QUICK START **GUIDE**

AgSafe ALBERTA

HAZARD MANAGEMENT ON THE FARM

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There are so many ways that energy on the farm can cause injury or damage to our family, workers, and visitors. The challenge will be to assess the hazards and implement controls to protect everyone.

WHAT IS A HAZARD?

A hazard is something that could cause injury or damage.

WHAT ARE HAZARD CONTROLS?

There are various kinds of controls, but we are most familiar with:

- *Guards*
- *Barriers*
- *Electronic Lockouts*
- *Safety Rules*
- *Procedures*
- *Personal Protective Equipment*

Working with these hazards everyday, we develop a respect for the damage that can be caused. Sometimes we call this "**Common Sense,**" and our common sense grows and adapts to give us an added layer of protection against the different types of hazards.

The question is:

How do you take your "**Common Sense**" and transfer that wisdom to another worker. One way is to set up a hazard management program on your farm and capture that knowledge to be shared.

HAZARD MANAGEMENT, KEEP IT SIMPLE

1. *Identify hazards for job tasks*
2. *Discuss and implement methods to control hazards*
3. *Provide training to anyone doing the job task*

Formal assessments can be used for training and reminding farm workers about how to do the job safely. In addition to the formal system, you should also setup a last minute hazard assessment program that can be used when things change. (see inside)

Here are the steps to QuickStart your: HAZARD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

STEPS FOR HAZARD MANAGEMENT

STEP 1 IDENTIFY JOBS

On an annual basis review the top five to ten jobs that represent most of the work you do – for example:

JOB EXAMPLES

- Seeding
- Spraying
- Harvesting
- Feeding
- Handling Livestock
- Shop Work
- Baling
- Barn chores

STEP 2 IDENTIFY HAZARDS

Once you have identified the job tasks, now look at the hazards that might exist. For example:

Seeding – muscle strain, work at heights, moving equipment on roads, fatigue, moving parts.

Spraying – pesticide exposure, fatigue, moving equipment, climbing equipment.

Handling Livestock – crush injury, muscle strain, animal strike, animal strike or contact.

STEP 3 IDENTIFY CONTROLS

What can you do to control the identified hazards. Here are some ideas:

Spraying - Pesticide Exposure - use chemical handling equipmpent, cab chemical filters, chemical gloves, goggles, chemical resistant outerwear.

Handling Livestock – crush injury - identify and sign crush areas, train staff to identify livestock crush zones with livestock, setup corrals to remove crush areas, use lock system for gates.

STEP 4

PROVIDE TRAINING

Now provide training to everyone using the information you have gathered. During training, listen to your family and workers to update your assessments. Ensure that the evaluation stays alive over time and train new workers and visitors as they arrive on the farm.

ON THE GO HAZARD ASSESSMENT

For last minute hazard assessment, consider "Stop-n-think". This concept for last minute hazard assessment trains the farm worker to pause and think about how to do a job task safely. Similar to the formal process, but in this case, there is no paperwork completed and is considered an informal program. If you would like to document your concerns, consider the form on the last page of this guide to get you started.

While we do many different jobs each day, pause before starting and consider the hazards that are present. Identify what we are going to do to prevent the hazards from causing harm. Then carry on to complete the work.

- What would happen if that piece of equipment was energized?
- Where will I go if I need to escape? How will I escape?
- What changes have occurred in the weather and how has this affected my work environment?
- How will I be rescued if something went wrong?

LET IT GROW

FEED THE PROGRAM

With simple hazard management programs established on your farm, you are well on your way to planting the seeds of safety. Nurture the program and let it grow over time. Some of the things that you may want to consider in the future might include:

- Completing additional formal hazard assessments for job tasks that are high risk - ex. Confined Space Entry
- Consider evaluating each of the job tasks on the farm for risk. This will help to train workers about your greatest concerns first.
- Develop a training program that covers all of your formal hazard assessments during orientation with new farm workers, contractors or visitors.

