

Agriculture: a dangerous industry

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It's no cheaper to run a business safely but it's a lot more expensive if you have an accident.

Farmer interview: Beyond Common Sense



Agriculture employs less than 3% of Australian workers

- Its incidence rate of serious compensation claims is twice the rate for all workers
- 11 per cent of work-related hospitalisations are as a result of farm injuries
- In 2010-11, Agriculture:
 - accounted for 19 per cent of worker fatalities, and
 - recorded a fatality rate of 15.3 deaths per 100,000 workers- over 8 times the rate for all workers.
- In the same year Agriculture, forestry and fishing support services – which includes crop dusting, aerial mustering, shearing –recorded a fatality rate of 28.7 deaths per 100,000 workers – nearly 16 times the rate for all workers.



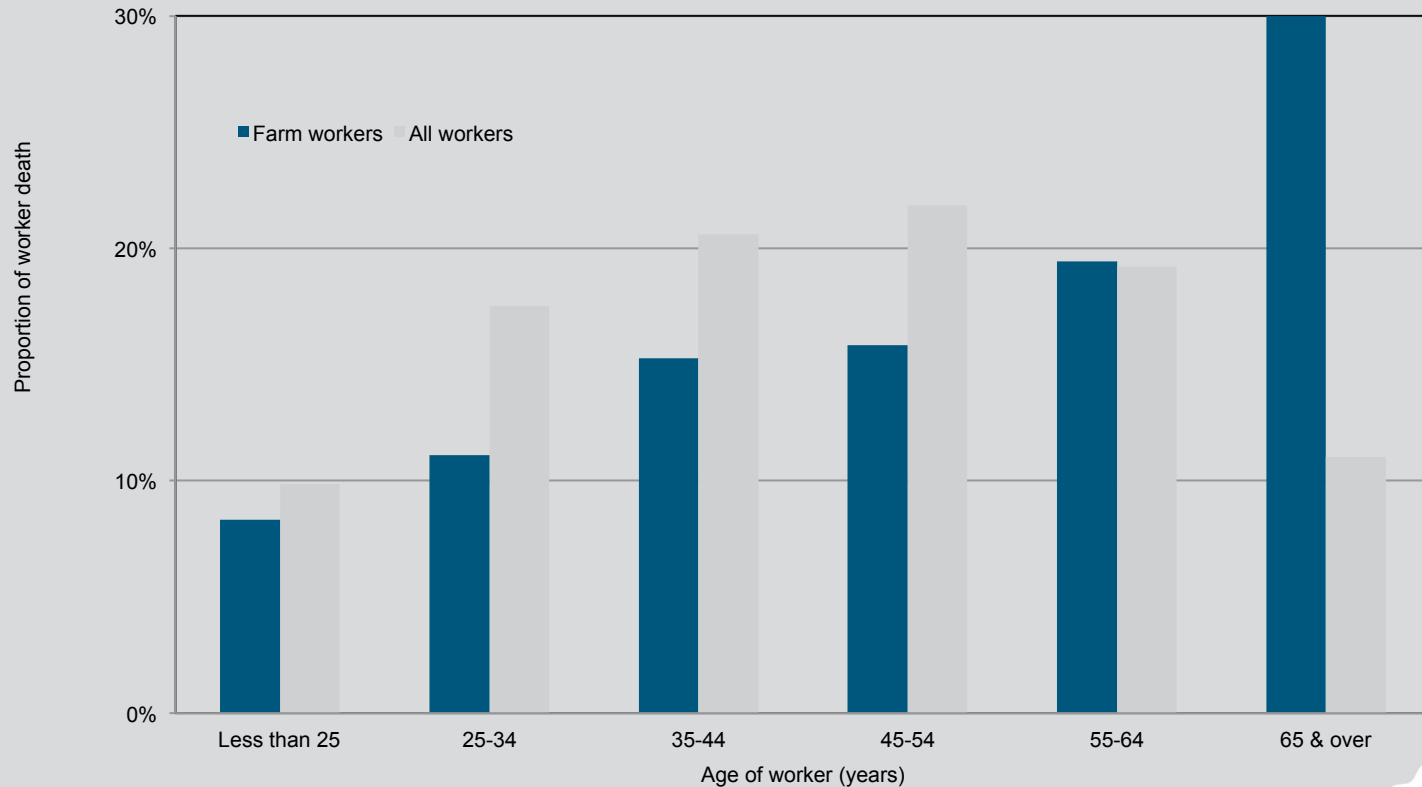
There's increased pressure to do more so you're working faster – especially on a small farm – there's real time pressures so you cut corners.

