causes damage to organs.  
H410 Very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects.

**Pictogram (s)**  
Flame, Skull and crossbones, Health hazard, Environment



**Precautionary Statement - Prevention**  
P210 Keep away from heat, hot surfaces, sparks, open flames and other ignition sources. No smoking.  
P233 Keep container tightly closed.  
P240 Ground and bond container and receiving equipment.  
P243 Use explosion proof (electrical/ventilating/lighting) equipment.  
P244 Use non-sparking tools.  
P244 Take action to prevent static discharges.  
P261 Avoid breathing dust/fume/gas/mist/vapour/spray.  
P264 Wash skin thoroughly after handling.  
P270 Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product.  
P271 Use only outdoors or in a well-ventilated area.  
P273 Avoid release to the environment.  
P280 Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection.

**Precautionary Statement - Response**  
P301+P311: If swallowed or contacted: Call a POISON CENTER/doctor.  
P301+P310 If SWALLOWED: Immediately call a POISON CENTER/doctor  
P330: Rinse mouth.  
P303+P361+P353 If ON SKIN (or hair): Take off immediately all contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with water for shower.

**Section 2 - Hazard(s) Identification**

**GHS classification of the substance/mixture**  
Classified as Hazardous according to the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and labelling of Chemicals (GHS) including Work, Health and Safety regulations, Australia.  
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Acute toxicity: Category 3 - Inhalation  
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Hazardous to the Aquatic Environment - Acute Hazard: Category 1  
Hazardous to the Aquatic Environment - Long-Term Hazard: Category 1

**Signal Word (s)**  
DANGER

**Hazard Statement (s)**  
H225 Highly flammable liquid and vapour.  
H300 Fatal if swallowed.  
H311 Toxic in contact with skin.  
H331 Toxic if inhaled.  
H370 Causes damage to organs.  
H410 Very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects.

**Pictogram (s)**  
Flame, Skull and crossbones, Health hazard, Environment



Each product has pictograms that are specific to it's associated hazards. Above are a few examples.

7:12PM Tue 8 Oct cdn.nufarm.com 78%

## Always Read Section 11 of your SDS

**Acute Toxicity - Oral** ←  
Methomyl: LD50 (rat): 30 mg/kg  
For methanol, toxicity values vary widely in the literature, but values are always much higher than methomyl. The toxicity of this product is almost entirely due to the methomyl component.

**Acute Toxicity - Dermal**  
Methomyl: LD50 (rabbit): >2000 mg/kg

**Acute Toxicity - Inhalation**  
Methomyl: LD50 (rat): 0.3 mg/l/h for methomyl aerosol

**Ingestion**  
Fatal if swallowed. Ingestion of this product may cause irritation to the mouth, throat, oesophagus and stomach with symptoms of nausea, abdominal discomfort, vomiting and diarrhoea.  
Causes damage to organs if swallowed. Ingestion of this product may cause irritation to the mouth, throat, oesophagus and stomach with symptoms of nausea, abdominal discomfort, vomiting and diarrhoea.  
The following symptoms, listed in approximate order of appearance, begin within 30-60 minutes and are at a maximum in 2-8 hours: Mild - Anorexia, headache, dizziness, weakness, anxiety, sub-sternal discomfort, tremors of the tongue and eyelids, contraction of the pupil and impairment of visual acuity. Moderate - Nausea, salivation, tearing, abdominal cramps, vomiting, sweating, slow pulse and muscular fasciculations. Severe - Diarrhea, pinpoint and non reactive pupils, respiratory difficulty, pulmonary oedema, cyanosis, loss of sphincter control, convulsions, coma and heart block. Hyperglycemia and possible acute pancreatitis have occurred.

**Inhalation**  
Toxic if inhaled. Inhalation may cause headaches, impairment of judgement and in extreme cases can lead to unconsciousness or death.  
Causes damage to organs if inhaled. Inhalation may cause headaches, impairment of judgement and in extreme cases can lead to unconsciousness or death.  
May cause irritation to mucous membranes and respiratory tract. Breathing in high concentrations of vapour can produce central nervous system depression, which can lead to loss of coordination, impaired judgement and if exposure is prolonged, unconsciousness.

**Skin**  
Toxic in contact with skin. Product can be absorbed through skin with resultant toxic systemic effects. Can cause defatting of the skin and may result in dermatitis.

**Eye**  
May be irritating to eyes. The symptoms may include redness, itching, tearing and may cause pupil constriction.

**Respiratory Sensitisation**  
Not expected to be a respiratory sensitiser.

**Skin Sensitisation**  
Not expected to be a skin sensitiser.

**Germ Cell Mutagenicity**  
Not considered to be a mutagenic hazard.

**Carcinogenicity**  
Not considered to be a carcinogenic hazard.

**Reproductive Toxicity**  
Not considered to be toxic to reproduction.

**STOT - Single Exposure**  
Causes damage to organs.

**STOT - Repeated Exposure**  
Not expected to cause toxicity to a specific target organ.

**Aspiration Hazard**  
Not expected to be an aspiration hazard.

**Chronic Effects** ←  
Regular exposure may result in lowering of cholinesterase activity which will recover within a few days after exposure ceases. Repeated or prolonged exposure to high doses of methanol alone may have serious irreversible effects such as blindness. This effect is not relevant with this product, as ingestion of significant quantities would result in death due to the toxicity of methomyl.

Section 11 is another very important section of all SDS's. This is where you will find the specific LD50, and other important info which you need to be aware of.



