

# WHEN AN INJURY OCCURS

We hope it never will happen. It is a very stressful time with emotions and adrenalin running high, so best to be prepared.

## What to Do?

**Firstly** apply First Aid and seek medical help

**Secondly** alert your insurance company

**Thirdly** the employer is legally required to report the injury to Workplace Standards on 1300 366 322 and in writing within 48 hours if:

- The worker is hospitalized
- The incident could/might/had potential to result in a fatality or serious bodily injury or illness. This is deemed a dangerous incident.

When an accident is reported be absolutely sure that nothing at the accident site is moved or changed, (except injured person) until authorities have investigated the incident.

The dangerous incident in a workplace could be:

- An explosion (gas, dust or whatever)
- Probability of severe shock
- Fire - in a confined space/underground
  - requiring fire brigade (bush fire exempt)
- Uncontrolled escape of high pressure oil or water
- A self propelled mobile plant tipping over
- Failure of load bearing or pressure retaining components of registered plant

Please note that Workcover and Workplace Standards Tasmania automatically receives a report of any hospitalisation and all workers compensation claims, so best to report ASAP to ensure the employer/ person in charge avoids and never receives an infringement notice.

## Return to Work

1st July 2010 is the date when the Tasmanian Return to Work & Injury Management Model was implemented. There are various new terminology and documents to assist in the process.

Injury Management Programs are required for employers and their insurers. They consist of documented policies and procedures on what and who should do it during the injury management process.

Return to Work Plans is a simple plan for a worker who is likely to be incapacitated for more than 5 working days and less than 28 calendar days.

Injury Management Plan is a comprehensive plan where a worker is likely to be incapacitated for more than 28 days

These major reforms include when a worker is on a "return to work" program, the employer is to provide suitable and meaningful alternative duties. Do farms have "light duties" for the not yet fully healed worker who is not yet ready for "normal duties"? To assist in making a list view the "alternative duties" at [www.workcover.tas.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/120859/GB199.pdf](http://www.workcover.tas.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/120859/GB199.pdf)

For more information [www.workcover.tas.gov.au/safety/publications/guidance](http://www.workcover.tas.gov.au/safety/publications/guidance) books and click on Workers Compensation and Injury Management and then click on Injury Management.

# MSDS - MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS

## What is an MSDS?

An MSDS is a document containing important information about a hazardous chemical (which may be a hazardous substance and/or dangerous goods) and must state:

- A hazardous substance's product name
- The chemical and generic name, as well as the **dangerous classification** of certain active ingredients
- The chemical and physical properties of the hazardous substance
- Health hazard information – the **first aid** to administer if an incident occurs
- Precautions and procedures for safe use and handling – including **what PPE to wear**
- The manufacturer's or importer's name, Australian address and telephone number
- **Fire fighting** measures

The MSDS provides employers, self employed persons, workers and other health and safety representatives with the necessary information to safely manage the risk from hazardous substance exposure. It is important that everyone in the workplace knows how to read and interpret a MSDS.

Employers and self-employed persons must:

- Keep a register containing a list of all hazardous substances used at the workplace

- Obtain an MSDS of a hazardous substance from the supplier/manufacturer, and keep a copy in an easily accessible place near where the hazardous substance is stored and/or used.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure the MSDS is not changed other than by the manufacturer or importer
- Ensure the manufacturer's label is fixed to a hazardous substance container
- Ensure warnings are given about enclosed systems containing hazardous substances.

MSDS can be sourced from manufacturer's websites or Elders website: <http://cropping.elders.com.au/echemseek> In SEARCH box type in chemical name, then click on MSDS tab on top right hand side or [www.agtech.com.au/e-chemseek/default.asp?V\\_DOC\\_ID=1057](http://www.agtech.com.au/e-chemseek/default.asp?V_DOC_ID=1057)

More information can be sourced from [www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au](http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au) and locate Standards and Codes on the home page.

