

Canadian  
Agricultural  
Safety Week  
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# FACT SHEET #9

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## Recognize, evaluate and manage your risks

On average, 115 people are killed and another 1,500 are seriously injured by farm-related incidents in Canada each year - and many more minor injuries are never even reported. Farms and ranches will never be totally risk or hazard free work environments, but steps can be taken to reduce many of the hazards that exist.

“*Farm safety is MY business.*”, is the theme of this year’s Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW) campaign, March 8-14, 2006. The campaign emphasizes the personal and professional responsibilities of farm managers for their own safety as well as their workers. This risk management theme will give a special focus on youth aged 15 to 29 who make up a significant portion of new farm workers. CASW is delivered by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) and Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) in partnership with Farm Credit Canada (FCC) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).

“Farm safety is not an act of fate,” said Marcel Hacault, Executive Director of CASA. “Most farm related incidents are the predictable consequence of particular acts or omissions. If something is predictable, then it is also preventable.”

Farm-related injuries and fatalities don’t just happen by chance – they are the result of a chain of events typically numbering from 15 to 25. The good news is that there are many opportunities to interrupt the sequence and break the chain of events and alter the outcome.

The three key steps to risk management are to recognize the hazard, evaluate the potential risk and then manage that risk. A hazard is a physical condition or work task that exposes someone to injury. Risk is the chance of it occurring. A risk assessment is the process of identifying the hazards of a worksite and determining the level of risk. Risk management can be followed by a five-point process.

### **The Risk Management Process:**

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|--------------------|--|
| <i>(Recognize)</i> | 1. Identify hazards.   |
| <i>(Evaluate)</i>  | 2. Assess risks that may result.   |
| <i>(Evaluate)</i>  | 3. Decide on control measures to prevent or minimize the level of the risks. |
| <i>(Manage)</i>    | 4. Implement control measures.   |
| <i>(Manage)</i>    | 5. Monitor and review the effectiveness of the measures.                     |

*more...*

## ***“Recognize, evaluate, and manage your risks” continued...2.***

### **Recognize**

The first step is to recognize a hazard. Ask yourself: *Is there a hazard? What might the consequences be? What is the likelihood of an incident occurring? Visualize the potential and severity of injury? Who is at risk?*

### **Evaluate**

Risk is determined by estimating the severity of the hazard. Evaluation should be based on: knowledge of similar situations; the worker’s knowledge of the task; their experience; and if they have been trained. Only after a hazard has been recognized and evaluated can a proper decision be made as to how to manage it.

### **Manage**

There are several ways to manage hazards. Some hazards may not be fully eliminated, but can be significantly reduced by using one or all of these control points.

- ***Eliminate or substitute*** – discontinue dangerous work, remove the hazard or substitute it with something less hazardous.
- ***Engineering controls*** – if a hazard can’t be eliminated then redesign or guard it.
- ***Administrative controls*** – Use of training, procedures, and safe work practices.
- ***Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)*** – as a final barrier between people and the hazard.

Risk Assessment using the key steps of ‘Recognize, Evaluate, and Manage’ are important in determining the root causes of serious farm-related incidents. This information can then be used to develop prevention initiatives to make your farm as safer workplace and living space.

“Every farm is different and will have its own unique set of hazards and risks,” explains Hacault. “That’s why it is so important for each farm owner and manager to take ownership of farm safety on their farms – and make it their business.”

The CFC along with FCC, CASA, and AAFC want to remind Canadian farmers that “*Farm safety is MY business.*” means that you are responsible for your safety and that of your workers.

- 30 -

### **For more information call:**

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