00000063092 - Diuron 50

**SIGNAL WORD**  
Warning

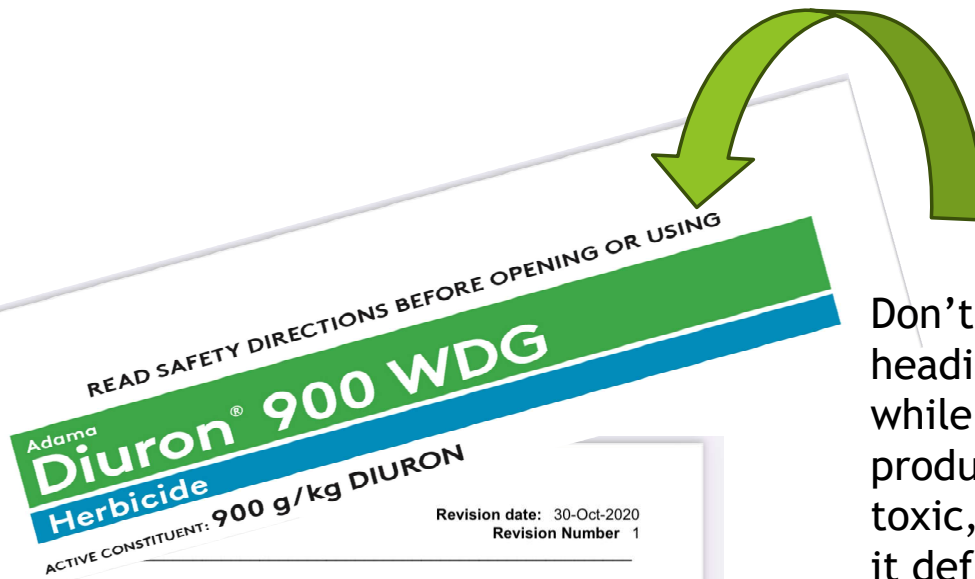
**Label elements**

Exclamation mark  
Health hazard  
Environment



**Hazard statements**

H302 - Harmful if swallowed  
H351 - Suspected of causing cancer  
H373 - May cause damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure  
H410 - Very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects



READ SAFETY DIRECTIONS BEFORE OPENING OR USING

Adama  
**Diuron<sup>®</sup> 900 WDG**  
Herbicide

ACTIVE CONSTITUENT: 900 g/kg DIURON

Revision date: 30-Oct-2020  
Revision Number 1

Don't let the signal heading fool you ... while sometimes a product is not overly toxic, it definitely does not mean that a product is harmless.

Here are a couple of clear reasons why you should always read Section 4 of your SDS - First Aid.

Did you know that sometimes giving oxygen is bad for the casualty?

#### Section 4: First aid measures

<b>Description of Necessary First Aid Measures:</b>	In case of poisoning by any exposure route get to a doctor or hospital quickly. Phone Poisons Information Centre on 131 126. Have the product label or SDS with you when calling or going for treatment.
<b>Ingestion:</b>	<b>SPEED IS ESSENTIAL.</b> Immediate medical attention is required. DO NOT induce vomiting. If available, give an adsorbent such as activated charcoal or bentonite.
<b>Eye contact:</b>	Rinse immediately with plenty of water, also under the eyelids, for at least 15 minutes. Remove contact lenses. Immediate medical attention is required.
<b>Skin contact:</b>	Take off all contaminated clothing immediately. Wash off immediately with plenty of water. If irritation persists, call a physician. Wash contaminated clothing before re-use.
<b>Inhalation:</b>	Move person to fresh air. If breathing is irregular or stopped, administer artificial respiration. Keep patient warm and at rest. Call a physician or Poisons Information Centre immediately.
<b>Symptoms Caused by Exposure:</b>	Symptoms include inflammation of the mouth, throat and oesophagus, gastrointestinal discomfort and diarrhoea.
<b>Medical Attention and Special Treatment:</b>	Refer to the booklet 'Paraquat Poisoning. A Practical Guide to Diagnosis, First Aid and Hospital Treatment' ( <a href="http://www.syngenta.com/pqmedguide/">www.syngenta.com/pqmedguide/</a> ). Administer either activated charcoal (100 g for adults or 2 g/kg body weight in children). NOTE: The use of gastric lavage without administration of an adsorbent has not shown any clinical benefit. <u>Do not use supplemental oxygen.</u> Eye splashes from concentrated material should be treated by an eye specialist after initial treatment. With the possibility of late onset corneal ulceration it is advised that patients with paraquat eye injuries are reviewed by an eye specialist the day after first presentation.

#### Section 4 - First Aid Measures

##### Inhalation

Avoid becoming a casualty - to protect rescuer, use air-viva, oxy-viva or one-way mask. Remove affected person from contaminated area - Apply artificial respiration if not breathing. Do not give direct mouth to mouth resuscitation. Resuscitate in a well ventilated area. Seek IMMEDIATE medical attention.

##### Ingestion

Do not induce vomiting. Immediately wash out mouth with water (never give anything by mouth if affected person is semi-conscious or unconscious). Seek immediate medical attention.

##### Skin

Remove all contaminated clothing immediately. Wash gently and thoroughly with water and non-abrasive soap for 15 minutes. Ensure contaminated clothing is washed before re-use or discard. Seek immediate medical attention.

##### Eye

If in eyes, hold eyelids apart and flush the eyes continuously with running water. Remove contact lenses. Continue flushing for several minutes until all contaminants are washed out completely. Seek immediate medical attention.

##### First Aid Facilities

Eyewash and normal washroom facilities.

If poisoning occurs, contact a doctor or the Poisons Information Centre (Australia) on 13 11 26.

##### Advice to Doctor

An anticholinesterase compound.

General supportive treatment: Artificial respiration (via a tracheal tube) should be started at the first sign of respiratory failure and maintained for as long as necessary.

Atropine: Atropine should be given, beginning with 1.2 - 2mg iv repeated at 10 to 30 minute intervals. The dose and the frequency of atropine treatment varies from case to case, but should maintain the patient fully atropinized (dilated pupils, dry mouth, skin flushing, etc.).