Farmer interview: Beyond common sense

A 69 year old worker was killed when his tractor rolled down an embankment. ROPS had been temporarily removed to fit mud guards.

National Coroners Information System

Worker fatalities on farms: Proportion by age group, Australia, 2003–04 to 2010–11 combined



An 86 year old worker was run over by his tractor when he tried to jump back onto it when it started to roll away.

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Oh sure, I push my tractor to the limits, but I know from experience what those limits are.

Farmer interview: Beyond common sense

A 62 year old worker was killed while pulling out trees. A chain attached to the rear of the tractor was wrapped around the tree and as the tractor was driven forward it lifted at the front and flipped backwards crushing and trapping him underneath.

National Coroners Information System



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It's just part of being a farmer. Every day you expect to shed some blood.

Farmer interview: Beyond common sense



- Twice the average incidence rate of serious compensation claims.
- 8 times the average rate of fatalities.

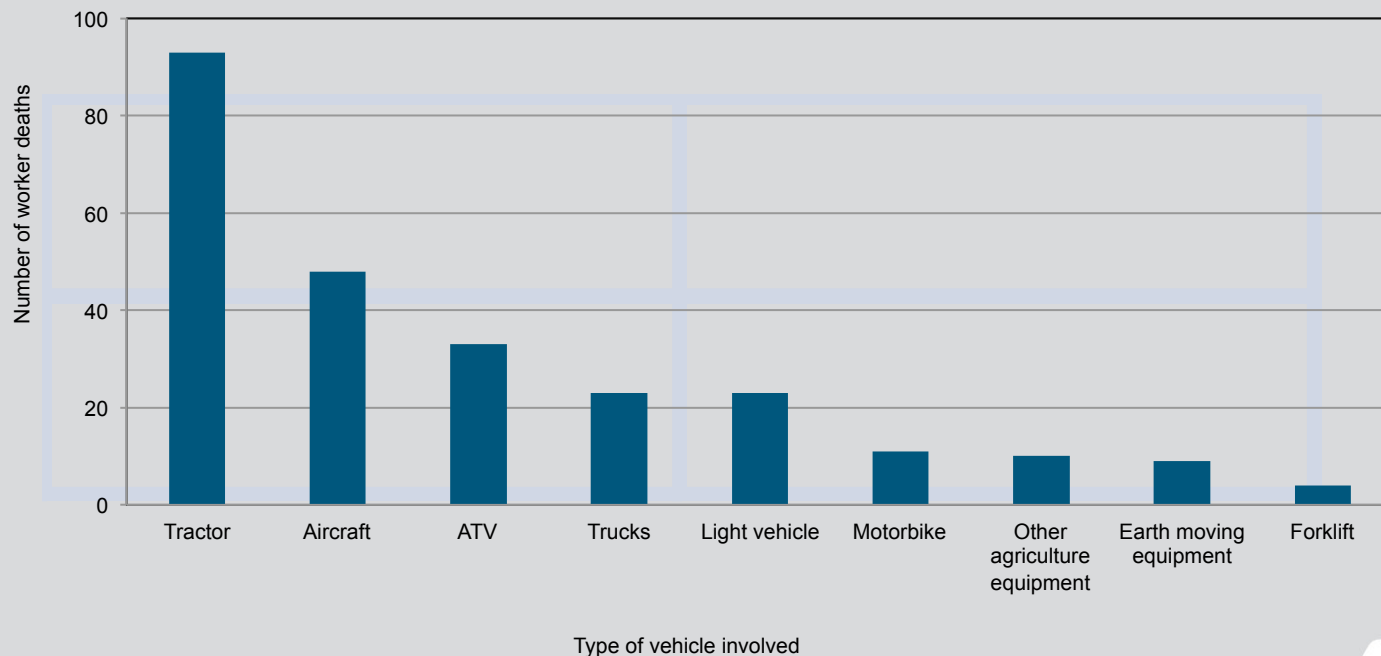
BUT

- A lower than average rate of self-reported injuries.
- 78% of Agriculture employees who were eligible for compensation for their injury did not lodge a claim.

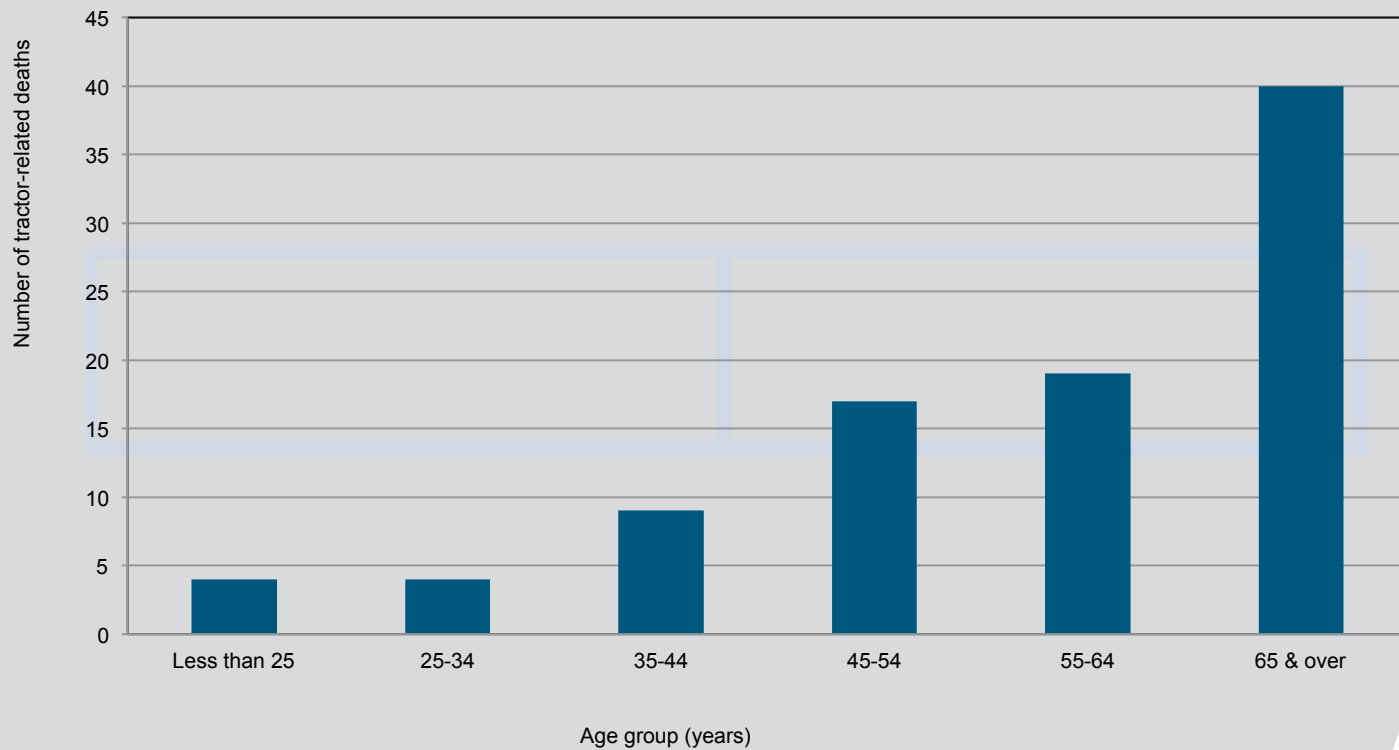
ABS. Work-related injury survey, 2009-10.



