

FARM WORKERS 800% MORE LIKELY TO DIE ON JOB IN USA

That's a staggering statistic! And according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, fatalities and injuries among agricultural workers are on the rise. The unfortunate truth is that if you're a farm worker, *you're also working in one of the most hazardous industries in the nation.*

The National Safety Council reports that of the approximately 3.1 million people who work on America's 2.3 million farms and ranches, 1,300 die each year and 120,000 are injured. That means, for every 100,000 farmers, about 25 die each year. Also, equipment injures another 243. Five percent of these injuries result in *permanent disability.*

300 YOUTH FARM WORKERS DIE ANNUALLY IN USA

Many farm fatalities involve youth. The National Center for Farmworker Health estimates between 180,000 and 800,000 agricultural workers in the United States are under 18. More than 300 of these children die each year in farming-related accidents.

In 2012, the U.S. Labor Department attempted to ban children under 16 from using power-driven farm equipment, including tractors—which account for the majority of farm accidents—and to prevent youth under 18 from working in grain silos, feed lots and stockyards. However, the proposal was widely rejected.



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Gal 2: 16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified

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NZ STILL MILES BEHIND UK AND AUSTRALIA IN OHS

About 60 people die each year from accidents at work, but research carried out for Worksafe in 2012 showed that between 600 and 900 die each year from work-related illnesses, the watchdog organisation said.

Chief executive Nicole Rosie told a conference in Nelson this week (Aug 2018) the number one killer was cancer linked to exposure from asbestos. "Second in there is silicosis, then exposure to [other] hazardous substances and fertilisers fit into this category. "Also in this area is shift work, and hours of work which are highly co-related with both cancer and heart disease."

The Ministry of Health said asbestos exposure was mainly the result of breathing in air that contained asbestos fibres, including from windblown soil from hazardous waste sites. Ms Rosie said Worksafe had been set three key targets since it was established, including a 25 percent reduction in workplace fatalities, serious harm and time away from work.

She said at the moment New Zealand averaged 2.6 deaths per 100,000 workers annually in workplace incidents compared with 0.5 to 0.8 deaths per 100,000 workers in the UK and 1.5 deaths per 100,000 in Australia.

Ms Rosie said it was not correct that New Zealand had higher risk industries than others. "All countries that have put a focus on health and safety have seen reductions in statistics. There is a method to improving health and safety and there's no reason why New Zealand can't be world class."



2.

DISTINCTIVE COMPETENCIES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS

One of our biggest problems is convincing the marketplace that we are for real. In plain language, that we are genuine and that what we say and offer will work 95% of the time unless the customer plays tricks and tries to circumvent what we are doing for his or her ultimate benefit.

The most compelling things that we can offer are as follows:

a) Injury Prevention training and techniques that actually work and we can prove this and can produce evidence from external surveyors or firms. Some years ago we engaged Michael Anderson and Co and we have proof of this. At the same time we would like to have a more recent survey and we are hoping to arrange for this with ACC as the external checker.

b) Certification to international standards. This is more complex and complicated but it is credible and normally does provide clients with significant advantages in terms of pre-qualification and accreditation.

c) Cost benefit results. In terms of the average client it means producing financial results that will equal or outweigh the expenditure that the client has been prepared to invest with us. It also means that what we do must meet the requirements of NZ Government and the international standards relating to purpose and precision.

The main problems that we experience are that when the clients get their annual invoices from ACC their experience rating bonus has already been deducted and it looks pertinently convincing that the client has managed this on his or her own. Or 'maybe it was good luck and I wasted my money on the Summit person that told me this and that'. We are going to have discussions with ACC to get a copy of the tables that hold the natural, normal results prior to our good work so that we can actually show the client with full intention and impact and not to be treated as if we conducting games of smoke and mirrors

The same applies with Fire Regulations and it should be noted that as from November 2018 there are additional Fire Regulations called Offences and Penalties and that they apply to the Brokers as well as to the Client. Failure to do the regulations is deemed to be an offence. A site does not need a fire or an infringement to be in a situation where the Offences Regulations will automatically prevail. What this means is that the Client can get major reductions. Brokers must be honest with Clients and make it clear as to what the outcomes and results are likely to be if well managed risk is introduced.



"Will you please answer the question, and this time, without the smoke and mirrors?"

3.

WORKSAFE INSPECTION POLICIES FOR NZ

The WorkSafe team makes important and impressive claims on their website. Prosecutions are rare. In 2013-14 Worksafe Inspectors did more than 11,000 H&S assessments – and there were only 117 prosecutions.

To this we would like to state that we would be far more impressed if many more NZ sites had a visit every year and this used to happen in the old days in NZ and it is believed that it continues to be the case in Australia. This is more evenhanded and is not on the flying squad or hit parade schemes. The alternative would be for Parliament to select and set the hazardous industry groups for the year and for everyone to have a visit.

WorkSafe then say not all visits are pre-arranged and inspectors are allowed to show up at a workplace at any reasonable time, with or without the owners being there.

Our view is that as far as possible all visits should be pre-arranged and notified. We congratulate some inspectors on having the decency to do this. The others – well, we do not wish to congratulate you, is that enough said?

WorkSafe then goes on to say if the Inspector finds an issue s/he may issue an improvement notice or an infringement notice or a prohibition notice.

This is like saying that we are going to make friendly visits and you are invited to ask questions. The more dialogue there is the more beneficial the visit will be.

WorkSafe then goes on to say do not be afraid to ask questions. Speak up if you do not understand something or want more information. That is helpful and nice but it is a bit like asking the Traffic Cop if he can help you understand the Road Code.

WORST INDUSTRY PRIZE

They say mother nature is a serial killer, and few know this better than commercial fishermen. Last year, 6 commercial fishermen were killed working at sea – a death rate consistent with the 10 year industry average. What makes this figure so alarming is that the Australian fishing industry employs just under 11,000 workers* (about 0.01% of the Australian workforce), which equates to a workplace fatality rate of 56 deaths per 100,000 workers. To put this in perspective, last year the mining industry had a death rate of 3.7 per 100,000 workers. This makes commercial fishing about 15 times more deadly than mining.

