

HEALTH AND SAFETY BRIEFING

BULLETIN NO 2

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Health and Safety – *Don't slip Up!*

Effective health and safety management enhances commercial performance by encouraging safer and more efficient working practices that save time, money and lives.

Unfortunately, however, agriculture has the worst health and safety record of any major industry, with almost one death per week and some 2,000 serious injuries reported each year to the HSE – though many more go unaccounted.

The sad reality is that virtually all major incidences on farm are preventable

Employer's need to:

- formulate a H&S policy and make assessments of significant risks;
- prepare an emergency fire and evacuation plan and communicate to relevant persons;
- assess and minimise exposure to hazardous substances (i.e. COSHH);
- provide trained and competent staff;
- ensure safe systems of work, plant and machinery;
- communicate to employees, contractors, tenants and the public on health and safety;
- formulate an Asbestos Management Plan.

Therefore - be Proactive, to:

- avoid prosecution, fines, overtime/legal fees/administration costs (normally not covered by employers liability insurance);
- protect farm insurance premiums;
- protect key staff, equipment and machinery, and timeliness of operations;
- avoid adverse publicity and unnecessary stress;
- protect farm staff, contractors and the public;
- **protect business reputation and Profit.**

The most recent legislation, the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, requires all businesses from **1st October 2006** to carry out a **fire risk assessment** and prepare an evacuation plan for inspection by the Local Fire Authority.

BERRYS - Farm Health and Safety

Berrys is professionally qualified via the principal examination body, NEBOSH, to provide health and safety consultancy to farm businesses. As well as formulating specific H&S business policies for diversified businesses, our services include a H&S Report that covers HSE recommended risk assessments; an asbestos management plan; and advice on third party policies. Above all, our services serve as an invaluable tool to on-going risk control management and help demonstrate a positive management commitment to health and safety on farm.

For further advice, contact **Matthew Hague** on **01536 532375** or e-mail **matt.hague@berrymbros.com**

Positive health and safety makes good commercial sense !