



# PASS it on

Newsletter of Proactive Agricultural Safety & Support Inc

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**REMEMBER**  
ACCIDENTS HURT SAFETY DOESN'T

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## LOOK UP, LOOK OUT FOR THOSE POWERLINES



All overhead powerlines are dangerous.

**It's everyone's responsibility to be safe around electricity.**

Every year there are still several near misses, despite the increased awareness of the dangers of overhead powerlines.

**Objects don't even need to touch powerlines to cause a shock or fatality.** Electricity can arc across an air gap.

Precautions must be taken to avoid serious injury or even death when going about our day-to-day activities. Everyone needs to be aware of the dangers of possible electrocution from overhead powerlines. This includes:

- People who own and operate irrigation equipment and heavy equipment such as excavators.
- All people in the farming community when storing or moving equipment which may come in contact with overhead lines.
- Everyone when engaged in activities wherever there is the potential to come into contact with overhead lines such as fishing, flying a kite or moving tall objects like ladders.

Unsafe practices, fallen powerlines or any other dangerous situations should be reported to TasNetworks' 24-hour emergency Fault Centre on 13 2004.

#### More information:

- [www.tasnetworks.com.au/safety](http://www.tasnetworks.com.au/safety)
- [www.sa.gov.au/topics/water-energy-and-environment/electrical-gas-and-plumbing-safety-and-technical-regulation/electricity-and-gas-safety-for-consumers/electricity-safety/electricity-and-gas-safety-on-farms](http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/water-energy-and-environment/electrical-gas-and-plumbing-safety-and-technical-regulation/electricity-and-gas-safety-for-consumers/electricity-safety/electricity-and-gas-safety-on-farms)

#### for information on:

- Safe clearance distance from powerlines.
- How to identify the types of powerlines on your farm.
- Avoiding contact with your powerlines.
- Using machinery near powerlines.
- Building near powerlines.
- Using extension cords and power boards safely.
- LPG safety on farms.

#### To stay safe - follow these simple steps:

- When you're working, driving or doing anything close to powerlines – **stop, look up and look out.**
- Irrigation pipes and machinery should NEVER be stored under powerlines.
- Always have a spotter when working near powerlines
- People and equipment should be kept at least three metres away from overhead powerlines, and at least 8 metres from transmission lines to remove the risk of
  - Electrocution
  - Electric shock,
  - Power interruptions, and to
  - Prevent bushfires caused by fallen powerlines.
- Never approach fallen powerlines.
- In an emergency situation where someone or something does come into contact with powerlines, customers should first **call 000 then TasNetworks on 132 004.**



## NEAR MISS

### The Sheep and the Runaway SSV

A petite lady farmer was moving a mob of crossbred ewes using the SSV.

One failed to keep up with the rest of the mob. She stopped to give it a ride on the SSV. The sheep was large and heavy – too heavy to lift on to the tray of the SSV. The farmer decided to take a short cut and placed the sheep across the front of the SSV in the foot-well, which was significantly lower and easier to reach.

This is when things went wrong. As she pulled it across the foot-well the sheep kicked and pressed its head down, hard on the accelerator. She watched in horror as the SSV with sheep onboard took off through the nearby fence and careered across the paddock gathering speed towards a ditch! Fortunately fence wires caught around the roof frame. They tightened to the point of stalling the vehicle before major damage was done – to vehicle or sheep.

The farmer did feel a bit sheepish when she reflected what a moment's lack of thought could have cost." ■

### With thanks to PASS Inc sponsors:

#### SILVER



#### BRONZE



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

## REPORTING GUIDELINES WHEN TO CONTACT WORKSAFE TAS

There has been some confusion around when a workplace should notify WorkSafe Tasmania of an incident.

Part 3 of the *Workplace Health and Safety Act (2012)* requires:

- Immediate notification of a 'notifiable incident' to the regulator as soon as you become aware of it.
- If the regulator asks - a written notification must be delivered within 48 hours of the regulator's request
- Preservation of the incident site until an inspector arrives or directs otherwise (subject to some exceptions).

Failing to notify is a criminal offence and penalties apply.

### What is a 'notifiable incident'?



Notifiable incidents may relate to any person—whether an employee, contractor or member of the public.

A 'notifiable incident' is a "work-related incident". This is one that arises out of the conduct of a business or undertaking at a workplace where there is:

- The death of a person
- A serious injury or illness, or
- A 'dangerous incident.'

