
Farm Related Injuries Reported in the Australian Print Media 2013

Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety

Tony Lower

Teresa Munro

Kerri-Lynn Peachey

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Background

Australian print media provides an avenue to highlight the prevalence of farm related deaths and injuries. The process of media monitoring has been used by the National Farm Injury Data Centre (NFIDC) since 2005 to assist in the collection of information on farm injury events (fatal and nonfatal). This report focuses specifically on data involving on-farm injury events reported in Australian print media for the period 1st January 2013 to 31st December 2013.

Method

iSENTIA (formerly Media Monitors Australia) is a privately owned company contracted by the NFIDC to scan approximately 2,500 daily, weekly and monthly publications Australia wide. Publications are scanned for various search terms nominated by the NFIDC.

Deaths

A total of 59 on-farm deaths were reported for this period:

- Ten (16.9%) of the 59 reported on-farm deaths were children less than 15 years of age.
- Quad related deaths (n=15) were reported most frequently, followed by tractor incidents (n=9).
- Media monitoring also captures all non-farm quad related fatality. There were an additional six fatal injury events that occurred off-farm that were reported in media for this period. The total number of on- and off-farm deaths involving quads was 21.

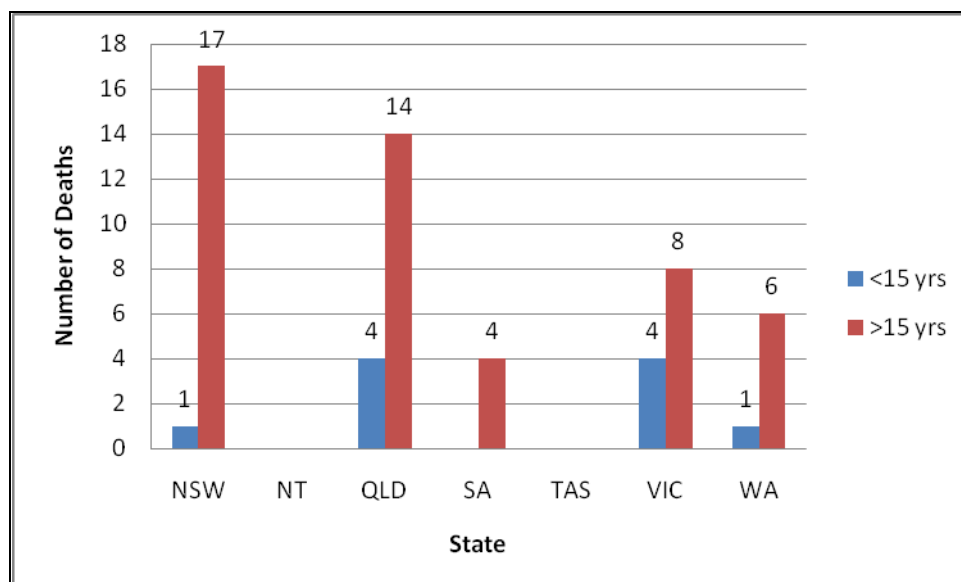


Figure 1: On-farm deaths reported in Australian print media by age and state, 2013.

Table 1: Agents of on-farm injury causing death as reported in Australian print media by age, 2013.

| Category | Agent | < 15yrs | ≥15yrs | Total |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Farm Vehicle | Quad | 2 | 13 | 15 |
| | Side by Side Vehicle | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| | Motorcycle 2 wheel | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | Car | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | Utility | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | Farm Vehicle NEC* | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Trailer | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Truck | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Materials | Hay Bale | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Mobile Farm Machinery/Plant | Tractor | 0 | 9 | 9 |
| | Mobile Farm Machinery/Plant NEC | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| | Front end loader | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| | Bobcat | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Earth moving equipment | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Forklift | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Header | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Slasher | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Farm Structure | Dam | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| | Windmill | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Animal | Cattle | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| | Horse | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Working Environment | Trees being felled | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Other | Firearm | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Electricity | Powerlines | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | | 10 | 49 | 59 |

*NEC: Not Elsewhere Classified

Non-fatal Injury

There were an additional 102 non-fatal on-farm injury events reported in the Australian print media for the period January 1 to December 31, 2013.

- Sixteen (15.7%) of the 102 injured persons were children less than 15 years of age.
- Quad related injury (n=39) was most frequently reported, followed by tractors (n=9) and silos (n=9). There was also one reported pesticide incident that involved 12 people.

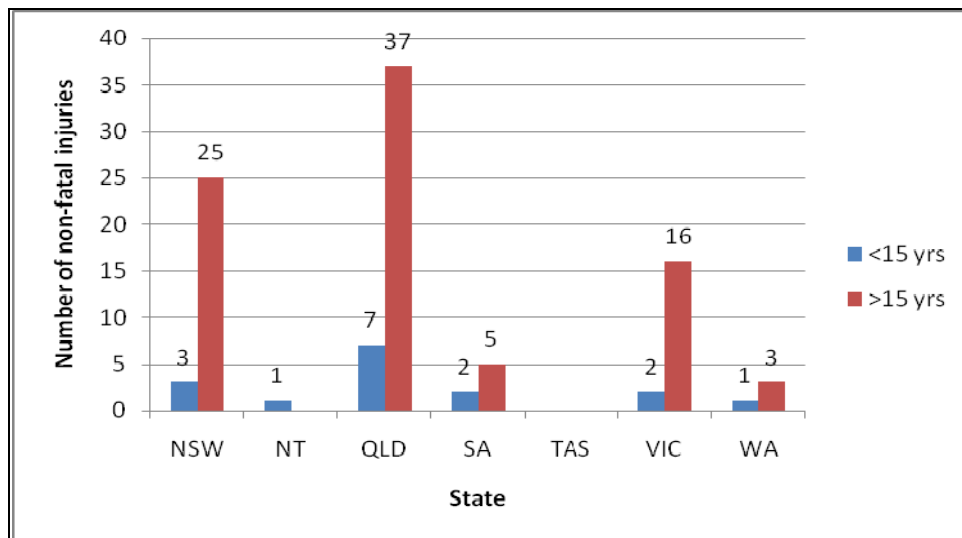


Figure 2: On-farm non-fatal injury events reported in Australian print media, 2013

Table 2: Agents of on-farm non-fatal injury as reported in Australian print media, 2013.

| Category | Agent | <15yrs | ≥15yrs | Total |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Animal | Cattle | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Horse | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Farm Chemicals | Pesticide NEC* | 0 | 12 | 12 |
| | Fuel | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Farm Structure | Silo | 0 | 9 | 9 |
| | Dam | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Farm Vehicle | Quad bike | 9 | 30 | 39 |
| | Motorcycle 2 wheel | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| | Car | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | Farm vehicle NEC* | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | Truck | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| | Side by Side Vehicle (SSV) | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Materials | Materials Other NEC | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Mobile Farm Machinery/Plant | Tractor | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| | Mobile Farm Machinery/ Plant other NEC | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| | Auger | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| | Harvesting Machine | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Other | Firearm | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| TOTAL | | 16 | 86 | 102 |

*NEC: Not Elsewhere Classified