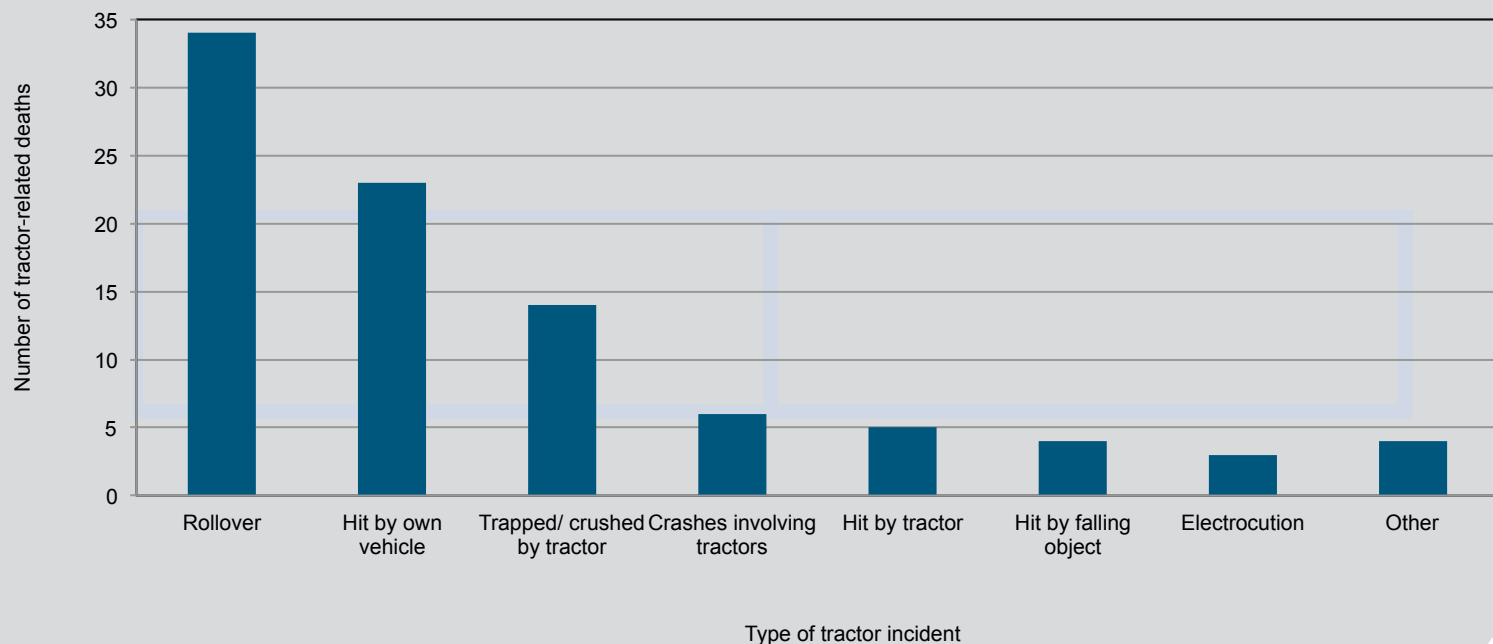
Worker fatalities involving vehicles on farms: Number by type of vehicle involved, Australia, 2003–04 to 2010–11 combined



Worker fatalities involving tractors on farms: Number by age group, Australia, 2003–04 to 2010–11 combined



Worker fatalities involving tractors on farms: Number by type of incident, Australia, 2003–04 to 2010–11 combined



An 83 year old worker was slashing grass with a 40 year old tractor when he went too close to the embankment and rolled into a dry creek bed. His son had purchased rollover protection but it had not been fitted.