Also [www.wst.tas.gov.au/safety\\_comply/dang\\_subs/handling/guidance\\_information](http://www.wst.tas.gov.au/safety_comply/dang_subs/handling/guidance_information)

## If in doubt, don't delay:

Ring and ask at Workplace Standards Tasmania 1300 366 322 Tasmanian Fire Service 1800 000 699

## With thanks to PASS Inc sponsors:

### GOLD



### SILVER



### BRONZE



**SAFETY RULES ARE YOUR BEST TOOLS**

# PASS it on

Newsletter of Proactive Agricultural Safety & Support Inc



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**REMEMBER**  
BEING SAFE IS NO ACCIDENT

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**Website address:** [www.pass.org.au](http://www.pass.org.au)

**If you would like to help PASS to save lives – become a member**

#### Contact:

For a membership form and more details contact Anne Taylor (Chairman) 6398 6212  
 Anne Hammersley (Admin Assistant) 6391 8496

Check out the website [www.pass.org.au](http://www.pass.org.au)

## SNAKE BITE

All snake bites should be treated as life threatening.

**SYMPTOMS** are many and varied and may include some or all of the following:

- \* Often an initial high state of anxiety
- \* Sometimes there are the "classic" pair of fang marks, but often only a single or multiple, or even a small straight laceration
- \* Australian snake bites are often painless, but continue to bleed
- \* Nausea or vomiting
- \* Drowsiness
- \* Cold pale skin
- \* Headache
- \* Abdominal or chest pain
- \* Breathing difficulties
- \* Blurred or double vision

### MANAGEMENT

#### If conscious

- Immediately rest, calm and reassure the patient. (REMEMBER the slower the pulse rate, the slower the of absorption of the venom) DO NOT wash the venom off the bitten area, as the venom may be identified later at the hospital
- Promptly apply a firm broad crepe or compression bandage around the limb over the area of the bite. (Ensure the circulation is not cut off and fingers/toes are pink). Then bandage from the fingers or toes (as appropriate) working upwards, ensuring you cover the entire limb as far as you can go. Crepe or compression bandages are ideal but any flexible material can be used ie tear up clothing, sheets or towels.
- When the bandaging is complete MARK THE AREA OF THE BITE SITE with either a pen/marker or with a small snip of the bandage to the location (this allows the doctor to quickly locate the bite site with

out removing the bandage in order to undertake a "venom detection test")

- Immobilise the limb with a splint or sling, then improvise i.e. bind one leg to the other with bandages; use a folded newspaper for an arm splint

#### WARNING:

**DO NOT** walk the patient,  
**DO NOT** apply a tourniquet,  
**DO NOT** remove the bandage at any stage

#### If unconscious

- Monitor and care for airway and breathing
- Treat as for conscious patient
- Seek urgent medical assistance

### Stay Alert!

Snake bite



#### Free call **NATIONAL POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE**

Can be contacted '24' hours a day  
 Australia Wide on: Ph: 131 126

This information and more can be found in *Emergency First Aid*, the authorised workbook of Australian First Aid. It is available by phoning (03) 9572 6133 or visit the web [www.medicmedia.com.au](http://www.medicmedia.com.au)

## SAFE VACCINATING

Lamb marking season is upon us. It is time for vaccinating. Are you aware of the risks to the operator associated with this activity? There is a high likelihood of accidental scratches or penetration of the skin, with a needle contaminated with all sorts of things including the vaccine. Are you aware of the effect of these vaccines on the human? In particular Gudair, used to protect from Ovine Johnes disease, has significant detrimental risks.

Agritech company Simcro has developed a "self-tenting" safety injector for administering vaccines. Pfizer, the manufacturer of Gudair, requested an injector that prevented operators from accidentally injecting themselves with a vaccine

intended for animals.

With this gun the operator activates the trigger with one hand and presses the injector against the animals skin. The injector's needle guard automatically "tents" or grips the skin prior to delivering the injection. This provides the operator the opportunity of the other hand being placed well away from the injecting site. For more information go to [www.simcro.com/news.html](http://www.simcro.com/news.html)



PPE such as gloves which prevent the needle reaching the skin should be worn, plus long sleeved shirts.

## CHAIRMAN'S WORD

All Farms are unique. No two are exactly alike, but there are areas and tasks common to all, including causes of injuries.

