

Christmas  
2011  
Update

# Farmsafe WA Alliance

- Inspiring Safe Farming -

## Holiday Safety Reminder Stay Safe this Holiday Period

Have a Safe and  
Happy Christmas  
from the  
Farmsafe WA  
team

Water activities, travel, festive celebrations and new toys are what make holidays and summer-time so exciting for children and adults alike. Unfortunately, these factors are also what can increase children's risk of injury. Injury is the leading cause of death for Australian children aged one to fourteen, accounting for nearly half of all deaths in this age group.

By following these simple steps you can help keep your kids and visitors safe and enjoy this summer:

### Celebrations

- Don't neglect the supervision of small children during family gatherings and holiday parties. Consider hiring a sitter or designating a family member to be responsible for small children at all times.
- Keep visitor's purses and bags out of reach of young children. They may contain hazardous items such as cigarettes, lighters or medications.
- Remember to clean up after a holiday party. Some party leftovers can be hazardous to children.

### Decorations

- Festive decorations can cause a number of injuries to children such as choking and suffocation, electrical burns and cutting/piercing injuries. Ensure that decorations are out of reach of small children.
- Place candles out of reach of young children.
- Check that electrical safety devices are attached to all major power sources to limit the potential injury from electrocution.

### Travel

- Be sure to use appropriate car seats and seat belts for your child's weight and age. If you are borrowing someone else's car, arrange ahead of time to borrow or rent the appropriate car seat for your child.
- Exercise road safety with extreme caution during holidays. There may be heavy traffic, poor weather and the possibility of alcohol use by other drivers.
- Create safe play areas away from moving vehicles. Know where children are and ensure they are safe before moving vehicles to prevent driveway run-overs.
- If you have to leave the car, even to run a quick errand, be safe and take your kids with you.

### Play

- When buying Christmas gifts always follow the age recommendations on toys. Age recommendations relate to toy safety, not to the ability of a child to master the toy or game
- When using bicycles, skateboards, rollerblades or scooters, ensure children wear helmets and appropriate safety equipment
- Ensure that older children's toys are kept out of reach of younger children
- Carefully selecting, maintaining and storing toys are not enough. The best way to protect your child from harm is to supervise play and to provide safe play areas

### Water

- Always supervise children when in and around water
- Children under 5 have the highest risk of drowning. Most occur when they are playing near water. Children can get into water quickly and silently without parents being aware
- Older children are most likely to drown when swimming in a river, lake, ocean or other open body of water. They may be used to swimming in a pool but do not understand the risks in other types of water

For further information on Child Safety, contact Kidsafe WA [kidsafe@kidsafewa.com.au](mailto:kidsafe@kidsafewa.com.au) or Farmsafe WA Alliance [farmsafe@farmsafewa.org](mailto:farmsafe@farmsafewa.org)

Inspiring Safe Farming



*Please be  
advised, our  
office will be  
closed as of  
noon Friday  
23rd  
December and  
will re-open  
Tuesday 3rd  
January*

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# Road Safety - Alcohol

## Standard Drinks Guide

	<b>Mid-Strength Beer</b>	3-4% Alc/Vol	0.8 Standard drink per 285ml
	<b>Mid-Strength Beer</b>	3-4% Alc/Vol	1 Standard drink per 375ml
	<b>Wine</b>	10-14% Alc/Vol	1 Standard drink per 100ml
	<b>Spirits</b>	37-43% Alc/Vol	1 Standard drink per 30ml
	<b>Pre Mixed Drinks</b>	5% Alc/Vol	1.5 Standard drink per 375ml
	<b>Full Strength Beer</b>	4-6% Alc/Vol	1 Standard drink per 285ml
	<b>Full Strength Beer</b>	4-6% Alc/Vol	1.5 Standard drink per 375ml

**Men** If you're driving, as a guide, drink no more than two standard drinks in the first hour and one standard drink every hour after.

**Women** If you're driving, as a guide, drink no more than one standard drink every hour.

Plan ahead and stay safe on the roads, AND on the farm.

Alcohol is still a major factor in road crashes in country W.A.