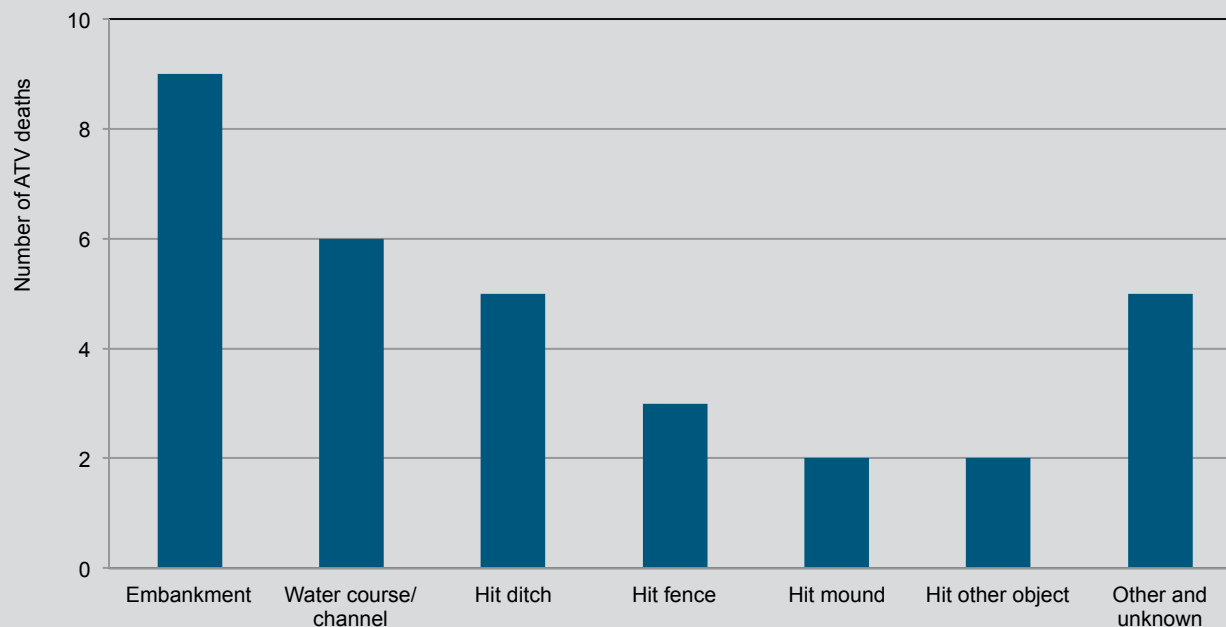
National Coroners Information System

The worker was using a tractor to move a hay bale to a feed lot for cows. He disembarked the tractor to cut bindings and the tractor rolled forward and pinned him up against a fence post.

