



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. Refer to **Child Safety on Farms**
- **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 Safe Chemical Handling

Chemicals and hazardous substances are used widely on farms to control pests and weeds, crop management and animal health purposes. Chemicals and hazardous substances can cause **serious injury, illness or even death.**

The **biggest risks** are exposures that may result in serious and/or life-threatening medical conditions. The effects may be short or long-term poisoning and can have chronic and long-lasting effects depending on the frequency, duration and type of chemical exposures.



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 risks.

Extreme caution must be taken when working with and around chemicals and hazardous substances. Many chemicals used in farming are toxic and can potentially cause poisoning to people, animals and/or other non-targeted organisms.

Chemicals enter the body through three main entry points:

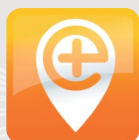
1. Inhalation of vapours, dust or spray particles (by breathing them in)
2. Skin absorption
3. Ingestion (by swallowing it)

LABELS AND SAFETY DATA SHEETS (SDS)

- **Ensure** that chemicals and hazardous substances are used according to manufacturer's instruction labels and SDS.
- **Ensure** staff understand that an **SDS is not part of or a substitute for a label.**
- **Review the label.** The information must include:
 - Product Identifier
 - Active ingredient identity and proportion
 - Hazard Pictogram and hazard statement, signal work and statement of precaution consistent with the correct classification of the chemical
 - Directions, limitations of use and expiry date (if applicable)
 - Withholding period
 - Australian contact details of manufacturer or importer
 - Emergency procedures and first aid.

For more information refer to **Safe Work Australia - Labelling Chemicals.**

- **Make sure** you have the correct Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for each and every chemical you are using.
- **Ensure** SDS can be easily accessed.
- Choose the least toxic product available that will do the job you need. Identify how toxic a chemical is through the Toxicity Rating (sometimes identified as the LD rating) on the SDS.
- **Do not** use chemicals 'off label' unless supported by a permit from the **APVMA.**



emergencyplus

Save the app that could save your life.

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

- AusChem Training Ltd
- DrumMuster™
- ChemClear™



MIXING

- Always follow manufacturer's instructions.
- Never exceed the maximum rate of mixing chemicals or the frequency of application. If you exceed acceptable residue levels, insurance may not cover you if damages or poisoning occurs.
- Ensure appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available and in good condition. Use gloves and safety glasses, goggles or face shields. Wear an apron or chemical resistant full body overalls when mixing chemicals.
- Check and maintain mixing equipment – refer to Chemical Application Toolbox Talk.

STORING

- Store chemicals in original packaging according to type and toxicity and chemical storage guidelines.
- Be vigilant - containers can look very similar yet contain different chemicals, labels fade and fall off and mistakes can cause serious environmental or health affects.

- Chemicals should be stored in a lockable, well ventilated area with good lighting and preferably a sealed, bunded floor with appropriate drainage - refer to Safe Work Australia Storage & Managing Risk.
- Never decant chemicals into small containers as the liquid may look like a drink to those who don't realise the bottle contains chemical – refer to Child Safety on Farms.

- Ensure appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available and stored correctly. Replace as needed.
- Ensure a spill kit is available with up to date fire extinguisher.
- Display appropriate signage.
- A shower and face wash station should be made available.

RECORDING

- Update and maintain inventory for chemical use and storage.
- Record training/inductions or workers.

TRANSPORT

- Ensure workers are trained in transporting hazardous substances and adhere to appropriate securing of loads.
- Follow legislation governing the transport handling and storage of Dangerous Goods – refer to Transport of Dangerous Goods.

DISPOSAL

- Dispose of containers according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Dispose of unwanted chemicals through DrumMuster™ and ChemClear™.

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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