SUMMARY

The hazard management program is probably the most important aspect of your farm safety system. It can also be the most complex. The key to your success will be to start with something manageable and then let it grow and change over time. You will find that once you start, it will get easier and contribute to the bottom line of your operation.

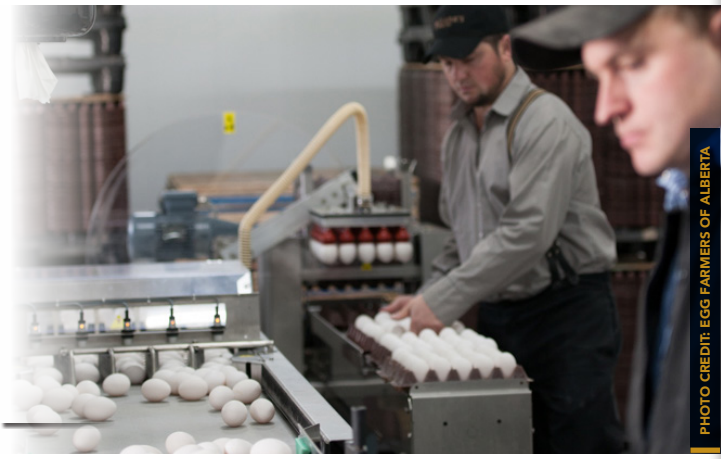

PHOTO CREDIT: EGG FARMERS OF ALBERTA

EXAMPLE FORM

Farm Formal Hazard Assessment Form

AgSafe ALBERTA

Job Description: Spraying		
Date Updated: December 9, 20XX		
FORMAL HAZARD ASSESSMENT		
Job Hazard		**Hazard Controls (Engineered (E), Administrative (A), PPE (P)**
1.	Pesticide Exposure	(E) use Chem-lock system to minimize exposure, (P) use safety gear (respirator, goggles, nitrile glove, chemical apron, rubber boots), (A) review product labels
2.	Fatigue	(A) Take regular breaks, use alternating shifts to cover hours beyond 14hrs work, when tired stop and rest, (E) keep cab with cool fresh air
3.	Muscle Strain	(A) Use 3-point contact when climbing equipment, (A) lift materials with bent knees and legs, (E) use elevated platform instead of lifting overhead,
4.	Vehicle Collision	(A) Ensure all transport lights are on, (A) stay off highway at night, (A) use pilot vehicle for high traffic areas
5.	Equipment Rollover	(E)Make sure rollover protection is installed, (A) Use seatbelts for rollover protection, (A) survey area for hazards, (A)shut off equipment before leaving
6.	Equipment failure	(A) Make sure that pre-season checks look at all mechanical components and repairs are made before season starts
7.	Pinch points	(E) Replace missing guards, (A) check control points for pins

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BE SURE TO VISIT

www.AgSafeAB.ca

FOR MORE INFORMATION

AgSafe AB Resources

Our AgSafe website contains a lot of information for you to use. Here are some examples of information that you can find there to download.

- Hazard Management Training for the Farm Worker
- Working at Heights on the Farm QuickStart
- Emergency Response Planning QuickStart
- Risk Management System Information
- Formal Task Hazard Assessment Templates

RESOURCES

AB Agriculture & Forestry - http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/aet13916
AB Agriculture & Forestry FarmSafe - http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/aet623
Farm Safety Nova Scotia - http://www.farmsafetyns.ca/farm-safety-ns-manual/hazard-identification-and-risk-assessment/
Canadian Agricultural Safety Association – http://casa-acsa.ca/CanadaFarmSafePlan
CCOHS - http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/occup_workplace/farmer.html

FORMS

Hazard ID Card

Formal Hazard Assessment Form

Fatigue Management Plan Form

Incident Investigation Form

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Disclaimer – These documents have been designed to assist the farm with a quick introduction to safety at the farm gate. To comply with legislation, farm management will need to evaluate legislation in your local jurisdiction and seek the advice of a safety professional to help you meet regulatory requirements that apply to your specific farming operation.