



Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Information guide – Rural industry

1. Workplace incidents/procedures

First aid

An injury is the most common outcome of a workplace incident, but a near miss might be fatal the next time it occurs. Report all incidents, including near misses to your employer.

Workers are often the best placed people to identify hazards, especially those caused by faulty equipment. Report any unsafe equipment.

A properly equipped and maintained first aid kit should be provided in your workplace. Make sure you know where the kit is kept and what to do in case of an accident. For medical and fire service emergencies, dial 000. Keep emergency phone numbers handy for the following services:

- fire service
- doctor and ambulance, and
- Poisons Information Centre (131126).

If a serious injury occurs, there are some things that may be done to reduce the severity or maybe even save a life:

- don't panic
- send for assistance, either first aid equipment or a qualified person
- treat chemical eye burns, especially from acids and caustics urgently. Immediately flush the affected eye with clean water for at least 15 minutes while waiting for medical attention
- do not move the injured person unless they are in a dangerous situation
- reassure the injured person, make them comfortable and keep them warm, and
- notify your employer.

Taking a course in first aid and emergency techniques can be one way of helping to save a life.

Emergency procedures

Be familiar with emergency procedures for your workplace, such as:

- who to report to in an emergency and emergency telephone numbers, and
- evacuation procedures and designated meeting place.

Understand fire extinguishers and which type to use for different fires. Be familiar with emergency telephone numbers and recognise when a fire is getting out of control and call for assistance. Never put yourself at risk when reacting to an emergency.

Chemical spills and clean ups

Keep in mind the health and safety of yourself and others when cleaning up chemical spills, if it is a chemical concentrate. The Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) gives information for cleaning up a chemical spill. Try to contain a chemical spill so that it does not get into a watercourse or storage facility.

Each chemical has an identification code, called a UN number, which you can find stamped on the container or on its label. It is also found on the relevant MSDS. If you call an emergency number to report a chemical incident, supply them with the UN number.

Am I a worker?

You are a 'worker' under workers' compensation law if you are working under a 'contract of service'. You aren't entitled to workers' compensation if you were one of the following at the time of your work related injury:

- a company director
- a trustee
- partner of a firm or organisation.

Under the *Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003*, a person is considered a 'worker', unless it can be shown that the person meets all elements of the 'results test'. You can claim workers' compensation for an injury that you receive at work, if you are a 'worker'.

The elements of the results test are:

- the person is paid to achieve a specified result or outcome
- the person has to supply the plant and equipment or tools of trade needed to perform the work, and
- the person is, or would be, liable for the cost of rectifying any defect in the work performed.

The results test closely aligns with that in the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* (Cwlth) for the purpose of determining a personal services business under the Alienation of Personal Services Income measures introduced in 2000.

Accordingly, the amendment to the definition of 'worker' will exclude from coverage people who have obtained a personal services business determination from the Commissioner of Taxation. A person who works on a farm as a sharefarmer is a worker if:

- the sharefarmer does not provide and use the sharefarming operation's farm machinery driven or drawn by mechanical power, and
- the sharefarmer is entitled to no more than one third of the proceeds of the sharefarming operations under the sharefarming agreement with the owner of the farm.

What is an injury?

For a workers' compensation claim to be accepted, you must have sustained an 'injury' as defined by workers' compensation legislation. Your employment must be 'a significant contributing factor' to your injury or illness. An injury can include:

- a cut or fracture
- disease (asbestosis or Q fever)
- aggravation of a pre-existing injury
- industrial deafness (loss of hearing)
- psychiatric or psychological conditions (depression or stress), or
- death from injury, illness or aggravation of a disease.

More information

Further information is available from www.worksafe.qld.gov.au or by calling the WHS Infoline on 1300 369 915.

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