



Know · Learn · Connect

FARM



SAFETY

TOOLKIT

BACKGROUND

With a vision for safer people and places, [Injury Matters](#) works to prevent and reduce the impact of injury and support those affected through education, support and advocacy. Through the [Know Injury](#) program, Injury Matters provides knowledge, training, resources, and networking opportunities for health professionals, local government, not-for-profit and community organisations to prevent injuries.

As part of the Know Injury program, this toolkit provides information, resources and guidance to support Local Governments, health and community professionals in increasing community awareness of the importance of farm safety.

Farm injuries in Australia

In Australia, farming communities experience high numbers of injuries, with farming still one of the most dangerous occupations in Australia.(3)

Royal Perth Hospital admitted 773 farm injury cases from 2010 to 2019, of which 80% were male and 20% were female.(6) In regards to the causality of the injuries, 53% of admissions involved motorbikes, quad bikes and heavy machinery.(6) Fortunately 83% of patients (n=640) were discharged home, however due to the limited health services available in regional WA long term rehabilitation can be an ongoing burden.

Not only do farms pose as a risk for farmers, but also their families, as children commonly obtain injuries on farms.(3) Between 2011-2012 there were over 400 hospitalisations for children as a result of farm injuries.(3) Common injuries to children on farms include; drowning, quad bike injuries, machinery injuries and animal injuries.(3)

National Farm Safety Week

National Farm Safety Week is held each year to help raise awareness of farm safety issues across Australia. [National Farm Safety Week](#) is an initiative of [Farmsafe Australia](#) and has been running successfully for over 20 years.



PREVENTING FARM INJURY

How can farm injuries be prevented?

The incidence of farm injuries can be reduced by adopting a range of simple practices. Individuals can prevent and reduce the impact of farm injuries by:(5)

- Regularly walking around your farm, assess and remove potential dangers.
- Create a safe and contained play area for young children close to the house and away from hazards.
- Make sure everyone working on the farm is educated on farm risks and trained in first aid.
- Keep all equipment in good repair.
- Store dangerous items such as machinery, firearms and chemicals behind locked doors and store keys in a safe place.
- Find ways to improve safety, such as fitting roll-over protection (ROPS) and seatbelts to tractors, or replacing dangerous chemicals with less toxic varieties.
- Keep a log of injuries and near-misses to pinpoint areas for improvement.
- Consult with other workers and family members on how to improve safety.
- Write a safety plan together that includes ways to identify hazards and minimise potential risks.
- Always use appropriate safety equipment, such as machinery guards and shields, helmets, gloves, goggles or breathing apparatus.
- Make sure everyone understands and uses safety procedures, especially children.
- If using four-wheel motorbikes, make sure you are using them in line with the recommendations – remember they are not all-terrain vehicles.
- Display safety messages around the farm.

Which organisations work to reduce the incidence of farm injuries in WA?



Farmsafe Australia is a not-for-profit organisation that aids in the coordination of efforts to address farm safety issues in Australia. Farmsafe Australia's mission is to lead and coordinate national efforts to enhance the well-being and productivity of Australian agriculture through improved health and safety awareness and practices. Farmsafe Australia has a selection of resources available online through their website including school resources, DVDs and videos, information, statistics and radio announcements. .

Safe Farms WA is a not-for-profit, non-government organisation with the aim to protect farming families and workers, and improve farm business performance through better safety awareness and practices.



Kidsafe WA is the leading independent not-for-profit organisation dedicated to promoting safety and preventing childhood injuries and accidents in Western Australia. Kidsafe aims to prevent childhood death from unintentional injury and to reduce the severity of injuries to children via education, advocacy and research. For information about child farm injuries, access the Kidsafe WA 2016 report, 'WA Childhood Injury and Surveillance research report: Farm Injuries'. (3)

YOUR ROLE

What role do Local Governments have in preventing farm-related injury?

In addition to providing community members with a safe place to live, local governments have a responsibility to support the health of its residents. Farm-related injuries can significantly affect the health of residents; therefore it is important that local governments communicate farm related safety and first aid messages within their community.

How can your Local Government or organisation get involved in preventing farm-injuries?

Located within this toolkit are a range of media templates and suggestions of activities that local governments can conduct to generate awareness of the incidence of farm related injuries and the importance of prevention.

ACTIVITY	
AWARENESS RAISING	National Farm Safety week in July is a great opportunity to increase your social media activity and share messages from the official Twitter account @Farmsafe1.
	Use statistics on the local incidence of farm-related injuries and farm-related hospitalisations to raise awareness at events and on social media.
	Contact local radio stations or newspapers to promote farm safety messages.
COMMUNITY	Display posters regarding farm safety, especially with information on how to prevent farm-related injury.
	Set up a stall in your reception area, local shopping centre or community event to distribute resources regarding farm safety.
	Schedule a first aid training course for your community members to attend.
PARTNERSHIPS	Partner with Safe Farms WA Alliance to educate community members on hazards that could be present on local farms.
	Partner with Kidsafe WA to deliver a 'Keeping Kids Safe Workshop' for local playgroups, to highlight potential hazards to children.
	Work with local schools to incorporate farm safety injury prevention into their curriculum.

