



Farm Safety

AROUND THE FARM



→ FARM SAFETY

Plan for safety

Keeping your farm safe will have long-term benefits for your wellbeing and future livelihood and for the health and lives of the people who work on your property or who visit you there.

Each year one in seven claims to ACC is for injuries sustained by farmers, their employees, contractors, sub-contractors and visitors.

Once every three weeks a farmer is killed at work in New Zealand, while every day twelve are seriously injured.

Identifying hazards on your property and developing a comprehensive, written safety plan to reduce risk are two of the best ways of keeping your property injury free and productive.

Developing a farm safety plan

Your Farm Safety Plan will identify potential hazards and risks to you, your contractors, sub-contractors, employees and visitors. The Safety Plan will detail the tasks to reduce each hazard and risk and will include dates for the completion of each task.

The information in the series of ACC Farming brochures will help you prepare your Safety Plan. Consider the following aspects of your work as you write the plan:

- engineering interventions that could reduce the risk of injury – eg, (ROPS) roll-over protection structures on tractors
- how you make decisions about purchasing new and used farm equipment
- ways to reduce manual handling injuries
- hazard identification
- farm and workshop machinery maintenance and operation
- maintenance and operation of safety equipment – eg, guards on machinery
- use and maintenance of personal protective equipment
- potential for working in confined spaces
- ways to reduce fatigue and stress
- animal handling

- design and maintenance of cattle yards, including “escape gaps”
- storage of hazardous materials and other chemicals
- maintenance schedules of machinery used on the farm – eg, ATVs
- preparation for emergencies such as serious injury, fire or earthquake
- your legal obligations to visitors, employees and contractors.



Safety responsibilities

NEW EMPLOYEES

Both you and your employees have safety responsibilities. New employees need to know what the best practice is for your industry and how they will be supervised to ensure safe practices are carried out.

- There are penalties for not complying with safety regulations; explain what these are.
- Let them know who they can go to for help with any health and safety concerns and where to get specific safety information.

NEW EMPLOYEE INDUCTION CHECKLIST

- Introduce new employees to key people on the property and show them the site.
- Tell them about your emergency procedures (fire and evacuation) including location of fire extinguishers, first-aid cabinets and reporting points.
- Show them how to report accidents involving injury and what to do at the scene of an injury.
- Tell staff about specific hazards on the farm such as wires across valleys, pits in the ground, uncovered areas, or chemical storage areas on the site.
- Identify all chemicals on-site and provide instruction on safe handling for each of these.
- Make sure up-to-date Material Safety Data Sheets are available to all staff. These must not be more than five years old at date of issue (this may differ from the date of print, so check carefully).
- Show staff how to identify new hazards and how to report them and how to perform tasks safely.
- Discuss any other health and safety issues of specific concern to you and the new employee.

CONTRACTORS

You also have responsibilities to ensure that contractors, sub-contractors and their employees are safe while working on your farm. This duty applies to things you can reasonably control or influence.

- If you provide plant or equipment for use by contractors, take reasonable steps to ensure that it is safe and suitable for use and that those using it are capable of doing so safely.
- Provide information, instructions or warning signs to alert contractors and their employees to known hazards – eg, weight limits for bridges, location of pesticides, unruly animals.

In addition to the farmer's responsibility:

- contractors who work on your farm should ensure that anything they do while working there does not cause harm to themselves or other people
- if they have their own employees or are hiring sub-contractors the contractor also has a duty for their health and safety.

VISITORS

All authorised visitors to your property need to be aware of any unusual, work-related hazards that may cause them serious harm. Authorised visitors may be friends, your bank manager or paying guests. They also include people with a legal right to be there such as employees of power companies or the Department of Conservation (provided you have been told that they intend to work on your property).

You are not normally liable if anyone on your land without permission suffers harm.

Further information about the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 can be found on www.osh.dol.govt.nz

Managing hazards

By identifying hazards, assessing their potential risk and considering the controls that can be put in place, you will reduce the likelihood of injury. Keep a written record of hazards on your farm.

If you do this exercise regularly, especially before a block of work, you will increase the effectiveness of your plan and it will be top of mind for you and the people working with you.

WHEN YOU IDENTIFY THE SOURCES OF HAZARDS, INCLUDE:

- farm implements – eg, chainsaws and workshop equipment
- vehicles – including tractors and ATVs
- stock handling yards, chemical storage and handling procedures
- smaller items used in the workplace – eg, ropes and ladders.

THINK ABOUT:

- the way the equipment is used – eg, how implements are towed behind the tractor in normal working circumstances
- who uses the equipment and for what purpose.

ASSESS THE POTENTIAL RISKS

- What is the immediate impact of the hazard?
- Are there medium – or long-term effects of the hazard? Many hazards may affect your future quality of life such as exposure to noise or some chemicals.

CAN HAZARDS BE CONTROLLED?

If elimination of the hazard isn't possible, consider physically isolating people from the hazard – eg, by guarding dangerous parts of machinery or fencing off hazardous areas.

If elimination or isolation of the hazard is not possible, consider minimising the risk that the hazard poses.