Oxime reactivations: Although it might be suspected that oxime cholinesterase reactivators would be as helpful in carbamate poisoning as they are in organophosphorous poisoning, this is not the case. There is experimental evidence that the pyridinium oxime 2-PAM is not effective in carbamate poisoning and there is some evidence that it makes poisoning by certain carbamates, including carbaryl, worse.

Diazepam: Diazepam should be included in the therapy of all but the mildest cases. Besides relieving anxiety it appears to counteract some aspects of CNS-derived symptoms that are not affected by atropine. Doses of 10mg sc or iv are appropriate and may be repeated as required. Other centrally acting drugs and drugs that may depress respiration are not usually recommended in the absence of artificial respiration procedures.

##### Other Information

For advice in an emergency, contact a Poisons Information Centre (Phone Australia 131 126) or a doctor at once.



We all need to make decisions about looking after ourselves.

There is no point relying on others to police the way we do things.

We all need to accept responsibility for our own personal safety.



A little bit of time spent researching your products, might save you a lot of ill health in years to come.



# SafeTea break

Health and safety  
is everybody's business

#safetyisourbusiness

#safeworkmonth





Highlighting **excellence**

# Work Health and Safety EXCELLENCE AWARDS **2024**

**31 October, Optus Stadium**





# Have you subscribed to our WorkSafe Farm Safety news alerts?



[www.demirs.wa.gov.au/subscribe](http://www.demirs.wa.gov.au/subscribe)

WorkSafe provides a range of newsletters and information products to keep you up to date.





# The Slip - What good looks like

**Geraldton - 16 Oct**

**Bunbury - 22 Oct**

**Karratha - 28 Oct**

**Port Hedland - 29 Oct**

**Perth - 7 Nov**



A theatre experience for Safe Work Month





# Electrical safety – light bulb moments

Joseph Byrne

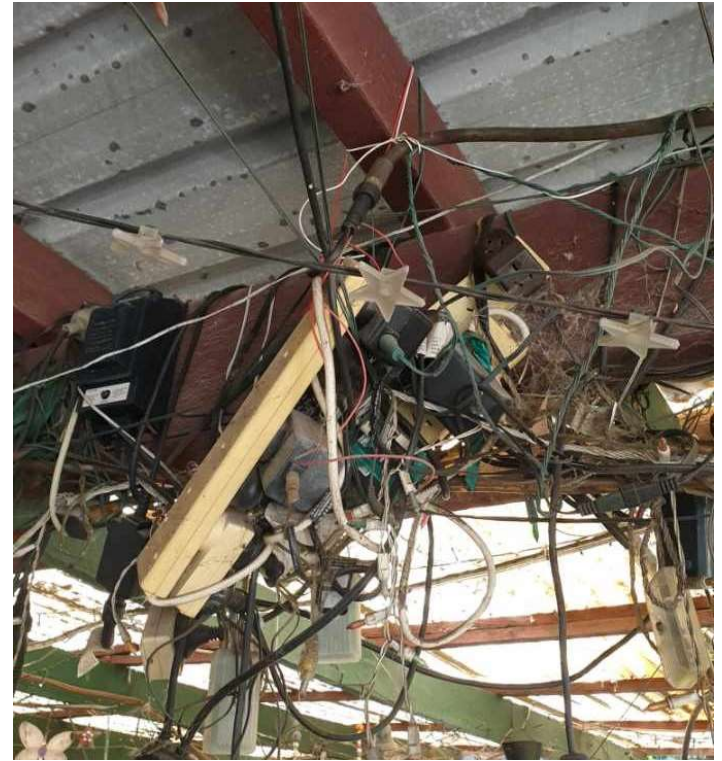
Inspector, WorkSafe, DEMIRS



# Electrical Safety

- Establish good farm safety practices...it's the law!
- Electricity kills
- Get a licenced Electrical contractor to do it
- If in doubt ...call – Western Power/Horizon, Building & Energy, WorkSafe





# Unsafe Electrical Equipment

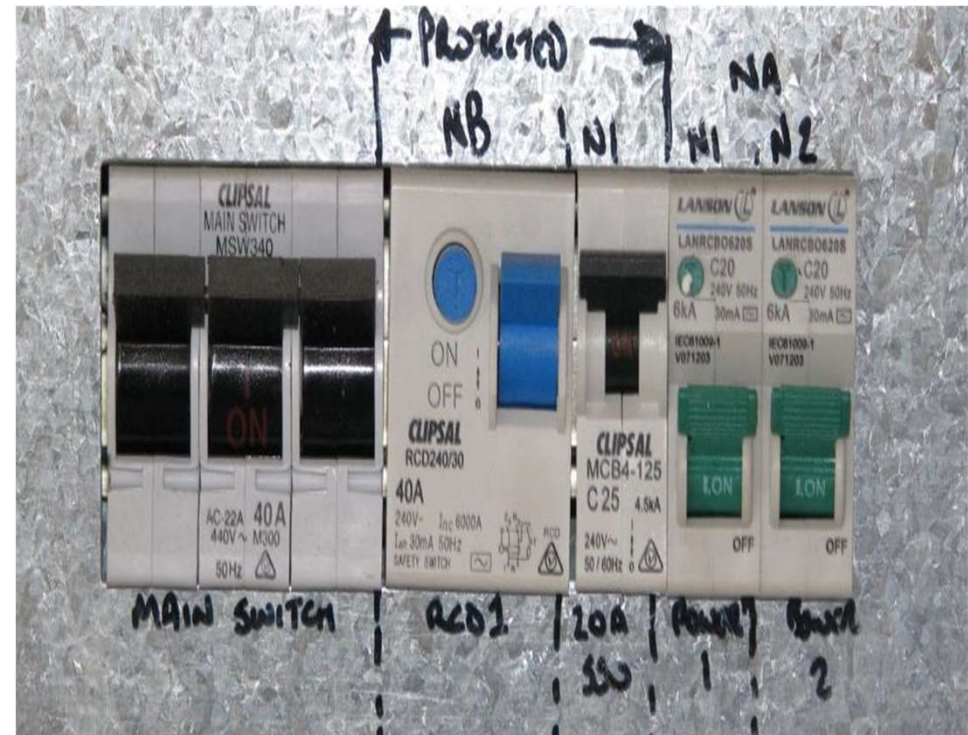
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# RCDs (safety switches)