Only the most serious safety incidents are intended to be notifiable, and they trigger requirements to preserve the incident site until there is further direction from the regulator (WorkSafe Tasmania).

### Serious injury or illness

Notification is required of a serious injury or illness of a person if they require **immediate treatment** as an inpatient (even as a "day patient") in a hospital. The list could include examples such as:

- Corrective surgery
- Amputation
- Serious head injury (loss of consciousness, damage to the skull, a blood clot)
- Serious eye injury (could be total or partial loss of vision, or an object penetrating the eye)
- Serious burns (requiring a skin graft)
- Skin separating from the underlying tissue (degloving, scalping)
- Serious spinal injury
- Loss of bodily function (movement of a limb, sense of smell, sight or hearing)

- Serious lacerations that cause permanent impairment and
- Medical treatment within 48 hours of exposure to a substance.



Occupational zoonoses (diseases contracted from animals) contracted in the course of work must also be notified. They include

- Q fever
- Anthrax
- Leptospirosis
- Brucellosis
- Hendra Virus
- Avian Influenza
- Psittacosis.

Even if immediate treatment is not readily available, for example because the incident site is rural or remote or because the relevant specialist treatment is not available, the notification must still be made.

### Dangerous Incidents (commonly referred to as 'near misses')

Notification is also required of any dangerous 'near misses'. These occur when a worker or another person is subject to a serious risk because of exposure to a dangerous situation. The incident may have happened without injury but the risk must be reported. For example: such incidents could include the possibility of an electric shock from direct contact with exposed live electrical parts, or the risk of injury from a collapsing structure.

The long list of dangerous incidents and more information about this topic can be obtained from the Safe Work Australia fact sheet "Incident Notification" which provides 11 pages of general guidance.

[www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/about/publications/pages/incident-notification-fact-sheet](http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/about/publications/pages/incident-notification-fact-sheet)

**Golden Rule:** If not sure about reporting an incident then err on the side of caution and give the WorkSafe helpline a call and let them know. Phone no 1300 366 322.

**Tip:** When creating the incident report, focus on preventative measures. This means: **"What can be done to prevent the incident from happening again?"** ■

## IS AN ELECTRIFIED BARBED WIRE FENCE ILLEGAL?

*"Electrifying barbed wire is extremely dangerous (to both people and animals)".*

This was the most common answer when PASS consulted various experts. A Google search also did not provide a definitive answer.

The blog below appears to be the best answer. [www.pasturepro.com/blog/2011/05/electrifying-woven-or-barbed-wire/](http://www.pasturepro.com/blog/2011/05/electrifying-woven-or-barbed-wire/)

**Barbed wire:** *Personally, I just plain and simple do not see a need to electrify barbed wire. I always discourage people from doing this. I think that it is right down dangerous as well as unnecessary. I'm sure that most everyone involved in agriculture has had their fair share of "hang ups" on barbed wire. Many ripped jeans, torn jackets and bodily scars can be attributed to barbed wire. It's simply a fact of the product. But, if you add an electrical pulse to this scenario that generates a quick escape response – entanglement can occur rather quickly to both humans and animals.*

*Think about this; what do you want to happen when you or an animal touches a hot wire and gets a shock? Typically, the intelligent reaction is to back off or move away from it – and to not touch it again. The last thing you should want to happen is to get entangled with that wire and not be able to get away or back off from it! Believe me, repeated shocks from an electric fence wire can be a pretty traumatic experience. Thus, a smooth joint-less wire provides for less resistance, is much less likely to entangle and is easier to move away from.*

One thing is for sure - an electrified barbed wire fence is a significant hazard, which needs to be controlled. Possible controls could be:

- Unhook the power.
- It is always included at the induction of all persons working or visiting the location
- Clear signage

### More Information:

1. Fatality involving an electric fence and fence energizer [www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/news/safety-alerts/alerts/2013/fatality-involving-an-electric-fence-and-fence-energizer](http://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/news/safety-alerts/alerts/2013/fatality-involving-an-electric-fence-and-fence-energizer)
2. [www.electricfenceaustralia.com.au/fencing-help-section-how-to/81-choosing-products-and-setting-electric-fences-up/77-electric-fence-general-regulations-for-australia.html](http://www.electricfenceaustralia.com.au/fencing-help-section-how-to/81-choosing-products-and-setting-electric-fences-up/77-electric-fence-general-regulations-for-australia.html) ■

### Typical Safe Electric Fence

- Insulated outrigger for electrified plain wire
- Signage
- Single strand wire at top
- Ring lock.





