

# Farmsafe WA Alliance



- 1. Farmsafe WA formed over concern about unnecessary deaths and injuries in the rural industry**
  
- 2. Alliance was formed 5 years ago**
  - i. to accommodate the need for directional change**
  - ii. provide regional focus**
  - iii. better utilise the existing networks**
  
- 3. A not for profit incorporated organisation and is the major provider of training in farm injury risk management in WA.**





# Need for a Safe Culture

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# “Safety” ....responses from farmers



“Safety is too expensive, profit must come first”

“We can’t afford safety stuff”

“Somebody needs to fix the problem, we don’t have time””

“Nothing wrong with having to take a few knocks’

“All I need, is to know where I stand legally ”



**From straight out acceptance, not really my problem, no time, through to wanting to know the legal position**

**Above all are the concerns in relation cost, but only from being an input...not from being a benefit**



**A safe culture carries no input cost**



# Why do things go wrong?



- Attitude, insufficient information, unknowns, not understanding the hazard &/or risk
  - Slips, lapses, trips and fumbles
  - Selecting the wrong option or making the wrong choice
  - Lack of competence
  - Violation and non-compliance with regulations

**People** always involved.....the human **contribution**



# Our industry is unique



- Farming/grazing industries are characterised by
  - large number of small businesses, many remote
  - properties are often the family home and our workplace



*our families and visitors are often exposed to substantial risks.*

**With so many variables and so many potential scenario's,  
how do we sustain a safe work place and home?**



# How do we make the change?



**ALL** of us are aware of the hazards within our industry, but many of us struggle with their management

How does one define what culture actually means?



It is our **values and beliefs in action** – none of us want injury!

***This is what is important to us (no injury), so this is how things are done and how we go about our business and this is the way we do things around here to prevent injury***



# What is a safe culture?



- A safe culture = being **informed**, **concerns/issues**
- Being informed is **knowing where the “edge” is without having to fall over it first**
- Being informed is **understanding the potential** of an accident and working continuously to **reduce that risk**
- You are **committed** to coming home each day , exactly in the same condition that you left that morning



# The essentials



- Dependent on family and employees discussing issues openly
- There must be trust, within the family and with employees
- Trust within the work methods in place on the property
- Causing fear, aggressiveness, and being highly directional will reduce interaction to nil

Need a **combination of listening, discussing, sharing ideas and making suggestions** that provide the systems and work methods

**Methods can be changed!**



# Golden rules for a safe culture



- Be Cautious, always assume the worst
- Be risk focused, not task driven
- Be hands off, not hands on (keep well away from hazards)
- Make luck rather than relying on luck
- The size of the control put in place should match the size of the hazard

**“Walk the talk” - safety must become part of the job.....  
Leading by example is essential!**



# Summary



- A safe culture is an **informed** culture
- An informed culture is dependent on **trust, feedback, finding solutions, follow up, balanced opinion and fairness**
- A safe culture depends critically upon being **honest, open and interactive**

**Not a major cost in that lot.....**

**Must get this part right, then introduce the management tools.....**



# Why do we bother?



**The safety of our family, our employees, contractors and visitors to our properties is the single most overriding requirement of every day.**

**It is all about being proactive rather than being reactive.....the theme of the conference is timely.....it is Time to Act, so all folk can control the risks to avert injury thus fulfilling the goals of their lifestyle.**