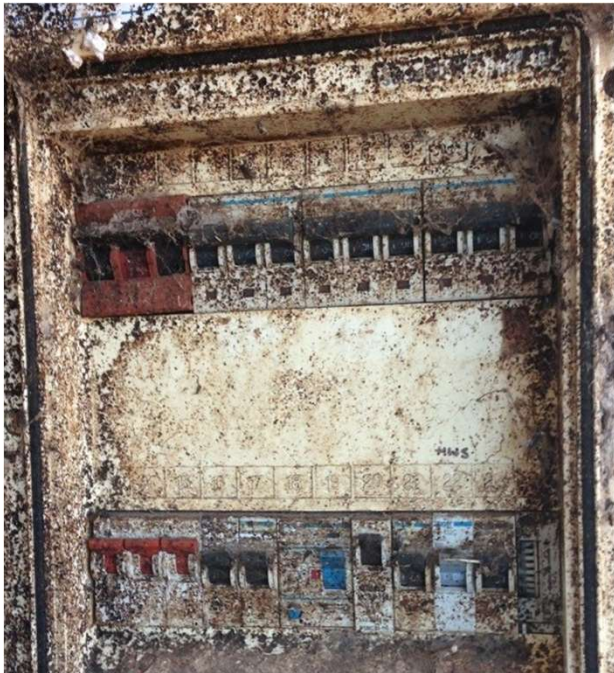
RCDs, when properly installed and maintained, provide high levels of personal protection from electric shock

RCDs must be fit for purpose, maintained so as to be effective and tested regularly.

Records of testing must be retained until the item is next tested or removed from use



