



Safer Farms, Safer Farmers

Toolbox Talks

MANAGER'S INSTRUCTIONS

- Ensure all participants have a copy to refer to and make notes
- Ensure you write the name of your farm, record the date and have all participants sign the master copy (*which should be kept as part of your farm's WH&S records*)
- Ensure your *Toolbox Talk* is done in a location suitable for the topic
- **Engage** with each other, ask questions and give everyday examples.



WE ALL NEED TO REMEMBER

- If you are **unsure of anything** or feel that something you have been asked to do is dangerous, **DO NOT begin the task**. **ASK for assistance** or more information and we will work together to find a safe way to do the job or solve the problem.
- Ensure you are aware of the location of the nearest First Aid Kit.
- Make sure everyone is fit for work, free from signs of fatigue, drugs or alcohol. If in doubt, **ask** or talk to your manager.
- This farm is a workplace, but may also be a place of residence for the owner, their managers and employees. Be **vigilant** for children and bystanders at all times.
- **The safety, health and wellbeing of all who live on, work on and visit this farm is the most important responsibility we all share.**

Even if we are busy and under time or financial pressures, **safety MUST come first.**



Farmsafe
AUSTRALIA

A Practical Guide Child Safety on Farms

Growing up on or visiting the family farm should be an inspiring and educational part of childhood. However, farms can be an extremely dangerous environment for children. We all want to pass on our love of the land to the next generation, but we need to do so in a safe and practical way.

The biggest risk is that farms are a place of work and a home environment which can be **very difficult** to separate the two. Sadly, the most common causes of injury or fatality of children on farm are; Water bodies (dam/drowning), quads, tractors, utes, cars, motorbikes and horses

For parents who have **children helping, visiting or working on farms**, it is very important to explain the hazards and consequences of not being cautious.

- **Clear boundaries NEED** to be set and enforced from the start.
- **Be consistent.** Encourage and teach children to follow safety rules. **Lead by example.**
- Children under 16 **must be fully supervised** by a parent or guardian.
- **Make sure** they know the areas that are **out-of-bounds** – that means, under **NO** circumstance are children allowed in a particular area.
- Make sure children know what to do **in case of an emergency** – this includes what to do, who to call and where to go.

It is recommended that parents and caregivers complete a **First Aid Course** including CPR as properties are often a substantial distance from the nearest hospital.

Children are not always able to predict or respond to an unsafe situation. Their perception of the world is very different to an adult. **Always remember** – no matter how many times you've told them, children will still test boundaries. It is how they learn but it is also how they can get hurt.



A MUST

Risk Management Tools

[DOWNLOAD ONLINE MATRIX](#)

Use this simple and effective tool to assess and manage the risk of your farming activities prior to commencing. All team members can join in and contribute, developing different ways to manage risks on your farm. Doing a risk assessment helps determine hazards and develop appropriate control measures to lessen the risks.

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SAFE PLAY AREAS

A safe play area - such as a securely fenced house yard, provides an effective barrier for small children gaining access to dams, farm machinery and vehicles and other farm hazards on their own. Children should always be supervised when in the safe play area.

- **Securely fence** a designated safe play area. The fence should be 1.2m or higher to prevent children climbing over, with no space to crawl underneath.
- The gate should be **self-closing and self-latching**. **NEVER** allow the gate to be propped open at any time.

QUADS

Never allow riders under 16 years old to operate a quad. For more information refer to [Quad Bikes and Side-by-Sides](#).

MOTOR BIKES

Always follow the manufacturer's advice. Children should only ever operate age appropriate equipment.



emergencyplus

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EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In case of emergency, **CALL 000** or your local emergency service provider, then call your manager or supervisor.

POLICE

AMBULANCE

FIRE

POISONS 13 11 26

Poisons Information Centre

Some people might have worked on a farm before, but...

- Have they worked on your farm?
- Do they know how you run your business?

OTHER RESOURCES

- [Child Safety on Farms Guide](#)

- Teach children the dangers of riding on uneven ground and going too fast.
- Ensure appropriate helmets are worn and clasped properly.

WATER SAFETY

- **Ensure** children are actively supervised at all times when they are near water.
- Farms have many different types of water hazards and all who live and work on this farm should be aware of **ALL** water locations.
- Familiarise children with water from a young age. Swimming lessons are highly recommended.
- Make sure all tanks, wells and troughs are fitted with lids or mesh to prevent a child falling in. Remove ladders on tanks so children cannot climb them.
- Swimming pools must have appropriate pool fencing with a self-closing and self-latching gate.

FARM VEHICLES AND MACHINERY

- Large moving vehicles like tractors and towed implements can be a significant danger to children. **ALWAYS** supervise children closely around large and heavy machinery.
- **NEVER** allow children to ride in the tray of a ute or in the bucket or attachments of a tractor.
- Remove keys to machinery when not in use.
- Seatbelts should always be used in utes, trucks and cars.

ANIMALS

- Always supervise children around farm animals. Animals can be unpredictable especially when they are mothering babies.
- Make sure stockyards and animal holding yards are not accessible to young children.
- **NEVER** underestimate an animal's instincts. Even the best dog may bite if it feels threatened.
- **Ensure** children are properly instructed, supervised and wearing an appropriate helmet when riding horses. Not all horses are suitable for children.
- Livestock can carry diseases that are transferable to humans. Children should wash their hands with soap and water following contact with animals and should use PPE (like gloves and face shields) when working around animal bodily fluids or droppings.

SILOS AND GRAIN STORAGE

- **Ensure** children know the risks about being near and playing in grain.
- Children can drown inside storage silos.
- Make sure silos have lids and safety climbing cages – only accessible at 1.8m high to deter climbing by children and remove nearby ladders.
- Augers should be guarded and **MUST** not be used as a jungle-gym.

CHEMICALS

Hazardous, toxic or poisonous substances should be stored in a securely locked place – these include animal medicines and all applicators (syringes, drench guns etc).

Comments / Suggestions

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Toolbox Talks

OPERATION NAME: MEETING LEADER:

LOCATION: DATE:

PARTICIPANTS

1. NAME: 4. NAME:

SIGNATURE: SIGNATURE:

2. NAME: 5. NAME:

SIGNATURE: SIGNATURE:

3. NAME: 6. NAME:

SIGNATURE: SIGNATURE:



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment

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