Most people don't intend to drink and drive, but they may not realise how much alcohol they have in their system before they jump behind the wheel.

This year, Farmsafe WA asks you to drive safe – it's good for your business, for your community, and even better for you.

For more information on Drink Driving visit the Office of Road Safety website at [www.ors.wa.gov.au](http://www.ors.wa.gov.au) or contact Farmsafe WA Alliance at [admin@farmsafewa.org](mailto:admin@farmsafewa.org)

# Quad Bike Carnage Continues

The death toll from quad bike incidents has tragically reached record highs in the past week, with at least 23 people having been killed nationally throughout 2011. In addition, there will be dozens of others that have experienced near-life ending incidents and will carry permanent disabilities for the rest of their lives.

For the families and friends of these 23 victims in 2011 and the 140 others that have died over the past 10 years on quad bikes in Australia, the Christmas period will be a very sad time indeed, where questions of "what if..." will always be raised.

"We know from coroners records that about half of these incidents involve rollovers of the vehicles, with many dying from asphyxiation and/or crush injury" said Dr Tony Lower Director of the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety (University of Sydney).

The quad bike industry's own data on the effectiveness of crush protection devices that would prevent many of these deaths, illustrates a protective benefits of up to 29% for the one commercially available crush protection device in Australia.

"I am sure that for those families that have lost someone as a result of a rollover, they would have happily grasped the opportunity to fit a crush protection device to increase the chance that their loved ones would be sitting down with them over Christmas lunch. Yet this is hard for the public and retailers to know and take action on when they have been provided questionable information by the Federated Chamber of Automotive Industries (FCAI) and manufacturers".

Further independent information on quad bike safety can be obtained from the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety (02 6752 8210) or by visiting the website [www.aghealth.org.au](http://www.aghealth.org.au)

# National Harmonisation of OHS Laws

– Statement from the WorkSafe WA Commissioner



WA has been participating in the harmonisation of OH&S laws throughout the process which has included the development of the model WHS Regulations and First Stage Codes of Practice. WA will be continuing to participate in that process. While it is not intending to adopt the whole of the model WHS Bill, WA will likely adopt the vast majority of the proposed model laws.

The timetable that had been agreed for the commencement of these models in each of the State, Territory and Commonwealth jurisdictions is 1 January 2012. However, it has become clear that this timeframe is no longer attainable for WA.

The WA Minister has written to the Federal Government Minister responsible for the harmonisation of OHS Laws, Senator Chris Evans, seeking a re-consideration of the implementation date. As the matter is with Senator Evans for his consideration and referral to other jurisdictional Ministers for their views, it is not possible to provide any greater clarity on this matter.

Beyond the timing issue, the process for implementing model OHS laws will involve the development of some WA specific transitional laws. Some guiding principles have been agreed through the harmonisation process to deliver a consistent transition process in each jurisdiction. However, as each jurisdiction has a different set of current laws, the transitional provision in each jurisdiction may need to cover different topics and therefore will not be identical.

Once the WA version of these transitional provisions has been finalised, WorkSafe will make more information available on how they will operate.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

**Q.** What will happen to existing Codes of Practice?

**A.** The current WA Codes of Practice will remain relevant to WA workplaces. The intention of the harmonisation process is that once there is a nationally agreed Code of Practice on a specific topic it will replace existing state codes on that topic

**Q.** What will it mean for WA workers and workplaces?

**A.** In terms of a workplaces day to day operations, there will essentially be no change. The model WHS Bill will create the same duties and responsibilities as the current WA OHS 1984 Act

**Q.** Will WorkSafe WA continue to exist?

**A.** Yes, The intention is for the model WHS Bill and model WHS Regulations to be introduced into WA as the new law for OHS applicable in this state.

**Q.** What will I need to do?

**A.** WorkSafe WA will provide updated information about this topic through updates to our website and updates to Health and Safety Professionals.

**Q.** What is Safe Work Australia?

**A.** Safe Work Australia is an independent body established on 1 July 2009. Its primary function is to progress national OHS laws in partnership with governments, employers and workers, who are represented by members at Safe Work Australia. WA's representative at Safe Work Australia is the WorkSafe WA Commissioner.

