

FARM VEHICLES, QUADS AND MOTORBIKES

Farm vehicles, including quads, cars, utilities, side-by-sides and motorbikes, accounted for around 30% (n=240) of all injury deaths on farms from 2001-2013. Many more farmers and farm workers are also killed each year in vehicles on public roads.

QUADS

Quads are the leading cause of on-farm vehicle deaths in Australia, with around 15 deaths each year. The main cause of death and severe injury are crush injury and asphyxia associated with quad rollover, plus head and neck injury. They are also the leading cause of fatal injury in children aged 5-14 years on farms. Quads are sometimes used for tasks beyond their original design limits including carrying or towing loads (e.g. spray tanks and trailers). Carrying or towing loads makes the already poor stability of quads worse and increases the risk of rollover. Passengers should never be carried and children under 16 years must not use quads of any size due to their lack of developmental capacity to use these vehicles safely. Operators should be trained and competent, with helmet use on a quad essential.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT MACHINE FOR THE JOB

The farm ute or side-by-side vehicles (SSVs) have safety features that provide protection for operators in the event of rollover or collision. These include a wider wheel-base, rollbars (ROPS), seats for passengers and seatbelts.

- Check that the quad is the safest machine to do the job - in most cases it will not be. If you need to carry passengers or a load, use a SSV or ute.
- If still choosing to use a quad, a **suitably tested crush protection device (CPD) should be fitted**. These are commercially available - contact Farmsafe or your state Work Health Authority (Workcover/Worksafe etc.).
- Do not carry any passengers on quads.
- No riders under 16 years on quads of any size - either as operator or passenger.***
- Do not carry or tow loads.
- Set speed limits and establish 'no go' areas on the farm, such as hills and slopes, dam banks or anywhere the quad is at higher risk of rollover.
- Do not use attachments that may interfere with operator control and stability.
- Maintain the tyre pressures at the level advised in the Manual and do not modify quad wheels.
- Check with your local dealer about operator training courses for quads.



CARS, UTES, SIDE-BY-SIDE VEHICLES AND TRUCKS

Many deaths and serious injuries have involved vehicles colliding with an object or rolling, with passengers not wearing a seatbelt being thrown from the vehicle or crushed. This is a common problem involving young people 15-24 years and includes passengers riding in the tray of utes, trucks and trailers during activities such as hunting, mustering or simply skylarking. Young children under five years are also at risk of runover falling from vehicles or as pedestrians.

- Do not allow people to ride in the tray of utes, SSV's, trailers or trucks.**
- Ensure seatbelts are fitted and used in all cars, SSVs, utes and trucks and that everyone is instructed to use them.
- Set speed limits for all vehicles on farm and for areas near the house where children may be located. A securely fenced house yard can help prevent young children wandering into vehicle areas.
- Keep all farm vehicles well maintained. Many incidents have been caused by non functioning brakes, suspension and worn tyres.
- Check the tyre pressures regularly. Do not over inflate tyres. Check the Operator's Manual for proper inflation.
- Have a "No drink and drive" policy that includes drugs.



SAFETY BEHAVIOURS

Vehicle safety checks, skills development and use of safety equipment needs to be second nature.

- Make sure all riders are trained to safely operate farm vehicles.
- Conduct a safety check on all farm vehicles before starting work.
- Always wear an approved helmet and sturdy workboots when using quads and motorbikes. A helmet will also be required for "aggressive" use of a SSV e.g. mustering.**
- Always wear seatbelts in vehicles on the farm and follow speed restrictions.
- Make sure children are trained and supervised when riding two-wheeled motorbikes; and that these are an appropriate size. Can they lift the bike from the ground unassisted and reach the ground with their feet when astride the bike?



For farm safety checklists and other information on farm safety risks and controls, go to www.farmsafe.org.au or contact:

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