# Switchboards



# Portable Generators and Batteries/Inverters



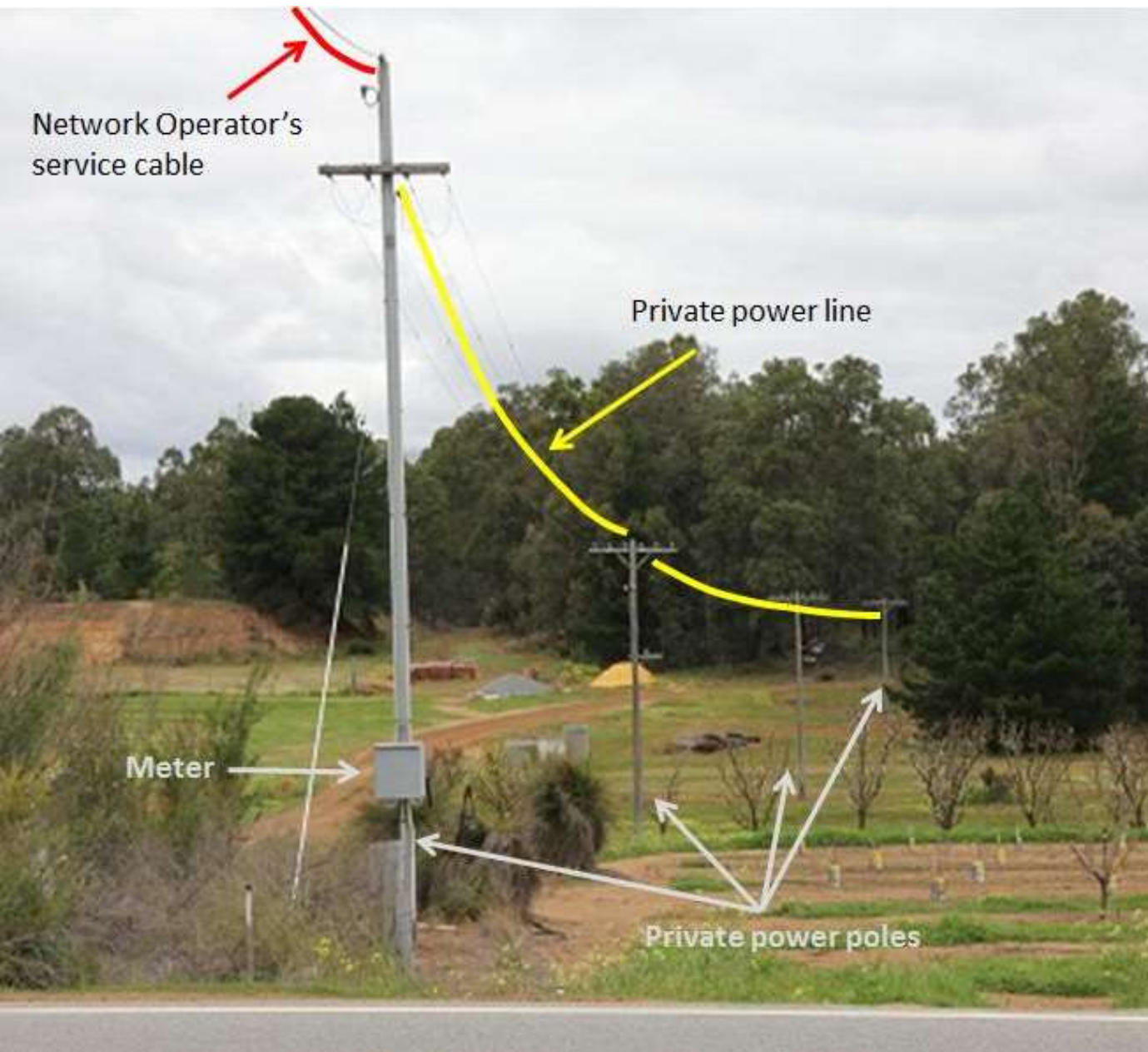
Not a multi purpose option

High fault current

Installed in a suitable location

Protection from elements

Mechanical damage

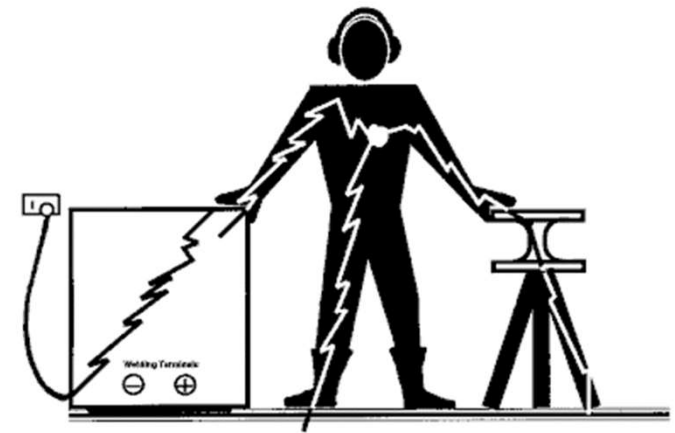


## Power poles

- Private power poles
- Machinery
- Pyrolysis

# Recap...

- Provide and maintain a safe work environment
- Inspect/test regularly – keep records of tests
- Equipment – If in doubt ...turf it out
- Check the location of overhead and underground power lines before work starts
- Don't DIY when it comes to electrical work







# Keeping children safe on farms

Tracy Blaszkow  
Manager, Kidsafe WA



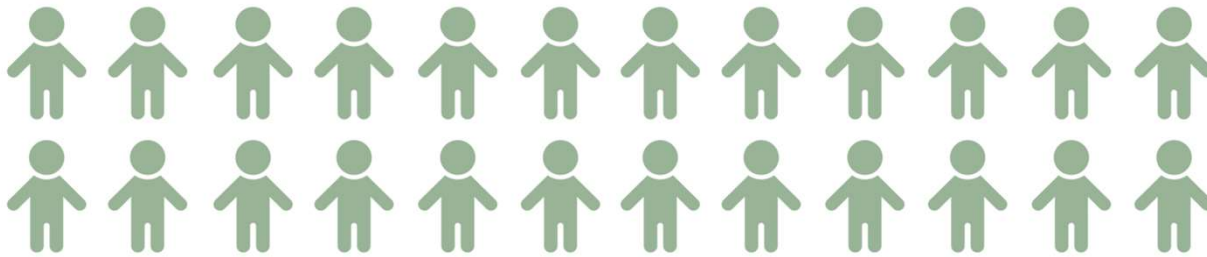
## Who are Kidsafe WA?

Kidsafe WA is the leading not for profit organisation dedicated to promoting safety and preventing childhood injuries and accidents in Western Australia.



## Why does Kidsafe WA exist?

Over **24** Western Australian children die each year from preventable injuries, while a further **8,000** are hospitalised.



More children die of **injury** than die of cancer, asthma and infectious diseases combined.

## Why are Kidsafe WA here today?

To increase the capacity of rural families to build a sustainable future for their **family**, **farm business**, and **the agricultural industry**.

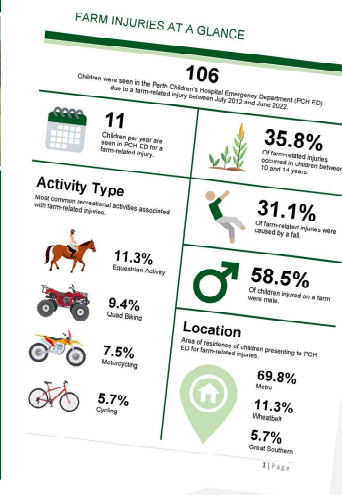
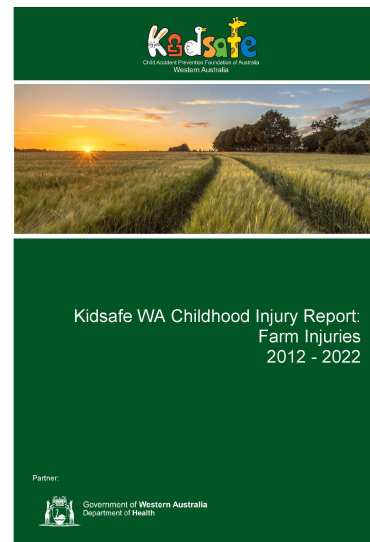
Kidsafe WA's work in farm safety aims to:

- Raise awareness of childhood injury statistics on WA farms.
- Prioritise children in farm safety actions.
- Encourage community collaboration to reduce the number of children injured on WA farms.

# The state of child injury on farms

## Kidsafe WA Childhood Injury Report: Farm Injuries 2012-2022

- Farm injury presentations to Perth Children's Hospital ED Children aged 0-15
- Finding supported by literature review of child injury on farms across Australia.
- Limitations: Only provides a snapshot of serious farm-related injury in WA. Actual statistics are severely under-reported.



# The state of child injury on farms

## Kidsafe WA Childhood Injury Report: Literature Review

2020, Peachey, Lower & Rolfe, *Protecting the future: Fatal incidents on Australian farms involving children (2001-2019)*.

- ~12 children killed every year on farms.
- ~500 children hospitalised each year for a farm-related injury.
- ~30% of farm-related child fatalities are visitors to the farm.
- Top causes of fatality: Drowning, quad bikes, tractors, motorcycles, vehicles and horses.
- **No significant decrease in the rate of farm-related child fatalities in the past 20 years.**

# The state of child injury on farms

## Kidsafe WA Childhood Injury Report: PCH ED Data

**106** presentations to PCH ED due to a farm-related injury between 2012-2022.

- 35% of injuries occurred in children between 10 and 14 years.
- 58% of children injured on a farm were male.
- Top causes of injury: Falls and transport accidents.
- Top activities associated with injury: Equestrian, quad bikes and motorbikes.



