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December 2020

We want to thank everyone for their support in 2020 and we look forward to working with you in 2021 and beyond. Keep your eyes open for some exciting new projects that we'll be launching in the New Year!

We hope you have a safe and happy holiday season.

- From the AgSafe team



Slips, Trips, and Falls



Last month, we asked you what you thought the greatest on-farm injury was. This month, we're here to give you the statistics that show falls as the greatest injury.

[Check out the WCB stats from October 2020 here](#)

Slips, trips, and falls are even more of a risk in the winter time, so take a second to review our [Farm Safety Tips](#) to keep yourself injury-free this winter and check out some new resources from the Alberta Government below:

Don't slip into winter

Hazards and controls

At this time of year we see even more slips and falls due to winter conditions. As noted above falls are the most common injury in agriculture in Alberta as well. The Alberta government has several resources related to winter slips, trips and falls that have been developed to help raise awareness of common hazards and their controls. Winter-related slips, trips and falls have a significant impact on Alberta workplaces and workers each year and we are hoping to encourage employer, supervisors and workers to be extra vigilant and bring attention to this to help prevent this trend from continuing.

These current slip, trip and fall resources that focus during the winter months can be found <https://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/slips-trips-and-falls> and come in two formats:

- [Bulletins](#) – Document that is a two or more page resource that offers a summary or focused information of a particular topic area or areas.
- [MicroLearnings](#) – Shorter than a bulletin and single-item focused. One-page and poster-like. Can be printed and posted at work site or handed out at meetings. Quick to share on tablets or phone screens at toolbox/job site meetings, or attached to an email about a similar topic.

Safety Minute

Take a minute when you're warming up this winter to review contingency plans with your employees in case of COVID-19 or the flu.

Create a team for managing the COVID-19 situation around your worksite. It is best to have more than one person in case someone falls ill.

A hazard assessment should be completed at your workplace and controls implemented to help prevent the spread. Follow the recommendations from the provincial and federal government updates. Communicate this with your employees.

Farms can encourage social distancing through administrative controls like:

- Engaging your employees in planning for the management of everyone's health and safety
- Having morning huddles to divide tasks (can be done outside or by phone)

- Change schedules so that employees arrive at different times and have different break times

Review Your Emergency Response Plan



You should also review your emergency response plan, see the FarmSafe Plan [manual](#) and [workbook](#) for information on emergency response planning. Plan for what work has to be done with a reduced workforce and cross train employees if possible.

Watch for signs of stress in your employees. Encourage them to talk to others and to reach out for help if they are feeling overwhelmed. Alberta Mental Health advice is available 24/7 at 1-877-303-2642.



Stay tuned for our three part webinar series starting in January, 2021!

We know farmers like to live life by the seed of their plants, but we highly recommend not bailing on these speakers!

Navigating health and safety in agriculture can be challenging! That is why AgSafe Alberta is bringing you three industry professionals to bring clarity to hot topics and answer few questions in the process.

We promise, these webinars will be anything but boar-ing!

12 Days of Safety



Pssst... keep an eye out this month for our annual 12 Days of Safety on social media!

Give us a follow on your preferred channel so you don't miss out!



We want to hear from you!

Every month, we will be including a survey question for our subscribers about ag safety!

December's question is:

Have you taken a WHMIS course in the last 3 years?





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