Further information can be downloaded from the WorkSafe Site,  
[www.commerce.wa.gov.au](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au)



# What's Happening

## Farmsafe WA Sausage Sizzle

The Farmsafe WA team raised \$1,000 at their recent Sausage Sizzle to help towards the purchase of children's High Visibility Vests.

Thank you Bunnings, Maddington for your support!

Students from Tincurrin Primary School 'Being seen, Being Safe'



## Facebook

Farmsafe WA has joined Facebook!

Those who have Facebook, show your support for **Farmsafe WA** by liking our page and becoming a friend!



## Farmsafe WA Membership

In order to further develop our new initiative, the OHS Self Audit Tool, further support is required.

This tool is available for Farmsafe WA members only and currently covers four risk areas:

- Occupational Noise
- Chemical Storage, Handling and Disposal
- Slips, Trips and Falls,
- OHS responsibilities for Employers, Employees and Contractors

The tool is an interactive web-based application whereby farmers and farm workers can easily download audit checklists targeting significant OHS risks, refer to the current legislative requirements and investigate best practice options.

The aim is to expand this tool and add to the current modules to ultimately provide farming families and workers with a comprehensive learning library to improve farm business performance through better safety awareness and practices. The contributions we receive from membership fees will go towards this cause.

For those who are interested in this new initiative and see the benefits that it can offer, please consider a membership with Farmsafe WA. Call our office or email your details to [admin@farmsafewa.org](mailto:admin@farmsafewa.org)



# WA College of Agriculture 2011 Awards

## "Supporting Excellence of Education and Training"

The purpose of these Annual Awards is to recognise achievement and performance to launch the graduates into adulthood and independence.

By sponsoring an award to a deserving student you are reinforcing that their achievement is relevant and important. Farmsafe WA Alliance realises the importance of these Awards and endeavours to support the cause and assist the students and Colleges each year.

The 2011 Awards proved to be a major success as a high level of financial support was forthcoming. This was made possible only due to the sponsorship provided by CBH Group and WA Farmers. Both these sponsors provided sound financial backing towards the 2011 Awards and therefore each winning student was presented with a framed certificate of achievement, a show bag containing resources along with a cheque for a substantial amount.

### Congratulations to all the winning students!

**Jordan Ingham and Claire Loveday of Bindoon Catholic College**  
**Brendan Boyd and Heidi Reed of Cunderdin Agricultural College**  
**Belinda Bannister of Denmark Agricultural College**  
**Tracey Spurling and Keith Rymer of Esperance Agricultural College**  
**Hannah Armstrong and Melissa Harris of Harvey Agricultural College**  
**Declan Parsons and Kate Errington of Morawa Agricultural College**  
**Bradley Garstone and Mark Paini of Narrogin Agricultural College**

Supported By:



Thank you CBH Group and WA Farmers for your continued support!

# Injury Prevention Campaigns—Midwest Region

## Emergency Care & Injury Management

Delivered in collaboration with FESA, St John Ambulance, Royal Flying Doctor Service and WA Regional Police our FREE workshops will be held in March 2012. Having run previously in the Southwest Region, this campaign addresses the importance of first aid and the need to be prepared to quickly and appropriately respond to and manage emergencies. These workshops are open to all community members and are a great opportunity for you to meet with your local members from the emergency services.

<b>CARNAMAH</b>	5th March	2.30-5.30pm
<b>MORAWA</b>	6th March	2.30-5.30pm
<b>MINGENEW</b>	7th March	2.00-5.00pm
<b>GERALDTON</b>	10th March	2.00-5.00pm
<b>MULLEWA</b>	11th March	1.30-4.30pm
<b>CUE</b>	13th March	10.00-1.00pm
<b>MT MAGNET</b>	14th March	2.00-5.00pm

Venues to be advised...