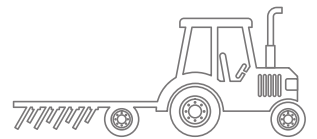


TEMPLATES

Digital media is a great channel to generate awareness within your community about the importance of conducting safe behaviours to prevent farm-related injuries.

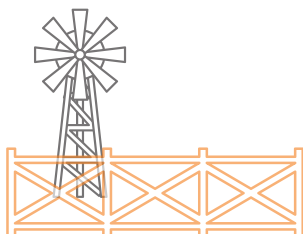
Over the next two pages, Injury Matters has provided social media templates and ideas for social media, blog topic ideas, and a media release for you to use to generate this awareness.

SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES



1. Farm safety is everyone's responsibility: Whether you live, work or are visiting a farm take care and familiarise yourself with potential hazards. Visit www.farmsafe.org.au to learn more.
2. There are simple behaviours that we can all conduct to stay safe on the farm. Why not audit your farm today to ensure it is as safe as possible?
3. Children aged between 10 and 14 years have the highest rates of farm-related injury and account for over 40% of farm-related injury presentations to hospital emergency department. Remember, adult supervision is crucial to prevent child injury on farms. Visit www.kidsafewa.com.au for tips on keeping children safe on the farm.
4. Children love to help out around the farm, but did you know that sowing and harvest seasons are the most dangerous times for children on farms? These periods (April to June and October to January) account for a high number of farm-related injury presentations to hospital. Help keep children safe on farms by ensuring they are given age appropriate jobs and supervised at all times.
5. The key causes of child farm injuries are drowning, injury associated with motorcycles, injury associated with other farm vehicles, horse-related injury and injury associated with farm machinery. Farm injury is preventable; educate and familiarise children from a young age about potential dangers on a farm.

BLOG TOPICS



1. How to prevent injuries from occurring on your farm.
2. What to do if a family member is injured while at the farm.
3. Where to buy farm safety equipment locally.

MEDIA RELEASE

Farm safety is crucial for city and country kids.

The statistics for farm-related injuries and fatalities are concerning, and while they affect both children and adults, childhood farm injuries are a serious public health issue, and result in a high number of hospital presentations each year.

The [insert local government]'s Mayor/CEO [insert mayor/CEO name] said "research has shown that children aged between 10 and 14 years contribute to a significant proportion of farm-related injury presentations to hospital emergency departments."

"It's important to remember that this is not just an issue for people who live in rural areas. City visitors need to be aware of their safety while visiting farms around the state," [he/she] said. "This is a joint responsibility– farmers need to ensure their farms are safe for visitors, and visitors of all ages need to be aware that hazards exist on farms and take precautions," There are numerous hazards for children on farms including vehicles, machinery, unfenced bodies of water, equipment and animals.

Injury Matters' Chief Executive Sandy Lukjanowski said the key causes of child farm-related injuries were drowning (0-5 years), injury associated with motorcycles (5-15 years), injury associated with other farm vehicles, horse-related injury (5-15 years) and injury associated with farm machinery. "We know that there are higher rates of farm injury presentations at Emergency Departments during sow and harvest seasons on farms; April to June and October to January," she said.

These periods coincide with school holidays, which may contribute to the higher rates of ED presentations. Weekends also record a disproportionate number of injury presentations at ED's, accounting for over 50% of all childhood farm injuries. So it's really important that parents are extra vigilant during these times.(3) "Injuries are preventable, and there's a number of ways that parents can help prevent injuries on farms in Western Australia, whether you're living there, or just visiting," Mayor [insert name] said.



WHAT SUPPORT CAN INJURY MATTERS PROVIDE?

To assist you in communicating the prevalence of injuries in your local area, [Injury Matters](#) can provide you with data regarding the number of hospitalisations and fatalities within your local government or health region due to injury.

Located on [Know Injury's Knowledge Hub](#) are a number of fact sheets, resource kits and information to support health professionals conduct injury prevention activities. These tools can assist local government workers who are developing initiatives that aim to reduce the prevalence of burns and scalds in your local area.

Finally, Injury Matters have relationships with a number of external organisations who lead the way in reducing the incidence of injury in WA. If you are interested in partnering with other organisations to prevent burns and scalds or simply wish to find out what other work is being conducted to prevent burns and scalds please contact us so that we can assist you to locate this information.

Partner:



Department of
Health



Know Injury is provided by Injury Matters and funded by the Western Australian Department of Health.

CONNECT WITH US



www.knowinjury.org.au



info@knowinjury.org.au



[@KnowInjury](https://twitter.com/KnowInjury)

REFERENCES

1. Depczynski J, Herde E, Fragar L, Lower T. Safe play areas on farms in New South Wales. Aust J Rural Health. 2013;21(4):220–4.
2. AIHW. Hospitalised injury in children and young people 2011-12 [Internet]. 2014. Available from: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail?id=60129549325>
3. Collins J, McKenna J, Skarin D. WA Childhood Injury Surveillance Research Report: Farm Injuries Perth (WA). Kidsafe WA (AU); 2016 Mar.
4. Farmsafe Australia Inc. Farm Safety Resources [Internet]. Farm Safety Resources. Available from: <http://www.farmsafe.org.au/Resources-for-Farmers>
5. Safe Work Australia. National Agriculture Activity Plan 2014-2019.
6. Royal Perth Hospital. Quad bike accidents requiring admission to Royal Perth Hospital. (2020).