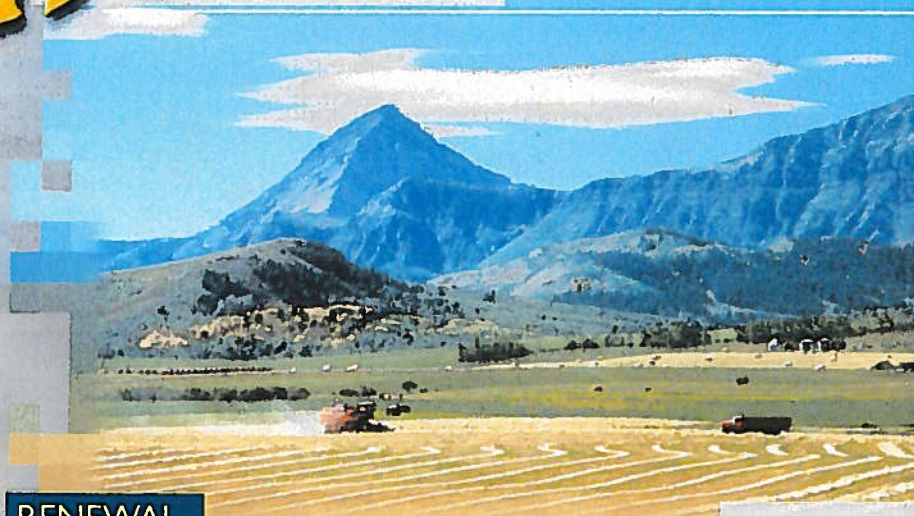


D V D   &   M a n u a l

# Farm Safety

## *It's No Accident!*



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Health and safety information on equipment, livestock, chemicals, toxic gases and more.

An easy to use DVD and manual for use as a training tool.

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Canada 

The Agricultural Policy Framework (APF)  
A FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL INITIATIVE

Alberta

# FARM SAFETY—IT'S NO ACCIDENT!

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## COMPANION MANUAL TO THE DVD

Aussi disponible en français.

RENEWAL  
the  
way to  
grow



Canada

The Agricultural Policy Framework (APF)  
A FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL INITIATIVE

Alberta

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## SECTION 1: SAFETY MANAGEMENT

### 1.1 Safety Management—Introduction (Video)

#### FROM THE VIDEO:

Farmers survive and thrive by hard work, persistence and smart planning.

It's not just a business, it's also a lifestyle.

But the lifestyle also means that farmers and their families live, work and play on the farm site. When there are hazards on the farm, everyone can be at risk.

A farm injury doesn't only cause pain and suffering. It costs time and money.

Good farm management includes safety management. You need to control hazards in a systematic way. All injuries are foreseeable and preventable. An injury means there's been a breakdown in safety management.

#### DON YOUNG:

*"Certainly it was preventable, preventable first of all if I'd thought of the consequences of it; secondly it would be preventable if I'd had stopped the equipment before reaching into it, reaching past something that was very unsafe. So either one of those ways would have prevented that accident right there."*

Farmers are proud of the way they run their operations. They quickly embrace the latest management practices. And yet, they often continue with high-risk behaviour.

Success doesn't happen by magic. Neither does farm safety. It takes commitment.

Your safety management plan should cover three essential tasks.

Number one: assessment. Identify the hazards so you can control them.

Number two: action plan. Fix the problems you find, and commit to a timetable so it gets done.

Number three: communicate and train. Make every person on site aware of the hazards, and teach the proper way to do things to avoid injury.

## 1.2 The Farm Safety Program

**DVD:**

Fact: Farm injuries cost time and money!

Fact: All injuries are foreseeable and preventable.

Important ideas:

- Farmers, farm families and farm workers are the most important resource in agriculture.
- Farm safety is a shared responsibility (farmers, farm families, farm workers).

The farm safety strategy of Alberta Agriculture and Food endeavours to positively influence farm owners, operators and workers to take appropriate measures to make Alberta farms "a safe place to work, live and prosper."

At the heart of the Farm Safety Program, we believe:

- Farmers, farm families and farm workers are the most important resource in agriculture.
- Children are instrumental in effecting change.
- Farm safety is both an individual and industry responsibility (shared amongst farmers, farm families and farm workers).
- It is important to work together with the private sector, commodity groups, farm organizations and community partners to provide effective and wide ranging safety programs for Alberta farms.