Minimising the risk includes:

- using the appropriate personal protective equipment
- displaying safety information
- training operators in the correct use of equipment.



CHECKLIST FOR CONTROLLING HAZARDS

1. Can it be eliminated altogether?
2. Can the hazard be isolated?
3. Can the hazard be minimised – eg, personal protective equipment?

Purchasing equipment

When you purchase new or second-hand farm equipment, take time to think about its safety features. The cheapest option at the time of purchase may not be the cheapest long-term option.

As well as the potential for causing serious injury, equipment can also have long-term effects on health as a result of noise, chemicals or vibration. It is worth investing in equipment with better safety features.

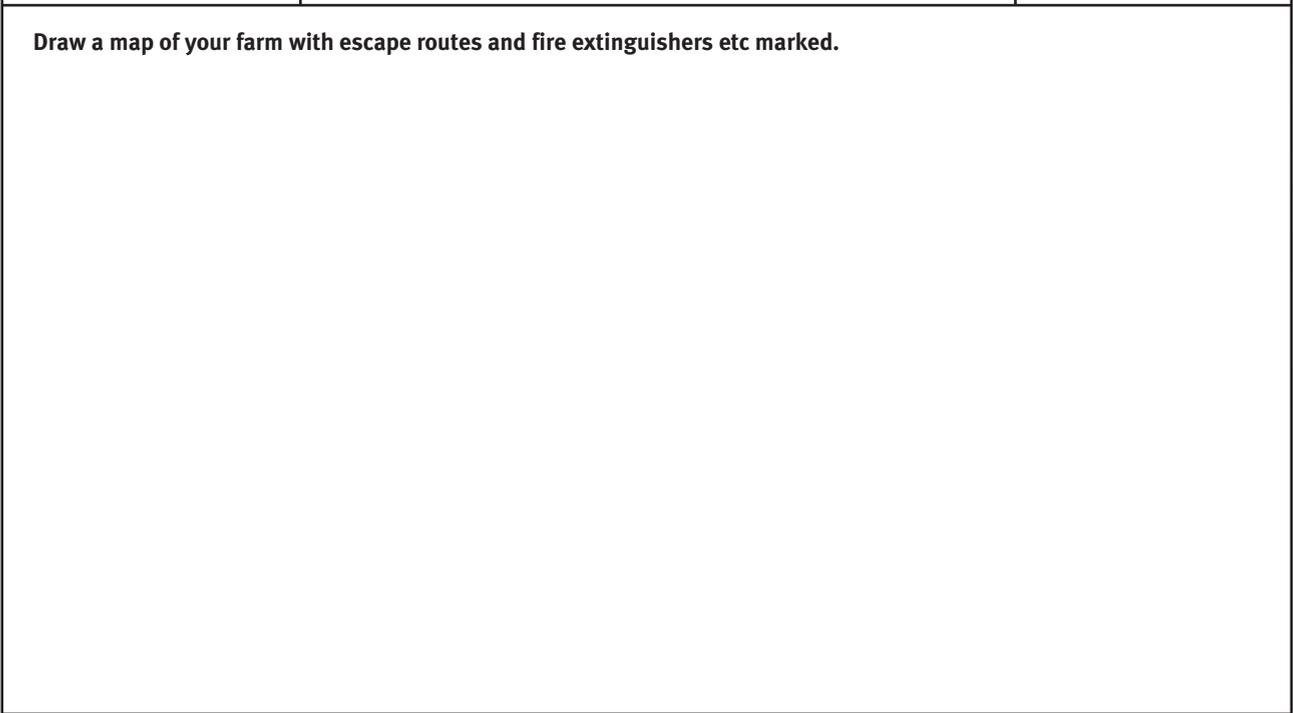
When purchasing safety equipment:

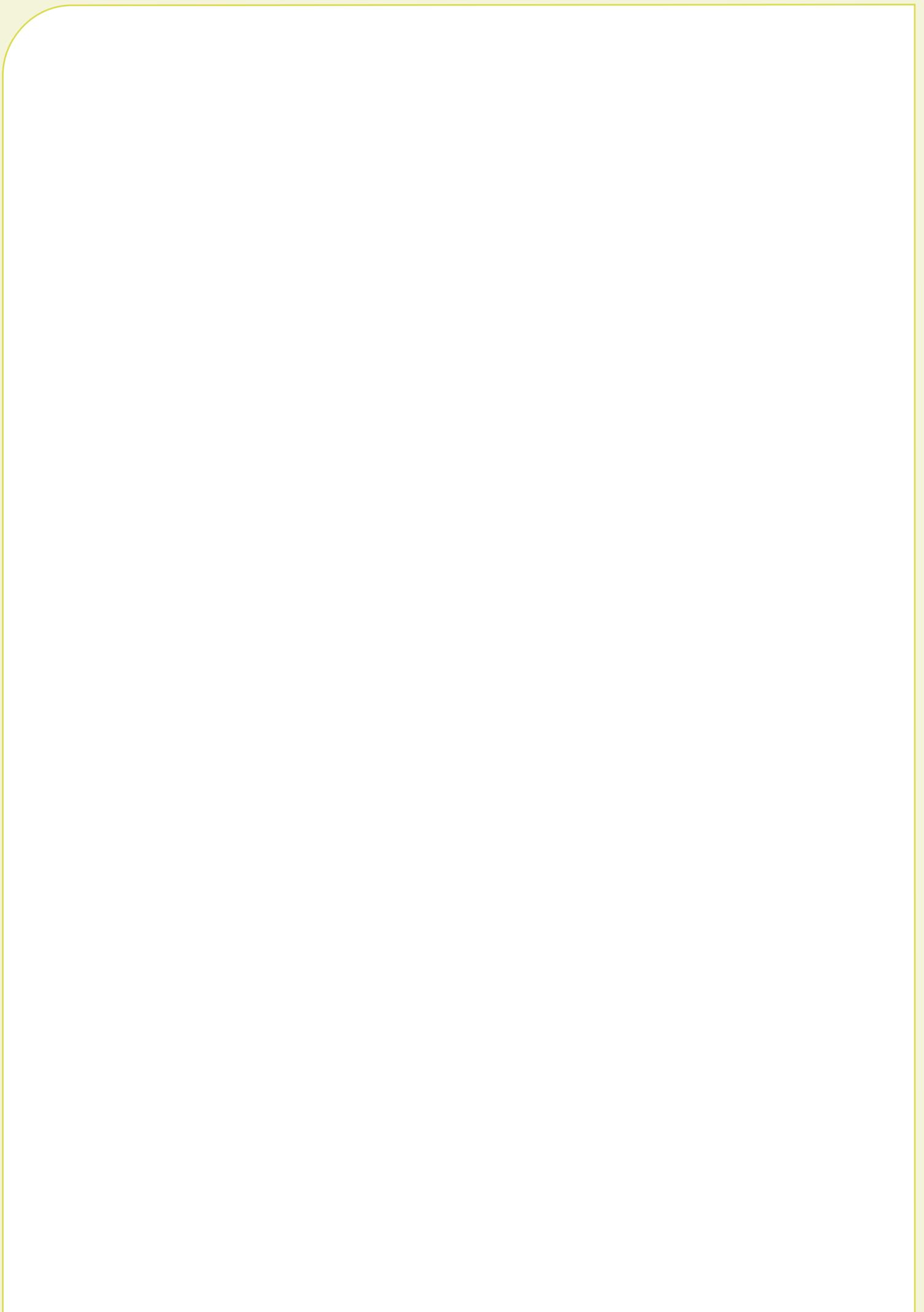
- compare features designed to reduce the risk of injury in the various products
- ask the manufacturer to explain the safety features of the equipment
- ensure that the engineering designs comply with standards (New Zealand, Australian or international standards)
- check for reports of compliance with those standards, customer feedback and any other written information that may be available
- look at equipment with lower vibration characteristics or fitted with damping devices.

Develop your own emergency plan

EVENT	WE WILL...	TELEPHONE

Draw a map of your farm with escape routes and fire extinguishers etc marked.





HOW TO PREPARE FOR AN EMERGENCY ON THE FARM

PLAN AHEAD

As part of your Safety Plan, prepare a specific plan for emergencies – involve staff and family and give it to anyone working on or visiting your property. When everyone knows what to do in an emergency it avoids confusion and helps people to act quickly and with confidence to get help.

When preparing your emergency plan:

→ Talk to your local emergency services such as the ambulance and fire service. They can help you with your plan.

→ Give your GPS co-ordinates (published by Agriquality NZ) to your local emergency services.

→ Encourage everyone who works at, lives on or visits your property to contribute to your plan. Even a small piece of information could be vital.

→ Practise regular emergency drills with family and farm workers and follow-up with a debriefing session.

→ Tell people new to the farm your emergency plans and any signals you might use, whether audible or visible.

→ Keep a list of the emergency contact numbers next to the phone.

→ Show people new to the farm where to find the nearest phone and have access to this at all times.

Example emergency plan

EVENT	WE WILL...	TELEPHONE
Major injury	Remember first aid: Airways, Breathing, and Circulation. Our GPS position is latitude 40 00; longitude 176 33.	Dr Anderson on 123 4567
A fire or earthquake	Meet at the northern gate facing Mt Somers or, If this is not possible, we will meet on the second paddock next to the woolshed.	Emergency services 111 Neighbours Joe and Jill Smith 234 5678
Chemical poisoning	Behind the woolshed door and the laundry door are MSDS sheets for antidotes and/or treatment.	Poison Centre 0800 764 766
All emergencies	Our emergency kit contains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water (replaced 7/3/01) • Packet of candles • Tinned food • Mobile phone and charged battery • First aid kit • Matches • A spare sleeping bag • Tin opener • Torch and spare batteries 	
Emergency equipment Our fire extinguishers, stretcher, first aid box and ladders can be found at: (Draw a map of your farm with escape routes and fire extinguishers etc marked.)		Last updated 7/3/01



Further resources for the farmer...

visit www.acc.co.nz/injury-prevention

or call 0800 THINKSAFE (0800 844 657)