# Benefits of raising kids on farms

- Endless outdoor play opportunities.
- Instils a passion, love and respect for the land.
- Learning opportunities: life/death cycle, farm processes.
- Encourages a good work ethic.
- Teaches responsibility.
- Unique lifestyle.
- Great pets.





# Challenges for injury prevention

- Endless benefits to raising kids on farms – cannot simply remove them.
- Children are inevitably exposed to more injury risks.
- Impractical and unfeasible to separate children from hazards.
- Overlap between the home environment and agricultural workplace.
- Typical child injury prevention approaches are not suitable.
- Easy for parents and children to become complacent.
- Minimal consolidated interventions to reduce the risk of child injury on farms.
- Limited injury data = limited funding for injury prevention initiatives.
- Rural access to emergency services and medical facilities.

# Typical injury prevention approach

- 1 Look** for the hazard – view the area from your child’s perspective.
- 2 Decide** how to best protect your child from the hazard. This may include:
  - Removing the hazard
  - Guarding against the hazard
  - Supervising children closely around the hazard
- 3 Make the changes:** Injuries often happen when we least expect it, so it’s important to act immediately.

## Where to from here?

- Consider all children present on your farms and what measures you are taking to protect them from hazards.
- Talk to your partner and children about injury risks on your farm.
- Risk assess situations that your child is involved in on the farm.
- Use evidence to guide your risk assessment.
- Encourage kids to set their own rules and consequences.
- Lead by example – children mimic our behaviour.
- Make safety conversations a regular occurrence.
- Utilise information & services available.
- Regularly update emergency response plan and CPR skills.

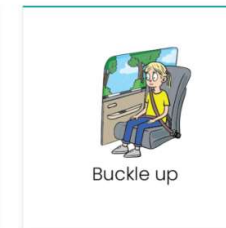
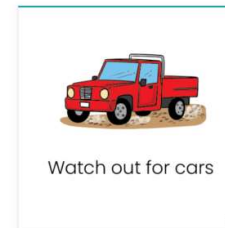
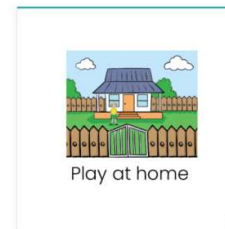


# Kidsafe WA's farm safety resources

- Safety Island Farm Safety module: Interactive e-learning tool for primary school students.  
- Available at [www.kidsafewa.com.au/safety-island](http://www.kidsafewa.com.au/safety-island)



Let's see how we can stay safe around machinery and vehicles on the farm.



# Kidsafe WA's farm safety resources

- Wheatbelt community workshops and school incursions
  - Supported by the Department of Health WA.
  - [www.kidsafewa.com.au/regional-visits](http://www.kidsafewa.com.au/regional-visits)



# Kidsafe WA's farm safety resources

- 2023 Northam Child Injury Prevention Symposium: Growing Up Safely on Farms



## Other farm safety resources

- Safe Farms WA
- Farmsafe Australia
- Royal Life Saving Society WA – Keep Watch Program
- Injury Matters – Farm Safety Toolkit
- WHS Systems – ProcessWorx, Safe Ag Systems
- Dept. Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
  - WorkSafe & Consumer Protection
- Do your own research



# Kidsafe WA's farm safety future

Future goals:

- To bring together regional communities to continue this conversation.
- To contribute to current farm safety networks.
- To establish a child safety on farms working group.
- To adapt to the needs of farming families in WA.
- Seek additional support for our regional workshops and incursions.
- **To ensure all children have the opportunity to become healthy adults.**

# Kidsafe WA Farm Safety Animation



## Connect with Kidsafe WA

Contact Tracy Blaszkow | **E:** [Tracy@kidsafewa.com.au](mailto:Tracy@kidsafewa.com.au) | **M:** 0428 875 503

Follow Kidsafe WA for the latest child injury prevention updates





# Making the wool harvesting workplace safer for all

Valerie Pretzel

Executive Officer, WA Shearing Industry  
Association



# SAFE SHEDS

MAKING THE WOOL  
HARVESTING WORKPLACE  
SAFER FOR ALL



WA SHEARING INDUSTRY  
ASSOCIATION (INC)



AWI Australian Wool  
Innovation Limited





# Shearing Shed Conditions

## Growers

77% of their sheds were over 20 years old and 30% said their shed was over 50 years old.

26% haven't made any improvements in the last 10 years

54% had plans to make improvements.

## Shed Staff

60% of workers say poor facilities and amenities in the shearing shed is the No. 1 issue in the industry.

- Unsafe equipment in the shed
- Unsafe working environment

50% of the sheds had wool presses without safety devices.

42% claim shed conditions are declining not improving.

## Impacts to industry – lost productivity

68% had personally been involved in what they felt was an unsafe or risky incident in a shearing shed. Only 14% think this is improving.

- Of those 64% had sustained an injury as a result of that incident.
- Of those 65% required time off work as a result of that injury.
- 30% of those injuries resulted in a worker's compensation claim.



## Work Cover Recommended Premium Rates 2024/25



## Impacts to industry – staff attraction & retention

74% said that not enough workers entering the industry and availability of shearing teams was the No 1 problem.

54% see team availability as declining.



By Bob Garnant  
October 3, 2024

# WOOL Ambassador role is a first

Wool handler Mikayla Reihana placed fourth in the competition at the show, has become the first female WA Wool Harvesting Ambassador. She said the role is a first, but it was a privilege to represent the industry.

Wool Innovation WA Ambassador promoter Neil Jackson said the new ambassadors shearing competition only on September 22 drew a crowd of appreciative wool handlers and wool growers. "It was a privilege to have such a large group of people in the shed, and I feel like I am the ambassador to represent the industry," he said.