### 1.3 Farm Injuries and Fatalities

**DVD (1 of 4):**

Long-term averages: Alberta farm injuries and fatalities.

Alberta farm-related injuries over past 8 years:

- 1500 emergency room visits per year (average)
- Livestock involved in nearly 50% of injuries
- 80% of the injured are male
- Most common injury: upper extremities (fingers and thumbs)

Alberta farm-related deaths over past 20 years (1985 to 2004):

- 18 deaths per year (average)
- 87% are male
- 70% involve farm machinery
- Four per year are children (under 18)

#### Alberta Farm Injury and Fatality Statistics — Long-Term Averages

Over the past eight years, the Farm Accident Monitoring System (a voluntary statistics collection program through Alberta hospital emergency rooms) has recorded an average of 1,500 visits per year for farm-related injuries.

- Livestock are involved in nearly half of all injuries.
- Approximately 80 per cent of those injured are male.
- The main body part injured is from the upper extremities (fingers and thumbs).

Over the past 20 years (1985 to 2004), there has been an average of 18 farm-related deaths per year in Alberta.

- Children under 18 account for an average of 4 of these deaths.
- 87 per cent are male.
- 70 per cent of the incidents involve farm machinery.

Looking for the most current statistics? Visit the Alberta Agriculture website at [www.agric.gov.ab.ca](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca).



## A Sample Year: 2002 Alberta Farm Injury Report

There were 1,258 injuries reported by monitoring hospitals in 2002.

### Common Causes of Injury:

- livestock: 45 per cent (570 cases)
- farm machinery: 26 per cent (323 cases)
- tools: 8 per cent (102 cases)

### Common Types of Injury:

- contusions (serious bruising)
- lacerations (cuts)
- fractures

### Body Parts Affected:

- arm and hand (upper extremities), with hands and wrists most commonly injured

### Age and Gender

- 18- to 34- year olds suffered the highest number of injuries.
- 82 per cent involved males. 18 per cent involved females.

**A Sample Year: 2002 Alberta Farm Deaths (24 Deaths)**

What kinds of injuries are occurring on Alberta farms? Here is a summary of severe injuries and fatalities that occurred in 2002.

**DVD (2 of 4):**

A year in the life of Alberta farmers (actual severe injuries and fatalities):

- Male, age 34. Thrown from a horse while working at a feedlot. Legally impaired.
- Male, age 59. Jacket caught in PTO. Multiple injuries.
- Male, age 17. Strangled when clothing caught in PTO.
- Male, age 44. Clothing caught in auger of hopper. Multiple injuries.
- Male, age 71. Working on hydraulic lines of vehicle. Bucket suddenly gave way, crushing him.
- Male, age 29. Crushed between bale feeder and front end loader.
- Male, age 67. Crushed when the mechanical hoist he was using collapsed.
- Male, age 76. ATV flipped and crushed him while he was herding cattle.

(continued)

**DVD (3 of 4):**

- Male, age 41. Large hay bale fell off semi-trailer and crushed him.
- Male, age 19. Working on a crew digging a trench. Trench wall collapsed.
- Male, age 40. Pinned under machinery he was fabricating.
- Male, age 72. Pinned under hydraulic bale lifter.
- Female, age 9. Pinned under metal gate.
- Male, age 55. Crushed by a bale as he was sitting on a tractor. Custom wrapping at the time.
- Male, age 51. Pinned under trailer holding heavy equipment. Was repairing axle of trailer.

(continued)

**DVD (4 of 4):**

- Male, age 9. Thrown from semi-truck loaded with liquid manure.
- Male, age 11. Thrown from semi-truck loaded with liquid manure.
- Male, age 52. Using sledge hammer, accidentally hit floor jack which flew up and hit his head.
- Male, age 76. Fly wheel on buzz saw broke loose.
- Male, age 50. Struck in head by drill hitch, which he was repairing.
- Female, age 3. Dropped as she was being lifted into tractor. Run over.
- Female, age 65. Fell off tractor and was run over.
- Male, age 73. Working on a tractor on a hill. Tractor ran over him.
- Male, age 60. Fell into grain bin.

### 1.3.1 Farm Accident Monitoring

The Farm Accident Monitoring System (or FAMS) tracks farm-related injuries in Alberta.

Under this system, about 70 hospitals report on a regular basis, providing details on the type and severity of farm injuries they handle.

The data collected covers all types of agricultural operations.

The information in this report is used by the Farm Safety Program in Alberta to enhance its education and awareness programs.