- There are on average 93 non-intentional injury deaths of farmers and farm workers each year in Australia, this works out to just under 2 deaths per week, down from an average of 150 fatalities per annum 15 years ago (3 deaths per week). (Reference: ACAHS, National Farm Injury Data Centre).
- National Workers' Compensation Stats, from Safe Work Australia show in 2007/2008 there were 3,690 compensable claims for farm injury. They estimate that only 50% of injury ends up as a claim.
- The most recent quad bike death data is that over the last 10 years there have been 130 quad bike related deaths in Australia, (Reference: ACAHS National Farm Injury Data Centre).
- Victoria recorded 10 farm fatalities in the 2009-10 financial year, five involved tractors, three involved electricity and only one was female. In the 08-09 year, there were 7 fatalities. On average fatalities on farms accounts for 26% of all Victorian workplace deaths

- NSW records show on average every year there are 1500 farmers and farm workers hospitalized from injury sustained whilst working on a farm
- New Zealand in 2009 recorded 13 farm fatalities being one every 28 days
- Tasmania rural industry 2007 -2010 WC claims: Motor & quad bikes (206), Weapons (4 claims) injuries / fatalities.

The most common causes of trauma and fatality for farmers and farm workers are vehicles, including quad bikes (ATV's), and tractors, with major contributing factors being:

- Lack of maintenance,
- Lack of Roll Over Protection
- Lack of guards on moving parts
- Lack of wearing helmets
- Lack of wearing seat belts

Most of these incidents are avoidable. Ever heard the words "It was an accident waiting to happen"? or "If only...."

I wish all farms, be they hobby farms or million dollar operations, the very best for an injury free growing and harvesting season in 2010-2011.

*Anne Taylor, Chair*



**Danger**  
Damaged PTO guard – perennial problem



**Disastrous tangle**

Water and electricity don't mix!! Damaged (and makeshift repaired) power cord.

### Did you know?

The external covering of extension cords are not water proof

### Best practice:

Store extension cord in dry shade uncrimped  
Never leave lying on wet and damp ground.  
Check for damage (rat chewing, exposed wires) before use  
Do not allow vehicles to run over the cord

## REMEMBER A SAFE BUSINESS IS A GOOD BUSINESS

## SAFETY ALERT



**Please do not let this happen to you**

Safety Precautions are vital because:

- Power lines and their wires can be very difficult to see. High Voltage wires supply electricity to all rural areas, crossing paddocks and beside roadways
- Poles can be a long way apart
- Any contact with any electrical wire may be fatal or cause serious permanent injuries. **With electricity there are no second chances.**
- Electricity can arc across a gap to a conductor. The higher the voltage the bigger the gap it can arc across. You do not have to make contact to be electrocuted.
- All overhead powerlines can sag up and down with temperature and electrical load and sway sideways with wind or other influences. The

## DON'T DIE – LOOK UP LOOK OUT

*A tragic death of a father and son – and serious injuries received by a second father and son – when a windmill touched powerlines at Rainbow was probably Victoria's worst electrical accident.*

sideways movement of long spans may be many metres.

- When working or about to work near overhead powerlines, always LOOK UP AND LIVE. Always check to ensure there are **no overhead lines near where you are going to work. Always carry out a safety check before you start work.**
- **No one may work within the 3 metre No Go Zone of overhead powerlines, unless they have advised Aurora Energy and received authorisation for the work.**
- Contacts with overhead electrical power lines, have involved tipping trucks, mobile grain silos and augers, headers, excavators, spray booms, irrigation pipes, elevating work platforms (EWP), scissor lifts and scaffolding, all of which have resulted in fatalities or serious injury and extensive hospital treatment.
- Never store conductive objects, plant or machinery underneath or near powerlines. Irrigation pipes and powerlines must never come in contact or close to one another.
- If you have overhead powerlines on your

property, clearly mark their position on the fences or on posts near or under the line to help highlight their position. As a landowner/occupier you have a duty of care to warn people working on the property of the presence of powerlines.

To find out more, view:

- Workcover Tasmania's Guide to Working Safely Near Overhead Powerlines (PDF 380 kb)
- Aurora's Guide For Working Near Overhead Powerlines (PDF 423 kb)
- [http://www.auroraenergy.com.au/electricity\\_network/electrical\\_safety/working\\_near\\_powerlines.asp](http://www.auroraenergy.com.au/electricity_network/electrical_safety/working_near_powerlines.asp)

To arrange for an assessment, contact Aurora's Customer Service Centre on 1300 13 2003

**If an accident does occur with a high voltage powerline, keep at least 10 metres away from any victims and do not attempt to provide assistance or you too may become a victim**

# DANGEROUS GOODS

There is a difference between hazardous substances and dangerous goods. Dangerous Goods are those which will cause immediate harm to life, health, property or the environment.

Most farms use and store some dangerous goods e.g. petrol or diesel. It is important to know:

- What constitutes a "large" volume. The volume will vary with the substance.
- The property's capacity to store.

