

Media Release



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Drive Safe, Farm Safe

Farm Safety Week is a great opportunity to remind rural communities to consider the fact that people living in regional areas of WA are over-represented in death and serious injury road statistics.

Almost one-third of regional road fatalities in 2008 were not wearing a seatbelt and speed and drink driving are also largely contributing factors to serious crashes and deaths on regional roads.

As part of farm safety week, Farmsafe WA is challenging farming families and people in regional areas to drive safer on country roads. Please take the time out to consider the following:

- Wear your seatbelt (both on the farm and on the road) and ensure that children are properly restrained in the appropriate child restraints.
- Don't drink and drive – if you are going to drink, plan not to drive. Arrange a skipper, ask someone to collect you, call a cab, take public transport or stay overnight
- Stick to the speed limit – speeding gives you less time to react to emergencies, especially at this time of the year with the rain and darker mornings and nights.
- Are you fatigued? Fatigue is the silent killer on the roads. It could be responsible for up to 30 per cent of deaths and a bigger percentage of serious injury crashes, leaving many people in wheelchairs or worse for the rest of their lives.

“Unexpected incidents cause crashes every day. That’s why choosing to wear a seat belt can often be a life or death decision – both for you and your passengers”, said Tony Hiscock, Chairman of Farmsafe WA.

“A lot of crashes happen close to home, so no matter whether you’re just going into town or to a nearby property, take a moment to ensure that you and your passengers belt up every time you get in the car.”

For more information on road safety visit the Office of Road Safety Website <http://www.officeofroadsafety.wa.gov.au/>.

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