

Work environment – Rural safety

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Workplace incidents >

This bulletin outlines some simple safety guidelines for those working in the rural industry and is one of a series on Rural Industry safety.

First aid

An injury is the most common outcome of a workplace incident but a near miss might be fatal the next time it occurs.

Report all incidents, including near misses to your employer.

Employees are often the best placed people to identify hazards, especially those caused by faulty equipment. Report any unsafe equipment.

A properly equipped and maintained first aid kit should be provided in your workplace. Make sure you know where the kit is kept and what to do in case of an accident.

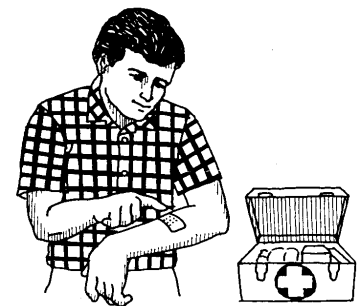
For medical and fire service emergencies, dial “000”. Keep emergency phone numbers beside the telephone for the following services:

- doctor;
- ambulance;
- Poisons Information Centre (131126);
- Fire Service.

Know where the first aid kit is kept. The best place for emergency phone numbers is beside the telephone.

If a serious injury occurs, there are some things that may be done to reduce the severity or maybe even save a life:

- Don't panic.
- Send for assistance, either first aid equipment or a better qualified person.
- Chemical eye burns, especially from acids and caustics, need urgent treatment. Immediately flush the affected eye with clean water for at least 15 minutes while waiting for medical attention.
- Do not move the injured person unless they are in a dangerous situation.
- Reassure the injured person, make them comfortable and keep them warm.
- Notify your employer.



putting safety first >



Taking a course in first aid and emergency techniques can be one way of helping to save a life.

Emergency procedures

Be familiar with emergency procedures for your workplace:

- who to report to in an emergency;
- emergency telephone numbers;
- evacuation procedures; and
- designated meeting place.

Understand fire extinguishers and which type to use for different fires. Be familiar with emergency telephone numbers and recognise when a fire is getting out of control and call for assistance.

Never put yourself at risk when reacting to an emergency.

Chemical spills and clean ups

Care for the health and safety of yourself and others is required when cleaning up chemical spills particularly if the chemical concentrate has been spilt. The Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) gives information for cleaning up a chemical spill. Try to contain a chemical spill so that it does not get into a water course or storage facility. Each chemical has an identification code, called a UN number, that you can find stamped on the container or on its label. It is also found on the relevant MSDS. If you call an emergency number to report a chemical incident, supply them with the UN number.

Compensation

Anyone employed on a wage or a salary is entitled to workers' compensation if an injury is sustained:

- during employment;
- from an incident arising from employment;
- going to or from the place of employment;
- travelling between one workplace and another.

Contractors who are not established in their own business and contract for 'labour only', who do not supply any plant or material and who use only hand tools, may also be entitled to workers' compensation.

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