Forklifts are a major cause of serious injury in workplaces across Australia. They pose risks to both drivers and people walking or working in the near

vicinity. Injury is usually caused by the vehicle overturning or loads falling off the vehicle.

Forklifts are used in many agricultural businesses such as wineries, packing sheds, processing plants and occasionally a farm. A tractor fitted with forks fitted to a mast is classified as a forklift.

All operators / drivers of forklifts must hold a current High Risk Work Licence. It is customary to attend an accredited training course before applying for a High Risk Work Licence to operate a forklift.

When a telehandler (a multi tool carrier) is non-slewing and fitted with a jib or used as a crane with a rated capacity greater than 3 tonnes, operators must hold a non-slewing mobile crane licence.

**Definitions:**

- 1. A telehandler or telescopic handler** is a versatile type of mobile lifting plant incorporating a telescopic boom fitted with a lifting attachment.
- 2. A forklift truck** is a powered industrial truck equipped with a mast and an elevating load carriage to which is attached a pair of fork arms (that can be raised 900 mm or more above the ground) or other load holding attachment.

Forklifts are powerful, heavy and inherently unstable pieces of equipment. They over- turn as a result of:

- Travelling with forks raised (loaded or unloaded).
- Turning sharply, accelerating or braking while cornering.
- Accelerating or braking down a slope.
- Travelling across an incline or uneven ground, such as potholes.
- Unbalanced loads.
- Facing down a slope carrying a load.
- Carrying an unevenly balanced load.
- Braking hard when loaded.
- Striking overhead structures.

**The most important forklift specifications to consider to prevent forklift instability are:**

- Lift capacity.
- The maximum load supported by the lift.
- Vertical lift travel – how high the lift will go.

WorkSafe Australia funded research identified 10 key concerns in relation to forklift stability:

- 1.** Most rollovers involve unladen forklifts. Unladen forklift trucks are more unstable than a laden forklift with the load carried low.
- 2.** When operators apply the brakes on a laden forklift they easily lose stability.
- 3.** Even when stationary, forklifts have a small stability safety margin – 30-50% at rated load with the load down and 15-20% with a fully elevated load and mast vertical.

- 4.** The manufacturers’ information does not always detail if the forklift’s working capacity has been restricted by stability tests relating to overturning or tip-over.
- 5.** Manufacturers do not always include vital information such as the forklift’s capacity at full forward tilt of the mast and at maximum load elevation in their sales information.
- 6.** Uneven flooring, particularly with a height difference in excess of 20mm across the front wheels, can seriously impact on a forklift’s stability when carrying its rated load at full height.
- 7.** When driving with a raised load or a raised empty load carriage, a forklift may become dangerously unstable.
- 8.** Loads attached to a forklift or suspended from a jib attachment are more likely to result in a full forward tip-over when braking.
- 9.** Forklifts can easily overturn if they make contact with overhead structures.

**Forklift Safety Tips**

- Operators must be trained.
- Operators must hold a High Risk Work licence.
- Always perform a pre-operational safety check each time before a forklift is to be used: - tyres, fluids, seating, warning devices, capacity, lights, mast forks, controls and brakes.
- Forklifts must not carry passengers (unless a designated seat, footrest and seatbelt is available).
- Seatbelts must always be worn.
- Lower the load before moving or turning.
- Ensure all loads are secure before moving.
- Never lift people without a complying maintenance work platform.
- When moving, forks should be as close to the ground as is practicable.
- When leaving a forklift unattended, always lower the forks, apply the park brake, close the gas cylinder valve and remove the ignition key.
- Traffic management system should include “no-go” zones for both forklift and people; speed limits and traffic flow.

**Traffic management**

Separation of people and forklifts is the most important aim of a traffic management plan. It may include details of:

- The preferred travel paths for vehicles, including points to enter and leave the workplace.
- Pedestrian and traffic routing.
- Traffic controls for each expected interaction, including barriers, walkways, signs and general arrangements to warn and guide traffic around, past, or through the workplace or temporary hazard.
- The expected frequency of interaction of powered mobile plant and pedestrians.