Mikayla Reihana, competing in the senior woolhandling final, is the first female WA Wool Harvesting Ambassador, and work alongside Blake McFarlane (below left) and Tristan White (below right). Pictures: Bob Garnant

Harvey Ag (WA College of Agriculture — Harvey) soon before competing at the Kojonup Shears," he said. "The main challenge in the industry is to keep the job right." Mr. McFarlane, the youngest of the trio of ambassadors, and who placed runner-up in the intermediate shearing competition at the show, demonstrated his youthful enthusiasm and talent prior to being made an ambassador. "I will be teaching shearing at



Wool Harvesting Ambassadors Tristan White, Mikayla Reihana and Blake McFarlane were selected to represent the WA Wool Harvesting industry. Credit: Bob Garnant/Countryman

# SAFE SHEDS

MAKING THE WOOL HARVESTING  
WORKPLACE SAFER FOR ALL

Available to download from  
<https://wasia.com.au/services/safesheds/>

Or

Call AWI 1800 070 099 for hard copies



# SafeSheds Objectives



Provide employers with an understanding of their duty-of-care obligations;



Provide a best practice guide, checklists and a handy mobile app to assist woolgrowers, shearing contractors and shed workers to assess their current shearing shed working conditions, environment and equipment;



Allow woolgrowers to create an improvement program to improve and comply with modern workplace standards;



Make the workplace safer for all participants with health and safety as priorities for the wool harvesting industry by identifying and rectify safety hazards and providing options to manage risks and conditions in the shearing shed.



**awi** Australian Wool  
Innovation Limited



**WA SHEARING INDUSTRY**  
ASSOCIATION (INC)

# SAFE SHEDS

THE SHEARING SHED SAFETY PROGRAM



Making the wool harvesting workplace safer for all.

# THE GUIDE

Detailed best practice and assessment guide for all areas of shearing operations:

1. The shearing shed
2. Machinery and equipment
3. Amenities and facilities
4. Work practices
5. General working conditions



# MODULE 5 - GENERAL WORKING CONDITIONS

ITEM #	HAZARDS / RISKS	RISK CONTROLS - OPTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS & CORRECTIVE ACTION
<b>5.1 WATER</b>		
5.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a clean supply of cool drinking water easily accessible to employees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adequate intake of drinking water between 600 - 800 ml/hour.</li> </ul>
5.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any undrinkable water is labeled appropriately.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Label undrinkable or suspect water [e.g. "Do Not Drink" or "Not suitable for drinking"]</li> </ul>
<b>5.2 HEAT &amp; COLD</b>		
5.2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measures are taken to mitigate the range of extreme climatic conditions under which shearing and crutching work is often completed.</li> <li>Heat and cold can have a significant impact on the health of all shed workers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install industrial fans or evaporative air conditioning or portable industrial evaporative coolers.</li> <li>Ensure exterior covering reflects rather than absorbs light e.g. the roof is painted a light colour as opposed to a dark colour.</li> <li>Insulating the interior of the shed.</li> <li>Clear plastic strips are used on chutes/ doorways to restrict cold drafts.</li> <li>Installing roof insulation.</li> <li>Blinds, eaves and awnings that block direct sunlight in summer but allow sunlight in winter.</li> <li>Ceiling and/or portable fans.</li> <li>Shade trees and wind breaks close to the shearing shed and sheep yards to reduce heat and cold draughts.</li> <li>Sprinkler system on the roof.</li> </ul>
5.2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are skylights that cause too much heat.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider replacing with 'heat reflecting' skylights or adding blinds.</li> </ul>
5.2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work practices to reduce heat stress / cold problems are agreed and in place.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow for heat acclimatization including work pace, rest breaks and altering work hours.</li> <li>There is an adequate and accessible supply of clean, cool water.</li> </ul>

## PROGRAM

anager. The influence of amenities and living effectively cannot be underestimated.

### CONTROLS OPTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS & CORRECTIVE ACTION

Re-design of pens and gates to promote stock flow reduces the need to "push" sheep into the filling pen. Identifying, repair and removal of protrusions and sharp objects on the pens prior to their use.

Discuss with Contractor to ensure that all sheep have been totally off food and water for a minimum of 8 hours and preferably overnight. See 1.4

Ensure withholding periods for chemicals are adhered to prior to shearing / crutching.

the industry and increased effort required to

ussions between the owner/manager and contractor/aring team can consider:  
 Approach to ram sedation  
 Extra support person(s) available to assist with rams, particularly if they get free on the board.

Make appropriate shed modifications to handle the increased size of sheep, such as enlarging chutes and changing the batten orientation in the catching pen.

aising weight and size of sheep, best practice is to yard overnight.

## AM

### S

influence of amenities and living cannot be underestimated.

### IMPROVEMENTS & CORRECTIVE ACTION

ions for supplying a totally separate eating area.  
 e non-smoking, food preparation area line on the floor.  
 ll workers - chairs are in good condition

is are maintained and in good repair to i and mosquitoes.

ient refrigeration to store food safely to age and food poisoning.

< implements from this area.

ning power cable overhead.  
 number of power points to reduce the xwer leads.

- all food preparation areas are kept e of vermin.

positioning, installation and ent is located away from fety mechanisms. Before must be in good condition and ng order and all users should

### MENTS & CORRECTIVE ACTION

head gear as a location to and other gear. Provide other r shearers.

arded wherever they are within

alleys and gears with cladding



is high enough to avoid 'aised arms and that adequate minimise the risk of clothing, ning entangled in the shaft.



aising weight and size of sheep, best practice is to yard overnight.

## AM

of injury from trips, slips and falls. This stress on the lower back and knees. The own from height.

