

## Work environment – Horticulture safety package

# Emergency procedures >

**This bulletin outlines some simple safety guidelines for those working in the horticultural industry and is one of a series on Horticultural Industry Safety.**

### Employers must have emergency procedures in place

An 'emergency' within the industry can be any of a variety of events such as fire, explosion or a major accident.

Employers have both a legal and moral obligation to have procedures in place to ensure the safety of workers, contractors and visitors if an emergency occurs. The detail and extent of any procedures would reflect the size of the organization, the activities and risks to health and safety

There may also be a contractual liability to insurers to identify and control situations to minimise any losses arising from an emergency. (Growers should check their policy conditions with their insurance broker.)

### What can an employer do to reduce the risk of injury to workers in an emergency?

- have people trained in first aid readily available to cover packing sheds, workshops and the various outdoor farm areas
- nominate an emergency co-coordinator who is trained in emergency control and responsible for monitoring the whereabouts of all persons on site at the time
- train all personnel in the emergency procedures
- location of fire alarms and fire extinguishers, their uses and operation
- location of exit routes (suitably marked and clear of obstructions)
- care of any visitor who may be present at the time
- how to contact local emergency services, ambulance, medical centre and hospital (this information to be displayed on notice boards and first aid stations)
- conduct periodic emergency procedure drills
- Ensure that emergency facilities (e.g. deluge showers, eyewashes, fire fighting equipment, portable spill containment devices, first aid equipment) are located where needed, installed correctly, regularly maintained, and that access to them is kept clear
- keep local emergency services informed of changes to the property that could effect their call out procedures



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## **Fires**

- building fires that can not be contained with onsite equipment should be left to the professionals
- grass fires in the growing areas can usually be controlled by the use of water tankers and back pack hand sprays

## **Workers' responsibilities in emergencies**

- must report any situation that may result in an emergency
- must keep work areas clean and tidy, especially evacuation routes
- everyone is required to comply with all reasonable instructions in the event of an emergency
- must evacuate the premises and proceed via the designated exit route to the allocated assembly area/s when instructed to do so

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