



March 1, 2019

FARM & RANCH SAFETY TIP

Working Alone on the Farm



Whether you are mid-way through the calving season or busy getting fertilizer in the bin ahead of seeding, you might not have paid much attention to **your safety while working alone**.

So, what's the big deal about working alone?

Working alone isn't really all that dangerous. Some tasks are even designed to be done alone. The real danger in working alone comes from being in an emergency without the ability to call for help.

Consider these scenarios:

- You've gone out to the pasture to check on a cow calf pair. While you're out, you decide to check water to make sure it hasn't frozen up. You step funny in an uneven area of the pasture and lose your balance. You fall, twisting your ankle on the way down.
- On the way home from town, you notice a vehicle that is not familiar parked in your neighbors' yard. You know they are away at a hockey tournament for the weekend, so you drive up to investigate.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Is assistance readily available?
- What if I didn't tell anybody what I was doing/where I was going?
- What could I do to plan and prepare for a working alone situation?

What can be done to minimize the risk associated with working alone?

Start by identifying work alone situations on your operation and what measures you'll take to address the hazards.

Your procedures might include:

- Carrying a communication device while working alone
- Designating a contact person. You can then establish a check-in schedule for when you're working alone. Let your designated contact person know what to do in case you've failed to check in at a scheduled check-in time.
- Avoiding inherently dangerous tasks while working by yourself. Try to avoid things such as climbing a bin, working in a confined space, or handling chemicals until you have help.
- Identifying a secure place where you could take shelter
- Training workers who will be affected by the procedures. Anybody working alone on your operation should know how to work safely.

Visit agsafeab.ca for more information.



Thank You, Donna!

Everyone at AgSafe Alberta would like to thank Donna Trottier, our outgoing Program Director, for playing an integral role in getting AgSafe to where it is today.

Donna's research and coordination efforts were key in providing direction and parameters around a working group project – funded through a Growing Forward II grant – that would become the AgSafe Alberta Society. Her involvement with developing the AgSafe Alberta brand and attending many events to establish the AgSafe name in the farming community, set us up for success as we move forward.

Having a branded presence early on at tradeshow, producer meetings, conferences, and events helped integrate AgSafe into the Agriculture community. The timely development of resources such as QuickStart Guides, e-learning courses, and videos that brought safety messaging to farmers by farmers really helped solidify AgSafe Alberta as a resource, along with brand development, website, events calendar, and digital communications. Donna also

helped establish and nurture relationships with other agricultural organizations, specifically commodity groups but also rural municipalities, ag societies, ag suppliers, research associations, fieldmen, and Ag Service boards.

Another crucial component of AgSafe's development was the **AgSafe Alberta Advisor program**. Donna helped develop several farm safety tools and resources for an advisor package. Three advisors were hired and trained to extend the AgSafe Alberta safety management tools and resources to the farm gate. Our AgSafe Alberta advisors continue to provide customized, practical farm safety management to producers seeking assistance.

All of these efforts formed a sustainable platform for the AgSafe Alberta society to move forward with as the established voice for health and safety in Alberta, supporting farms and ranches across the province.

"We were able to get those in the industry talking about farm safety and I think that is an accomplishment in itself. Agriculture is my passion and it has been an honor and a privilege to work with farmers, ranchers, and agricultural organizations across the province on the AgSafe Alberta project. Thanks for the opportunity – any day I am invited to work with farms and ranchers is a great day in my world!" Donna Trottier

Thanks, Donna for getting the Agri-Safety-Culture growing in Alberta,

Staff and Board of Directors at AgSafe Alberta

Farm Health and Safety Producer Grant Program

In response to the changes to the Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Code to include farms and ranches that employ waged, non-family workers, Alberta Labour is funding a grant that is administered by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

The [Farm and Safety Producer Grant Program](#) offers financial support, subject to financial constraints, to eligible employers (must have waged, non-family workers and a WCB account) for eligible costs to improve health and safety in their operations and help them comply with the OH&S Code that took effect on December 1, 2018. The program is now open and accepting applications.

- Eligible applicants may apply for financial support for up to 50 percent of costs for eligible expenses identified in the applicable Funding List.
 - Eligible applicants may submit a maximum of two applications per fiscal year.
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AgSafe Alberta OUT AND ABOUT

The AgSafe Alberta Advisor team is out working individually with farmers and ranchers across Alberta. AgSafe Alberta will also be providing farm safety management information at the following events:

INDUSTRY EVENTS

March 10-16: [Canadian Agriculture Safety Week](#)

March 12-14: [Alberta Beef Industry Conference](#), Red Deer

March 14-16: [SARDA Ag Research Ag Trade Show](#), Falher



AGSAFE WORKSHOPS

March 7: Silver Creek Ag Society – New Norway

March 21: Settler Ag Services Board – Settler

March 22: Kneehill Ag Services Board – Three Hills

If you would like Ag Safe Alberta Society to attend or present at one of your upcoming agricultural events in Alberta, please email: jwacowich@agsafeab.ca with details.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR EVENT DETAILS



YOUR SAFETY YOUR WAY

AgSafe Alberta is an agriculture based safety organization that is results-oriented, accountable, and transparent to our stakeholders with focus on continuous improvement and best practices.

The overall goal of AgSafe Alberta is to empower farmers and ranchers to integrate practical safety management programs into their everyday operations, in order to prevent illness and injury for everyone involved on the farm.

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