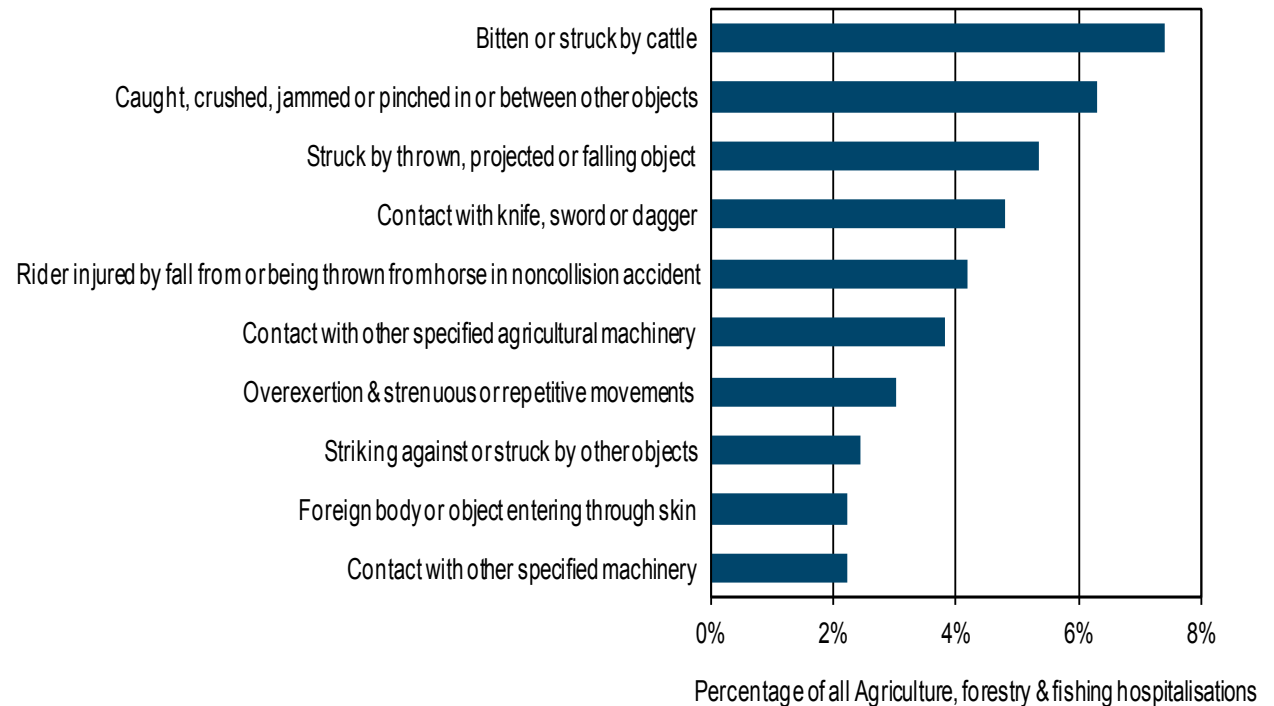
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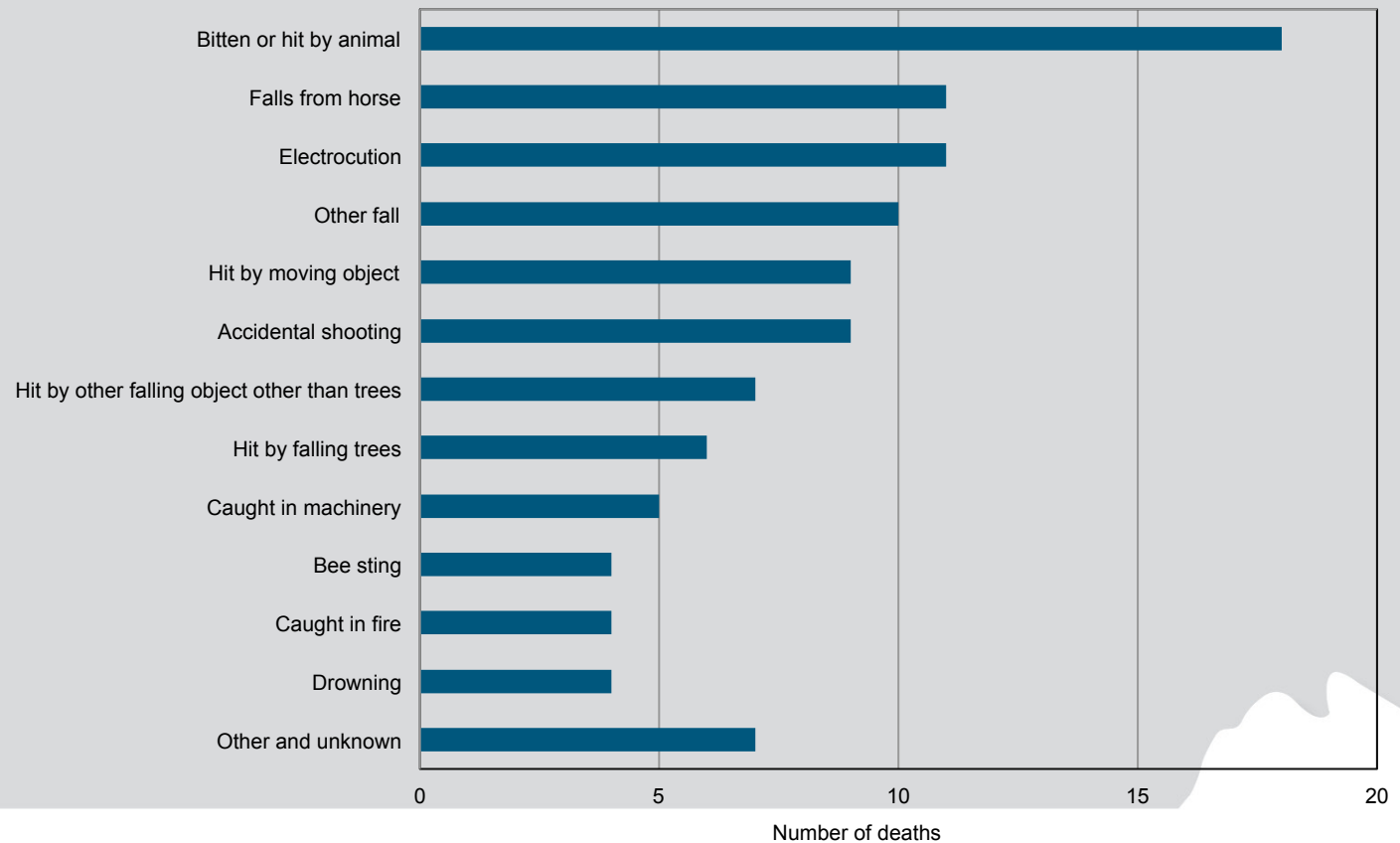
Worker fatalities involving ATVs on farms: Number by object involved, Australia, 2003–04 to 2010–11