**REGISTER NOW!**  
Contact Farmsafe WA  
or visit our website for  
the registration form



## Promotion and Distribution of Resources

This project primarily targets Health Professionals and Farmers in the Midwest to evaluate awareness and understanding of three particular resources, namely: Farm Health and Safety Toolkit for Rural GP's, The Great Idea Bank and Preventing Falls for Older Farmers. These resources have proven both useful and applicable in the Eastern States, however awareness of them in WA is assumed to be low and their appropriateness and usefulness is yet to be determined. Farmsafe WA aims to ascertain whether these resources are effective in assisting both rural Health Professionals and farmers with their farm health and safety issues and consequently collate any recommendations which may arise to make them more applicable for use in WA. **If you are a farmer or Health Professional in the Midwest Region and would like to assist us with this project, please contact the Farmsafe WA Project Team on (08) 9359 4118 or [admin@farmsafewa.org](mailto:admin@farmsafewa.org)**

## Safety of Young People in Agriculture

Developed in partnership with St John Ambulance, School Drug Education and Road Aware (SDERA) and the WA Regional Police, this new initiative targets children in upper primary school environments and involves the coordination and delivery of a series of workshops aimed at increasing awareness and education of the hazards and risks associated with living on, visiting and /or engaging in activities on rural properties. Parents and caregivers are also invited to attend, so please contact Farmsafe WA to find out if your school is involved.

<b>CARNAMAH</b>	6th March
<b>MORAWA</b>	7th March
<b>MINGENEW</b>	8th March
<b>GERALDTON</b>	9th March
<b>NORTHAMPTON</b>	9th March
<b>MULLEWA</b>	12th March
<b>MT MAGNET</b>	14th March



*These projects are an initiative of Farmsafe WA Alliance and are funded by the Department of Health, Western Australia*



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Health

# WA Farm Training Scheme 2011/2012

This pilot program is testing the new measure designed to help rural and regional communities move from a crisis management approach to one of risk management. Administered by the Rural Business Development Corporation (RBDC) in conjunction with WA Department of Agriculture and Food, the WA Farm Training Scheme will provide further in-depth training on certain targeted aspects of farm management. The objective is to provide targeted funding support to eligible primary producers for training activities not covered by Farm Ready to improve their skills, increase business resilience and to strengthen rural communities.

The Farmsafe WA Managing Farm Safety Course has been registered as an approved course under this training subsidy scheme. Eligible participants will therefore receive a 50% reduction on course costs.

## Participant Eligibility:

- Be an owner/operator of commercial scale farming, pastoral or horticultural business. The whole management team, which comprises the principal owner/operator, manager, immediate family members and employed staff are eligible for assistance under this scheme.
- Demonstrate that at least one member for the farm business, under normal circumstances, contributes at least 75 per cent of his or her labour to and derives at least 50 per cent of his or her income from the farm business.
- The farm business is located in the drought pilot region. A list of the local government areas included in the drought pilot is available at [www.daff.gov.au/droughtpilot](http://www.daff.gov.au/droughtpilot)

## ONE DAY MANAGING FARM SAFETY COURSE

Course Costs \$458 (incl. GST)

Receive  
50%  
discount

Eligible Participants  
pay only \$229 (incl. GST)\*

\* Costs includes a 6 month Farmsafe WA Membership which offers numerous benefits including access to the new OHS Self Audit Tool.

A planned approach to safety is essential for your business



A combination of theory and practical activities is conducted in on-farm environments and is suitable for both women and men. The objectives of the training program are to assist farm owners (managers) to increase productivity through the development of skills in managing risks of injury and illness associated with life and work on farms.

Under OH&S legislation you are obliged to provide:

- Safe premises
- Safe machinery and substances
- Information, instruction, training and supervision
- A suitable working environment and facilities

**Subsidy only available until June 2012!**

Register your interest now by contacting Farmsafe WA on (08) 9359 4118 or by email: [admin@farmsafewa.org](mailto:admin@farmsafewa.org)

# A Review of the Past 12 Months for Farmsafe WA

by Farmsafe WA Executive Officer, Sheila Payne

Farmsafe WA reaches the close of its' 17<sup>th</sup> year with a sense of pride.