As a rural community member, please encourage your local hospital to participate in this program.

## 1.4 Identifying and Controlling Hazards

### DVD:

Good management is about managing risk and planning toward positive goals.

- Promoting safety is part of good overall management.
- Anticipate injury hazards and take steps to control them.
- Safety planning: not complicated or time-consuming.

Three steps to a safety management plan:

1. Assessment (identify hazards on your farm)
2. Action plan (identify things to do, set target dates for completion)
3. Communicate and train (involve every person on site)

Promoting safety in your farm business does not have to be complicated or time consuming. The farm manager's job is to anticipate and control hazards that can lead to injuries.

### 1.4.1 The 5-Minute Farm Safety Checkup

#### DVD (1 of 5):

Farmers are busy people. Take five minutes for a safety checkup. Can you answer "yes" to all items?

#### Personal Health and Safety

- Medical checkup received every year.
- Hearing tested regularly.
- Hearing protection worn.
- Clothing protects against the elements.
- Sun protection worn.
- NIOSH-approved respirator worn in dusty/mouldy environments.
- Agricultural chemicals are locked up.
- Warning signs are posted by chemical storage.
- Chemical containers go to collection site.
- Protective clothing/equipment used when handling pesticides.

You can reduce the accidents on your farm or ranch by surveying regularly for hazards and managing them before they become a problem.

To create a complete safety plan, assess your current level of safety management using the detailed checklists found in each section of this manual or on the CD-ROM. Then, commit to a plan of action to fix problems you've identified. Communication and training of family members and employees are key components of your safety plan. Review your safety plan every six months.

- ☒ This "five-minute checkup" is a quick start to your safety assessment.  
Check off the safety items that are in place on your farm.

### Personal Health and Safety

- ☐ I have a complete medical checkup every year.
- ☐ I have a hearing test every few years.
- ☐ I use hearing protective devices when operating noisy machinery and tools.
- ☐ Everyone in the farm operation wears clothing that provides protection against the elements.
- ☐ I use sun protection when working outdoors.
- ☐ I wear a NIOSH-approved respirator when working in dusty or mouldy environments.
- ☐ All agricultural chemicals are stored in a locked room.
- ☐ Warning signs are posted at the entrance of all chemical storage areas.
- ☐ Empty chemical containers are rinsed and taken to a pesticide container collection site.
- ☐ I always use protective clothing and equipment when applying or handling pesticides.



**DVD (2 of 5):****First Aid/ Emergency**

- All adults are trained in first aid and CPR
- Home: first aid kit and fire extinguishers
- Tractor: first aid kit and extinguisher
- Workshop: first aid kit and extinguishers
- Barn: first aid kit and extinguishers
- Vehicles: first aid kit and extinguishers
- Combine: first aid kit and extinguisher
- All family members know how to use emergency phone numbers
- Emergency phone numbers and land descriptions posted by all phones

**First Aid/ Emergency**

- ☐ All adults in my family are trained in first aid and CPR.
- ☐ I have first aid kits and fire extinguishers in my home.
- ☐ I have first aid kits and fire extinguishers in my tractor.
- ☐ I have first aid kits and fire extinguishers in my workshop.
- ☐ I have first aid kits and fire extinguishers in my barn.
- ☐ I have first aid kits and fire extinguishers in my vehicles.
- ☐ I have first aid kits and fire extinguishers in my combine.
- ☐ My family members know how to use emergency phone numbers.
- ☐ Emergency phone numbers and land descriptions are posted by all phones.

**DVD (3 of 5):****Farm Machinery**

- "No Riders" on any machinery.
- Shields and guards in place.
- Power shut off before maintaining machinery.
- Tires inspected and properly inflated.
- Keys are removed from machinery when not in use.
- Walk around before operating.
- Check the clearances from overhead powerlines.
- Flashing lights and SMV signs on equipment transported on roads.
- Rollover protective structures (ROPS) and seat belts installed on all tractors.

**Farm Machinery**

- ☐ I always observe the "NO RIDERS" rule on all farm machinery.
- ☐ All shields and guards are in place.
- ☐ I always shut off the power before adjusting, repairing or unclogging machinery.
- ☐ Tires are inspected regularly and properly inflated.
- ☐ Keys are removed from the farm machinery when not in use.
- ☐ Before operating, I walk around machines to make a visual check of the equipment and make sure bystanders and objects are a safe distance away.
- ☐ I always check the clearances from overhead powerlines when towing high or wide loads.
- ☐ I ensure flashing lights are mounted on all farm equipment transported on public roads.
- ☐ I ensure rollover protective structures (ROPS) and seat belts are installed on all tractors.