For example: the capacity to store 2500 litres of petrol or avgas, 10,000 litres of diesel, 250 kgs caustic soda or 2500 kgs ammonium nitrate will classify the property as a Dangers Substance Location (DSL). The *Dangerous Goods Act 1998*, and Regulations address the storage, use and transport of Dangerous Goods and impose certain requirements such as signage.

The Purpose of signage is to alert the emergency services (fire brigade) to the presence of hazardous material and to ensure they have sufficient information to act immediately and appropriately in the first few minutes of dealing with a dangerous substance (fire, spillage, explosions, etc)

**HAZCHEM** and Signage on every entrance of storage shed of a Chemical supplier / retailer.

Number & letters indicates the action to be taken by emergency services.

A **HAZCHEM** sign/placard must be displayed where stored substances are classified as dangerous AND stored in quantities that are considered "large". The sign must be placed in a permanent and prominent position at every vehicle entrance of the property. At a farm this would be at all entrances at which emergency services would enter the property.

Ideally, where there is a **HAZCHEM** sign there is also other important information such as:

- Emergency telephone contact numbers for
  1. Fire brigade and police and ambulance and SES = 000
  2. Farm owner/manager in case the emergency occurs when the premises are unattended
- Map showing location/site of the dangerous substance



The Tasmanian Fire Service suggests for easy and quick identification to also have **HAZCHEM** sign on the building, (near its entrance/door) which stores your chemicals. Many farms have the entry gates several kilometres from the farm buildings and storage areas.

The TFS is also concerned about the issue of incompatible chemicals being stored inside, even if quantities are less than those considered large.

More information can be sourced from:

1. [http://www.wst.tas.gov.au/industries/transport\\_and\\_storage/general](http://www.wst.tas.gov.au/industries/transport_and_storage/general)
2. [www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au](http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au) and locate Standards and Codes on the Home Page
- The National Standards for the Storage and Handling of Workplace Dangerous Goods [NOHSC:101592001] Control of Major Hazard Facilities [NOHSC:1014(2002)]
- National Code of Practice for Storage and Handling of Workplace Dangerous Goods [NOHSC:2017(2001)]
3. Workplace Standards Tasmania Guidance notes: GB179 – June 2009 "Dangerous Substances Location – guide for occupiers" [http://www.wst.tas.gov.au/safety\\_comply/dang\\_subs/handling/guidance\\_information](http://www.wst.tas.gov.au/safety_comply/dang_subs/handling/guidance_information)
4. [http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au/chem/dangerousgoods/faqs\\_dg.asp#q1](http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au/chem/dangerousgoods/faqs_dg.asp#q1)

#### If in doubt ring and ask:

Workplace Standards Tasmania: 1300 366 322

Tasmanian Fire Service: 1800 000 699

## NATIONAL FARM SAFETY WEEK 2010

To assist farmers, including hobby farmers and other farm workers, to take control of safety on their farm and workplace, PASS conducted 2 events during National Farm Safety Week.

- 1) On 20th July, a Forum "Safety made Simple – one bite at a time", with support from Fonterra P/L & NAB Agribusiness included:
  - Presentations on:
    - How Safety is Managed by 2 National Safety Award winning farmers – Kathy Henry,

"Woodrising Farms", Tasmania and Michael Neville, Manager "Wongan", Stoneleigh, Vic.

- "Perceptions and Reality" by the Safety Judge of the Dairy Business of the Year
- The importance of insurance
- Shortcourses for farmers available from Tasmanian Skills Institute, some of which may be conducted in a farm environment.

These were followed by a workshop and brainstorming session "Implementing Safety Management", before attending a Guided walk and safety audit of a farm

- 2) On 22nd July, a rural careers expo "Safe Futures", with support from Agrifood Skills Australia and Workcover Tasmania, where students aged 15-19 years, their parents, teachers and career officers were able to

gather information and watch demonstrations promoting career pathways and associated safety from 35 exhibitors, including training organisations. The day began with a riveting presentation by a young person who survived a workplace accident because she was wearing all her safety gear.

#### Future Plans

Include launching the DVD on farm safety issues being created by Polytechnic Screen and Media Students.

And the PASS Chair to attend the inaugural conference of the National Centre for Farmer Health, Hamilton Victoria. More information at [www.farmerhealth.org.au](http://www.farmerhealth.org.au)