History clearly shows our achievements each year through the dedication of individuals and team players and 2011 has been no exception. The team has worked hard to achieve our goals and we have travelled it well.

Let's take some time to reflect on some of our major achievements during 2011:

- We have successfully coordinated, delivered and evaluated four major injury prevention campaigns conducted over two regions and within a seven month period.
- Our success with these projects resulted in the acquisition of further funding from the Department of Health WA for a two year period, which reinforces our stability and extends our reach further into the rural sector.
- Due to our diligent work, Worksafe WA continues to support Farmsafe WA by offering a core funding to enable us to increase farm safety awareness and enhance the capability of the rural community
- Our membership base has increased by over 100% following in particular extensive project activities in the Wheatbelt and Southwest regions
- A new member section has been set up on the Farmsafe WA website to engage interaction between farmers, farm workers and ourselves
- In consultation with collaborative partners and the farming community, we have produced the first stages of a new OH&S Self Audit Tool. This paves the way to strengthen partnerships already formed with our Alliance Members and develop new ones, so that we can ultimately supply the farming sector with a complete learning library to assist with their OH&S requirements.
- Analysis of the Safety Needs Survey has been completed and the findings have proved invaluable. Funding was acquired to deliver two separate projects as a direct result of this Survey
- We received two Awards; a Highly Commended Achievement from ICCWA for the OH&S Audit tool initiative and the Human Spirit Award for our part in the Being Seen, Being Safe Campaign. Tam McKeown, Senior Constable of Wickpin Police Station has recently advised us that the Being Seen, Being Safe project is now going state-wide which was his initial aim. It's comforting to know Farmsafe WA was able to assist in the early stages.
- We have distributed over 1000 adult and children's high visibility safety vests during our time at workshops, Field Days and Expos.

This summary not only highlights some of our efforts and achievements over the past 12 months but also confirms the strong relationships we hold between our Alliance members and Industry partners. It is only with this support that our community based organisation can deliver its' promise to the rural sector and continue to lead the way to safer farming. I also acknowledge and appreciate my team, Alicia, Julie, Justin and Aidan who have shown great dedication and commitment to Farmsafe WA and to myself and it is only through this that we have achieved the desired outcomes.

We have a busy schedule ahead as we work with five major injury prevention projects during 2012. I envisage next year will be another exciting, challenging yet rewarding period for Farmsafe WA and my team.

Remember, Farmsafe WA is still a major first point of call for WA's agricultural community when it comes to OHS advice, affordable farm safety courses and the largest source for farm health and safety resources in the state.

**From the board and staff at Farmsafe WA , we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year**



# Our Farmers - Our Future

In 2012, we celebrate the 'Australian Year of the Farmer'.

It recognises what farmers do for all Australians. It's about what we eat' about fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy, grains, fish, meat, eggs and about wool, cotton, timber — all the fine quality products that our farmers grow and harvest in large and small businesses.

Australia's farmers should be recognised and celebrated: for feeding the nation, for leading the world in farming techniques and innovation, and for sustaining the vital agribusinesses that underpin our economy. Farmers are the providers of our nation.

The Australian Year of the Farmer reaches out to a broad audience — indeed to every Australian. It aims to involve and bring together rural and urban communities, schools, farming organisations, and all the suppliers and consumers of Australia's fine produce in a year-long program of events across the nation.

The Australian Year of the Farmer will raise the profile of farming, highlighting the importance of food security and our dependence on the Australian farmer. Especially, it will remind city folk of the importance of our farmers, fostering greater connection and understanding, encouraging all of us to look for, to purchase and to appreciate Australian produce and it will demonstrate how farmers respect and value the relationship they have with consumers and urban communities.

The Australian Year of the Farmer will also focus on the future and the sustainability of our farming industries. As the Australian population grows, so does our dependence on our farmers.

Our trading partners around the world also require us to keep pace with growing need and with increasing pressure on food security... It's an ever-growing need.

For all of us, farming is Australia's Life Support System... it feeds, supports, and sustains life.

## Major Supporters of Farmsafe WA Alliance