**DVD (4 of 5):****Animal Handling and Corrals**

- Corrals, gates and fences are in good condition. No metal or wood sticking out.
- Fence-mending tools and post pounders in good repair and stored properly.
- Caution used when handling animals with newborns.
- Animals are made aware of my approach.

**Animal Handling and Corrals**

- ☐ All corrals, gates and fences are in good condition, without pieces of metal or wood sticking out.
- ☐ Fence-mending tools and post pounders are in good repair and stored properly.
- ☐ I take special care when handling animals with newborns.
- ☐ I make animals aware of my approach so I do not frighten them.

**DVD (5 of 5):****Farm Yards**

- Safe, fenced play area for children.
- Yard well-lit.
- Old wells covered.
- Workshop clean, tidy and hazard free.
- Silos and bins secured against child entry.
- Fuel tanks are safe distance from buildings.
- Underground fuel tanks checked for leakage.
- Wiring, power cords, etc. in good condition.
- Building entrances, hallways and stairs clear of debris.
- Manure pits and lagoons secured against access (grates, covers, fencing).
- Dugouts fenced.

**Farm Yards**

- ☐ I have a safe, fenced play area for children.
- ☐ My yard is well-lit for security and night work.
- ☐ Old wells are properly covered.
- ☐ My workshop is clean, tidy and hazard free.
- ☐ Silos and grain bins are secured against entry by children.
- ☐ Fuel tanks are located at least 15 metres (50 ft.) from farm buildings and grain storage.  
[Some fire officials recommend a minimum of 30 metres (100 ft.).]
- ☐ I periodically check the condition of underground fuel tanks for leakage.
- ☐ Wiring, power cords, plugs and switches are kept in good condition.
- ☐ Building entrances, hallways and stairs are always kept clear of stored materials or trash that may catch fire or cause falls.
- ☐ Manure pits and lagoons are guarded by grates, covers or fencing to prevent access.
- ☐ Dugouts are fenced.

### 1.4.2 Farm First Aid Kits

**DVD:**

Be prepared to handle an injury situation. Ambulances and rescuers are long distances away!

- Knowledge: get basic training in first aid and rescue procedures.
- Preparation: build your own first aid kits.

Build your first aid kit in sections (bagged and labelled):

- Small wound
- Medium wound
- Large wound
- Save a limb
- First aid tools
- Splints

It's human nature to ignore the possibility of serious injury. But on a farm, you have to prepare yourself for any type of emergency. Knowledge and preparedness are the best antidotes for panic and fear.

- Basic training in first aid and standard rescue procedures is vital to rural residents. Medical assistance and emergency rescue personnel are long distances away.
- When an accident/injury occurs on the farm, quick action is vital. It's important to have the right materials and tools close at hand to take control of the situation.
- Every farm family should have a first aid kit. By having a complete first aid kit in a busy work area, such as in the tractor, shop or kitchen, you can be prepared to save a limb or even a life.
- Remember that first aid is temporary and it is not a substitute for expert medical care. Call for help right away and provide as much information as possible to help determine the type of medical attention and rescue operation needed.



## Building Your Own Farm First Aid Kit

Your kit **MUST** contain these items:

- container
- 12 antiseptic swabs
- sanitary napkins or 4 disposable diapers (used as a pressure dressing for bleeding)
- 12 band aids (for small cuts)
- 1 pair of scissors
- 4 large safety pins
- 2 triangular bandages (to support injured limbs or act as a bandage supporting a dressing)
- 6 gauze dressings
- adhesive tape
- a set of splints (arms, legs) may be made from available materials
- 4 pairs of surgical gloves (protection for First Aider against infection)
- "Save a Limb" kit

Once all items have been found, it is just as important to assemble and organize your kit. By doing so, the person who will be using the farm first aid kit has quick access to specific items.

Divide your kit into packages. Label all bags clearly: **SMALL, MEDIUM or LARGE WOUNDS.**

The **LARGE WOUND** package should include:

- 3 pressure dressings
- 4 antiseptic swabs
- 1 triangular bandage
- 2 large safety pins
- 2 gauze dressings
- 1 pair surgical gloves (you may need two of these for the large wound package)

The **MEDIUM WOUND** packages should contain smaller quantities of the items mentioned for the large wound package.

