

Farm Injury Deaths Increase

Figures released today by the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety are a chilling reminder of the importance of safety within agriculture. An analysis of media reports in the first six months of 2016 indicates that 30 people have tragically lost their lives in on-farm incidents and a further 44 have been involved in non-fatal incidents that were serious enough to make the media.

“These figures are slightly higher than the same time last year when we had recorded 24 deaths in the period” said Centre Director Dr Tony Lower. “Putting aside the figures the human toll is the real issue, as behind every one of these cases there is an individual, a family and a community that has to manage the unnecessary loss of a loved one or friend.”

“Consistent with recent years, quads, tractors and other mobile equipment have been the leading causes of fatal injury. Quads have also dominated the non-fatal injuries reported, making up almost 50% of these cases, many of which have lifelong consequences.”

“Alarming we have seen almost a quarter of all cases (seven), involving children 15 years of age and under.”

“We know that there are highly effective ways to control risks and prevent needless deaths and injuries. Hindsight is a wonderful thing, but we need to take these steps before issues arise. In this way we will not only save lives and serious injuries, as an industry we will be more productive.”

A copy of the report and a wide range of materials that can assist those that work and live on farms to reduce the risks to themselves, farm workers, family members and visitors, is available from the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety web site www.aghealth.org.au on 02 6752 8210 for further information.

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Contact:
Dr Tony Lower
Director
Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety
Ph: (02) 6752 8210