Agriculture, forestry & fishing work-related hospitalisations June 2006 to July 2009: percentage by the most common specified causes of injury



Worker fatalities not involving vehicles on farms: Number by age group, Australia, 2003–04 to 2010–11 combined



Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012-2022

Vision: Healthy safe and productive working lives

Targets to be achieved by 2022:

- A reduction in the number of worker fatalities due to injury of at least 20 per cent. Priority industries – Agriculture & Road freight transport.
- A reduction in the incidence rate of claims resulting in one or more weeks off work of at least 30 per cent.

Healthy and safe by design

- Structures, plant and substances are designed to eliminate or minimise hazards and risks before they are introduced into the workplace
- Work, work processes and systems of work are designed and managed to eliminate or minimise hazards and risks.
- Public discussion paper: Review of design and engineering controls for improving quad bike safety. Comment by Friday 28 September 2012 5:00pm AEST. www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au



Supply chains and networks

- Supply chain and network participants understand their cumulative impact and actively improve the health and safety of the supply chain.
- Commercial relationships within supply chains and networks are used to improve work health and safety.
- Industry leaders champion work health and safety in supply chains and networks.

Health and safety capabilities

- Everyone in a workplace has the work health and safety capabilities they require.
- Those providing work health and safety education, training and advice have the appropriate capabilities.
- Inspectors and other staff of work health and safety regulators have the capabilities to effectively perform their role.

Leadership and culture

- Communities and their leaders drive improved work health and safety.
- Organisational leaders foster a culture of consultation and collaboration which actively improves work health and safety.
- Health and safety is given priority in all work processes and decisions.



Research and evaluation

- Research and evaluation are targeted to provide the evidence to prioritise and progress areas of national interest.
- Australia has an effective research and evaluation infrastructure and capacity.
- Evidence is translated to assist practical application.
- The results of research and evaluation are disseminated and implemented.

Government

- Work health and safety is actively considered in the development, implementation and evaluation of government policy.
- Governments use their investment and purchasing power to improve health and safety
- Governments exemplify good work health and safety.



Responsive and effective regulatory framework

- Legislation, policies and regulatory practice are reviewed and monitored to ensure they are responsive and effective.
- Relationships between regulators and all who have a stake in work health and safety are effective, constructive, transparent and accountable.

*A little thought, a little cost, a little time could save
your livelihood, your lifestyle or your life.*





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