The **SMALL WOUND** package should contain plenty of band-aids and antiseptic swabs.

**The SAVE A LIMB Kit**

The following items for saving a limb should be contained in the package marked "Amputated Tissue":

- 1 large garden bag
- 4 regular garbage bags
- 4 large freezer bags
- 4 medium freezer bags
- 4 small freezer bags
- 20 twist ties/self sealing bags
- 4 pressure dressings
- 1 pencil
- 4 tags to label place/time

A package labelled FIRST AID TOOLS should contain scissors, pins, etc. This package is extremely important and should be one of the main packages in all field first aid kits.

Your kit should also contain 2 leg, 1 arm, 1 hand and 1 forearm splint. These can be made out of plywood, cardboard or other materials found on the farm.

### 1.4.3 Fire Extinguishers

**DVD (1 of 2):**

When you need a fire extinguisher, you need it RIGHT NOW.

- Use the right extinguisher type: water makes fuel and grease fires worse.
- Ensure adequate size: a 10 pound ABC extinguisher lasts about ten seconds.
- Check extinguishers regularly (tap & check pressure).

Locations for fire extinguishers:

- Workshop
- Barns
- Farm vehicles
- Combines
- Balers
- Tractors
- Silos
- Fuel tanks
- House

#### Fire Extinguishers on the Farm

Fire spreads quickly, and can destroy years of hard work. When you need a fire extinguisher, you need it immediately.

Fire extinguishers should be located in the following areas: workshop, barns, farm vehicles, combines, balers, tractors, fuel tanks and the house.

Caution: if you use the wrong type of extinguisher, you could make things worse! For example, a water-based fire extinguisher will cause a near-explosion if used on a grease or gasoline fire, causing the fire to burn and spread rapidly. Using water on an electrical fire can electrocute the user. Educate yourself, and train your family.

#### Recommended Extinguishers

These are the types of fire extinguishers needed for specific locations. Check off the extinguishers you have, and take action to install any missing ones.

##### Workshop

- 10 pound (4.54 kg) dry chemical, multi-purpose ABC extinguisher
- 5 pound (2.27 kg) dry chemical ABC extinguisher

##### Barns

- 10 pound (4.54 kg) dry chemical, multi-purpose ABC extinguisher
- 2.5 gallon (11 l) pressurized water extinguisher

**Farm Vehicles**

- 5 pound (2.27 kg) dry chemical, multi-purpose ABC extinguisher

**Combines**

- 10 pound (4.54 kg) dry chemical, multi-purpose ABC extinguisher
- 2.5 gallon (11 l) pressurized water extinguisher

**Balers**

- 2.5 gallon (11 l) pressurized water extinguisher

**Tractors**

- 10 pound (4.54 kg) dry chemical, multi-purpose ABC extinguisher

**Silos**

- 20 pound (9.08 kg) dry chemical, multi-purpose ABC extinguisher
- 2.5 gallon (11 l) pressurized water extinguisher

**Fuel Storage**

- 20 pound (9.08 kg) dry chemical, multi-purpose ABC extinguisher (minimum)

**Operating Times of Fire Extinguishers**

DRY CHEMICAL fire extinguishers will last approximately one second for every pound of dry chemical in the extinguisher. For example, a 10 pound (4.54 kg) extinguisher would last 10 seconds.

WATER fire extinguishers will last 30 seconds for every gallon of water. For example, a 2.5 gallon water extinguisher will last 75 seconds.

**Regular Inspection**

Fire extinguishers should be inspected monthly and have a tag with the date of the last inspection.

Turn all dry chemical extinguishers upside down and tap them on the bottom to loosen the powder stored in them. The indicator on the extinguisher shows the charge of gas (nitrogen) that will force the powder out.

**DVD TEXT (2 of 2):**

Train everyone over 12 to use fire extinguishers!

- Get everyone out of danger.
- Call the fire department.
- Fight small fires only.
- Know the right type to use (water makes some fires worse).
- Pull the pin, aim at the base of the fire and squeeze the handle.
- Start fighting the fire approximately 2-3 metres (6-10 ft.) away, using a back-and-forth motion.

**Train Everyone to Use Fire Extinguishers**

Train everyone over the age of 12 in the use of fire extinguishers. They should know how to:

- Get everyone out of danger.
- Call the fire department.
- Fight small fires only.
- Pull the pin, aim at the base of the fire and squeeze the handle.
- Start fighting the fire 2-3 metres (6-10 ft.) away. Use a back-and-forth motion.