**More Information:**

**Guide to High Risk Work Licence:** [www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/licensing/licensing-documents/high\\_risk\\_work\\_guides/High\\_Risk\\_Work\\_Licensing.TDF](http://www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/licensing/licensing-documents/high_risk_work_guides/High_Risk_Work_Licensing.TDF)

**Worksafe Victoria’s 20 page publication** Forklift Safety Reducing The Risk (PDF) [www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/safety-and-prevention/health-and-safety-topics/forklifts](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/safety-and-prevention/health-and-safety-topics/forklifts)

**Worksafe Tasmania: 26 page pdf :** “Forklift safety – reducing the risks” [www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/168141/nhp001.pdf](http://www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/168141/nhp001.pdf)

**Safe Work Procedure:** search for “Forklift” at [www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/safety/safety\\_advisors/sample\\_safe\\_work\\_procedures](http://www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/safety/safety_advisors/sample_safe_work_procedures)

**Traffic Management**

Forklifts - *Developing A Traffic Management Plan* [www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/forms-and-publications/forms-and-publications/forklifts-developing-a-traffic-management-plan](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/forms-and-publications/forms-and-publications/forklifts-developing-a-traffic-management-plan) ■

## R U HAY & SILAGE SAFE?

The Australian Fodder Industry Association has developed a checklist to assist all farmers, their families, their contractors and workers to be safe while making hay and silage.

**The Facts:**

- Hay makers work many long and hard hours.
  - Square hay bales weighing 500kg will cause injuries if they fall on someone.
  - Tractors, forage harvesters, mowers, rakes, balers and wrappers are all potentially dangerous pieces of equipment.
  - Transported hay must be well stacked and secured to prevent death or injury by falling.
- Accidents happen in less than a split second.

**Completing the checklist** below could save someone in your workplace from injury or death.

**Checklist:**

- Machinery is securely shutdown before maintenance occurs.
- Adequate safety guards are fitted to machinery.
- Fire extinguishers and first aid kits are functional and located close to baling operations.
- Prominent signage warning of the dangers of **falling bales** is clearly displayed in hay sheds.
- Prominent signage warning of the dangers of **moving vehicles** is displayed in hay sheds.
- Warning signs are clearly displayed on all machinery.
- Plant operators are familiar with relevant safety procedures.
- Dry flammable crop materials are regularly removed from where they collect and build up in and on machinery.
- Operators are familiar with changing work environments and possible hazards such as power lines and poles.

The AFIA has produced a 4-page document “Assessment of Vehicles for the Transport of Hay and Straw” that summarizes the key aspects for safely securing hay and straw for transport. The AFIA recommends keeping a copy in the truck. A copy can be downloaded from:

[http://www.afia.org.au/files/Assessment\\_of\\_Vehicles\\_for\\_the\\_Transport\\_of\\_Hay\\_and\\_Straw-Summary-25314.pdf](http://www.afia.org.au/files/Assessment_of_Vehicles_for_the_Transport_of_Hay_and_Straw-Summary-25314.pdf) ■

## CHAIRMAN'S WORD

James Reason's "Model of Accident Causation" uses the analogy of slices of Swiss cheese where the hole in each slice of Swiss cheese represents an error or a mistake or a misjudgment or distractions or a fault. When the holes in slices of Swiss cheese line up, an object can pass through the cheese. In the same way, when all the different factors that cause an accident line up, an accident will happen.

This model illustrates that, although many layers of defense lie between hazards and accidents, there are flaws in each layer that, if aligned, can allow the incident / accident to occur.

To summarize: *Incidents occur from a combination of factors that culminate in an accident / injury or near miss.*

To stay safe ensure all equipment is in good working condition as well as constantly maintaining your situational awareness.

**Situational awareness** is being aware of what is happening around you in terms of where you are, where you are supposed to be, and whether anyone or anything around you is a threat to your health and safety. To be safe, it is important we constantly monitor our immediate surroundings.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- **Work Capacity:** It is reasonable for an employer to direct an employee to attend a medical or physiotherapy assessment to determine their capacity to perform specific tasks associated with their work before commencing duties. Employers have the right to ensure a worker is "fit for the job".
- **Shearing Shed Safety**  
[www.shearingsafety.com.au](http://www.shearingsafety.com.au)  
This website is intended as a comprehensive occupational health and safety resource specifically for those in the shearing industry. There are images, documents and links to external websites on a wide variety of aspects related to shearing.



- **"Cardiorespiratory fitness is the key indicator of mortality and morbidity"**  
This is a quote from Professor Steven Blair, whose research focuses on the associations between lifestyle and health.
  - 10,000 is the minimum number of steps a person should take each day to maintain basic cardiorespiratory fitness.  
[www.shapeup.org/10000-steps/](http://www.shapeup.org/10000-steps/)
  - The recommendation for physical activity is to add about 30 minutes of moderate intensity activity each day ON TOP of your customary daily activities.