### IMPROVEMENTS & CORRECTIVE ACTION

talling rails or tight chains (fixed or long the edge of raised platforms. Australian Standard AS1657-2013, Fixed 'alkways, Stairways And Ladders - truction and Installation"



fers' with fixed steps with extended 00 mm above the top floor. i are level, secure and not slippery. abbling' timber steps. ce rotting, loose or broken steps. r steps or extra steps to make 'step up' eliminate horizontal gaps. to the wall to fill any gaps.



ail on the outside of steps. ke the handrail stable. n end of rail pipes.



# APPENDICES

SAFE SHEDS - THE SHEARING SHED SAFETY PROGRAM



Making the wool harvesting workplace safer for all.

# THE CHECKLISTS

Four checklists to use at different times of the shearing season:

1. Full Assessment
2. Pre-Shearing
3. Induction
4. Post Shearing

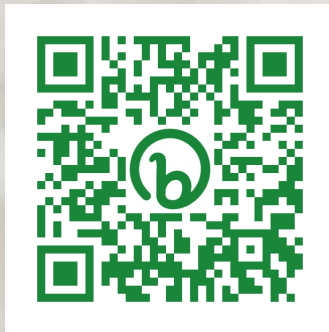






# SafeSheds Mobile

# SafetyCulture



## SafeSheds - The Shearing Shed Safety Program

### Making the wool harvesting workplace safer for all

The shearing industry is one of the most physically demanding occupations, and as an industry, wool producers and wool harvesters need to do as much as is possible to reduce the risk of injuries and accidents occurring in shearing sheds as well as provide the best working conditions possible.

Not only will workplaces be safer, this will go a long way to increasing industry workforce entry, retention and career longevity, it will also improve industry productivity and profitability.

Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) and WA Shearing Industry Association (WASIA) have developed a new program to do just this, to improve safety in shearing sheds. Safe Sheds, The Shearing Shed Safety Program is a new best practice guide and assessment resource which has been developed with input from right across the industry.

Industry has also partnered with SafetyCulture to provide all the shed safety checklists and best practice guidelines in iAuditor, for free. Thanks to WASIA, AWI and SafetyCulture, you can assess your current shearing shed working conditions, environment and equipment; and mitigate the risk of accidents and injury.



#### Make your life easier and safer with iAuditor by SafetyCulture

High risk industries such as mining and construction are using iAuditor to reduce the risks on sites and improve their processes and performance. Already used by many in the agriculture

#### Get started for free

Are you a Wool Grower or a Shearing Contractor?

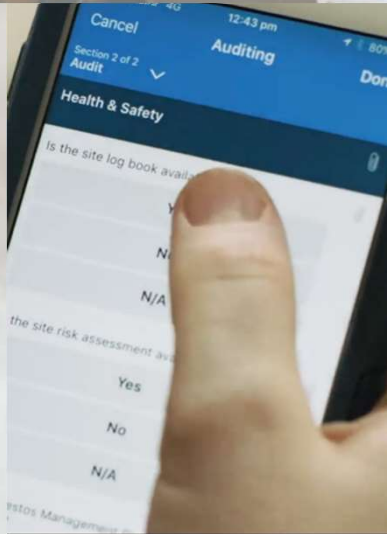
Wool Grower  Shearing Contractor

By checking this box, I agree to receive updates, insights and offers from SafetyCulture and its affiliates by email and phone to the above contact information. I understand I can withdraw my consent.

I agree to the [SafeSheds Terms & Conditions](#)

Get started for FREE

By creating an account, you agree to SafetyCulture's [Terms & Conditions](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)



Page 2 of 6 Score  
5 / 79 (6.33%)

1. THE SHEARING SHED

1.1.2 The edges of the platform and leading edges of steps are painted with a bright stripe to improve visibility.

Yes  No

Note Media Action

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1.1.3 Steps / Stairs: 2 / 5 (40%)

1.1.3 All steps and stairs are in good condition.

Yes  No

Note Media Action

1.1.3 'Steps' should not be a 'ladder'

Yes  No

Note Media Action

1.1.3 Steps are securely fixed in place, non-slip, deep & wide enough to tread on safely.

Yes  No

Note Media Action

1.1.3 Steps are evenly spaced and not too high.

Yes  No

Note Media Action

1.1.3 Steps should not have a horizontal gap between them or a gap between the steps and the wall.

Yes  No

Note Media Action

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1.1.4 Handrails: 0 / 3 (0%)

1.1.4 Handrails are fixed to the outside of any steps.

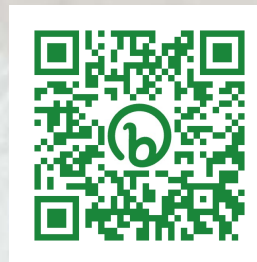
Yes  No

# THE MOBILE APP

Four checklists to use at different times of the shearing season:

1. Full Assessment
2. Pre-Shearing
3. Induction
4. Post Shearing

## SafetyCulture

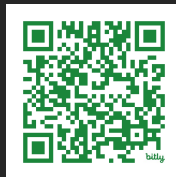


# Grower Groups presentations & Growers assisted reviews





# SafeSheds: The Shearing Shed Safety Program



WA SHEARING INDUSTRY  
ASSOCIATION (INC)

Making the wool harvesting workplace safer for all

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Available from  
<https://wasia.com.au/services/safesheds/>  
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# Closing remarks

Jaime Rebelo

Director Industrial and Regional Industries,  
WorkSafe, DEMIRS







# Forum concludes

Thank you for being part of

**Farm safety matters –  
agricultural safety forum**

**Please join us for a networking lunch**

[#safetyisourbusiness](#)

[#safeworkmonth](#)





# Stay in touch

WorkSafe provides a range of newsletter and information products to keep you up to date.



[www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/subscribe](http://www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/subscribe)



WorkSafe WA



WorkSafeWA



October is **Safe Work Month**

Health and safety  
is *everybody's* business



[worksafe.wa.gov.au](https://worksafe.wa.gov.au)

#safetyisourbusiness

#safeworkmonth

