



Occupational Health and Safety in the Agriculture Industry

Agriculture is one of the most hazardous industries in Canada.

Hazards exist in many areas on the farm:

- Machinery and equipment (tractors, ATVs, backhoes, augers, conveyors, power take off, rollover, runover, collision, struck-by, pinned, entanglement)
- Chemicals/substances (pesticides, fertilizers, disinfectants, manure, fuels, gases, carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide)
- Heights (falls from machinery, mobile equipment, ladders, bins, building structures)
- Farm animals (bites, trampled, scratched, struck-by, zoonotic diseases)
- Other hazards (confined spaces, excavations, entrapment, dust, slippery/sloped surfaces, water bodies)
- Work environment (heat, cold, rain, wind, low light, glare, noise)
- Electrical, fire and explosion hazards
- Ergonomic/musculoskeletal injury hazards
- Working alone or in isolation

In order to reduce these hazards, agriculture employers, supervisors and employees are required to comply with the Newfoundland and Labrador Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations.

Employers' Duties

Employers are required to ensure the health, safety and welfare of workers. Adequate information, instruction, training and supervision is to be provided. Employers must ensure that safety clothing, equipment and devices are used and that systems are in place so that occupational hazards are recognized, evaluated and controlled. Policies, procedures, orientations, workplace inspections, hazard assessments and accident investigations all help reduce the risk of accidents and are a part of achieving due diligence for health and safety.

Supervisors' Duties

Supervisors are required to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all workers under his or her supervision. Supervisors are to advise workers of the health or safety hazards that may be in the workplace, provide proper written or oral instructions regarding precautions to be taken and ensure that all workers under his or her supervision use/wear protective equipment, devices or other apparel required to be used or worn.

Workers' Duties

Workers are required to take reasonable care to protect his or her own health and safety and that of workers and other persons at or near the workplace. Workers are required to follow procedures, participate in training, report hazards and use/wear personal protective equipment and other devices designed for their safety.



Workers Three Basic Rights

- The right to know information that could affect their health and safety;
- The right to participate in health and safety decisions in the workplace; and
- The right to refuse work that they feel is unsafe.

Health and Safety in the Workplace

All workplaces with 10 or more employees are required to establish and maintain an Occupational Health and Safety Program as well as an Occupational Health and Safety Committee.

If fewer than 10 workers are employed at a workplace, the employer is required to implement and maintain an Occupational Health and Safety Policy and have a Worker Health and Safety Representative (six to nine employees) or a Workplace Health and Safety Designate (two to five employees).

Emergency preparedness is also a requirement of an employer including having an emergency plan, emergency contact numbers, a communication system, fire extinguishers, first aid kits and trained first aid personnel.

Accident Reporting

In the event that a fatality, serious accident or potentially serious accident takes place in the

workplace, employers are required to immediately notify the OHS Division.

The 24 hour Accident Reporting Line is (709) 729-4444.

Occupational Health and Safety Officers (Inspectors)

Occupational Health and Safety Officers may at a reasonable hour, and without prior notification, enter and inspect a workplace to ensure compliance with the legislation. Employers are required to co-operate with officers and comply with any directives or stop work orders that result from the inspection.

OHS Regulations

Employers are required to comply with the Regulations under the Act. The Regulations cover an extensive range of topics and responsibilities that are relevant to agriculture employers. To obtain copies of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations visit servicenl.gov.nl.ca/ohs

Children and Young Workers

Children are especially vulnerable to hazards on farms because it is often their home as well as a place of work. Young, inexperienced workers are at a higher risk for injuries than older experienced workers. If there are young people in close proximity to a farming operation, employers should exercise great caution and due diligence.

Occupational Health and Safety Division of Service NL

St. John's

28 Pippy Place
709.729.2706

Corner Brook

61 Riverside Drive,
Suite 105
709.637.2946

Grand Falls-Windsor

Provincial Building,
3 Cromer Avenue
709.292.4400

Wabush

Provincial Court Building
709.282.3679

**Accident
Reporting Line**
709.729.4444
(24 hours)



For more information, visit:
gov.nl.ca/servicenl/ohs