### Survey Results

PASS committee wanted to establish if "safety awareness" of Tasmanian farmers has changed over the last 6 years.

In 2009 some Tasmanian farmers were surveyed to establish a base line of their farm safety awareness. PASS has just completed a follow-up survey.

The results show a significant increase in safety awareness.

Two thirds of respondents stated that PASS was the organisation most influential in increasing their awareness and knowledge of Farm Safety Management practices since 2009. A quarter stated Work Cover Advisors were the most influential. Together we are doing a good job – these are pleasing results.

**Safety on Farm Snapshot:** How good is safety management on your farm? Assess this by completing the "safety snap shot". It gives a good idea on how your farm measures up against WHS law.

[www.thepeopleindairy.org.au/announcements/safetysnapshot](http://www.thepeopleindairy.org.au/announcements/safetysnapshot)

It takes about 15 minutes to complete and can be done by the Farm Manager alone or by involving all of the farm team. ■

- The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has "Information for Farmers" downloadable from their website – last updated on 4th September 2015.  
[www.apvma.gov.au/node/11636http](http://www.apvma.gov.au/node/11636http)
- Many of the 65 free **Sample Safe Work Procedures** on the WorkSafe Tasmania website are applicable to agriculture. They are easy to adapt to represent your farm's specific tasks and standards. They can be downloaded from [www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/safety/safety\\_advisors/sample\\_safe\\_work\\_procedures](http://www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/safety/safety_advisors/sample_safe_work_procedures)



- **Quad Bike fatalities 2015:** Nationally as of 1st November there have been 17 fatalities – 2 more than the total for 2014.
- **Ladder Safety:** Nationally in the last 12 years there have been about 276 deaths from persons falling off ladders. Safety precautions include:
  1. Ensure ladders are 'footed' or tied off at the bottom or top
  2. Maintain three points of contact with the ladder at all times

More Information: [www.acc.gov.au/system/files/Using%20a%20ladder%20-%20safety%20alert.pdf](http://www.acc.gov.au/system/files/Using%20a%20ladder%20-%20safety%20alert.pdf) and

[www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/60488/guidanc\\_ladders9.pdf](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/60488/guidanc_ladders9.pdf) ■

### WHAT'S NEW?

- The **My Confined Spaces App** for agricultural workplaces, by WorkSafe BC, Canada. Users can make an inventory using a map, log information and photos for each confined space, and record possible hazards. The app has a library containing documents, videos, tutorials and other resources. The app is available on both iOS and Android devices, as well as on desktop computers. For more information visit [www2.worksafebc.com/Portals/Agriculture/csMobileApp.asp](http://www2.worksafebc.com/Portals/Agriculture/csMobileApp.asp)
- The **Elastoplast Sport App** is downloadable free for both iPhone and Android devices. This app has information on how to manage and prevent injuries and includes video demonstrations on taping techniques for various injured body parts.
- **Zoetis** the manufacturers of **Guidar** have updated their safe vaccination material. The document "*Protecting your sheep from Ovine Johne's disease (OJD)*" has information on:
  - Adequate restraint of animals
  - Use of the safety vaccinator with the correct needle
  - The correct site for vaccination – high on the neck, just behind and below the ear.
  - What to do if a person is exposed to Guidar.



Available from [www.pass.org.au/safe-effective-injecting-livestock](http://www.pass.org.au/safe-effective-injecting-livestock) and [www.zoetis.com.au](http://www.zoetis.com.au)

- The Australian Fodder Industry Association (AFIA) has three signs available for download from their website. [www.afia.org.au](http://www.afia.org.au)

#### 1. CAUTION!

**2. CAUTION!** Bales may fall

**3. DANGER!** Beware of falling bales

- Landowners can access information on "Private Powerlines and Maintenance" at [www.tasnetworks.com.au/your-property/advice-and-guidelines/private-powerlines](http://www.tasnetworks.com.au/your-property/advice-and-guidelines/private-powerlines) ■

### SAFETY ALERTS

#### Safe storage of aerosol spray cans:

The alert advised against leaving aerosol spray cans in direct sunlight or near a heat source.

A 500g aerosol spray was placed above the engine compartment in direct sunlight. The combination of the engine heat and direct sunlight caused the spray can to over pressurize and it exploded when the can was shaken ready for use. The two workers escaped injury because they were wearing PPE (personal protective equipment) but the PPE was damaged. ■