

LKL Safety Note



Farm Safety Week July 19th – 23rd



With *Farmers Weekly* reporting in April 2021

that the death toll on Farms had been the highest in the last 25 years and was almost double what it was in 2020 – it still means there is a long way to go to try and improve health and safety on the farm.

It was identified that the root cause of the accidents and fatalities are all too familiar. NFU Deputy president -Mr. Roberts said he was deeply saddened – but also frustrated – that lessons were not being learned.

So maybe this **Farm Safety Week** its time to take ownership of your own safety and start from the beginning to change attitudes. Safety on the Farm is not just one person's responsibility – everyone can play a part in keeping themselves and their colleagues safe.

In fact the Health and Safety at Work Act does ***place responsibility on all staff at work to look after their own and others safety*** and to ensure they follow any safety instruction they have been given and wear any Personal Protective clothing (PPE) they have been provided with such as ATV helmets and safety goggles and gauntlets for handling chemicals

The first simple step is to **educate yourself on the hazards around the farm and what could cause an accident.** Take a farm tour and look out for potential hazards e.g. are there blind spots where staff could walk into the path of farm vehicles, are there trip hazards around the yard and inadequate lighting for example.

SORT
Your Way to a Safer Work Environment

S STOP and take the time to evaluate your work environment and work task.

O OBSERVE your work environment- Have all hazards been addressed?

R RECOGNIZE any unaddressed hazards in your work environment.

T TAKE OWNERSHIP of unaddressed hazards in your work environment and follow through to see that they are corrected.

safetytalkideas.com

One simple tool is for everyone to follow 'Sort it or Report it'

A lot of accidents and injuries can be prevented by spotting hazards and either dealing with them if you are able to then and there e.g. such as moving something so that it doesn't cause someone to trip or **Reporting a hazard** like a broken guide rails to a silo so it can be repaired.

Where there is something that can cause imminent danger then Report it to everyone and take it immediately out of use and display a sign if necessary e.g. broken PTO guard.

Make sure that any **Near miss incidents** (no injury occurs -but a close shave) are also reported and discussed so that things can be done to reduce risk. Evidence shows that by learning from near miss

incidents and sharing that learning with all staff and then making improvements you can prevent potential major accidents and also fatalities by doing so.

When starting a new task – don't rush in – Stop and take time to do a dynamic risk assessment and think about the task to be done, any hazards from environment and work equipment and your level of training and competence. Get help if needed and don't carry out work that will be unsafe and put you at risk of injury – **You are far too Important!**

Remember - Set Your Own Standards. Don't be influenced by others around you who are negative. If you fail to wear safety glasses because others don't, remember the blindness you may suffer will be yours alone to live with.

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By Michelle Jeal, LKL Health & Safety Advisor



Farm Safety Week – Popular Farm Safety apps to get you into the Safety Habit



There are a whole variety of mobile phone apps which can be useful tools providing us with reminders, checklists, advice and GPS location devices. Below are some of the ones that are becoming popular with farmers

Hazard: - Lone working and Raising the alarm in the event of an incident/injury



What3Words - What does it do?

Helps you to identify precise locations and perfect for farmers and contractors covering large areas of work. The developers have divided the world into 3×3 metre squares (57 trillion to be exact!) and each square has been given a unique combination of three words – a ‘what3words address’. You can find, share and navigate to precise locations using three simple words. These three words are then used as reference points to geo-locate people in an emergency situation – no mobile data needed

What does it cost? FREE



SafePoint - What does it do?

Good for lone working - People who sign up to **SafePoint** use the mobile app to register where they are going to be working and for how long. If they don't check in afterwards within a certain time, the app automatically alerts

somebody who can raise the alarm.

“We're a Norfolk-based company, so we know all about bad mobile signals,” said Mr Coombes.

“When you create the timed safety task, the alert is triggered from our servers, not from the device – so it takes the need for a mobile signal out of the equation completely.”

What does it cost? A subscription costs £10 a person a month – but users agree it is a small price to pay for a simple piece of software that can save lives. For more details, visit the SafePoint website

Hazard: – Machine safety and equipment checks not being done routinely



Smart farmer - What does it do?

This is a cloud-based software system designed by Scottish farmer Marc Skivington that combines the latest technology and software to help farmers carry out daily pre-start checks of farm vehicles and machinery and comply with the law. The information is stored on the cloud and brings many benefits to its users but above all improves safety.

What does it cost? The app is Free to download with a free 7-day trial after which there is a yearly subscription cost of £495 + VAT.



HeadToTow - What does it do?

This is the brainchild of Jane Gurney and the team behind **TillyYourTrailer**. Using this app you can find your trailer daily maintenance checklist or locate a Tilly authorised mechanic in your area who can carry out the Tilly Pass annual

18-point inspection of your trailer.

What does it cost? FREE

Hazard –Children on Farm not aware of Farm safety hazards

AgriKids - What does it do?

AgriKids, founded in 2015 by Alma Jordan, is a resource to engage, educate and empower young

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children to be farm safety ambassadors. This new farm safety phone app allows children to play, interact and learn about safety in various areas of the farm and countryside and is ideal for children aged 6 and over. See :- <https://www.agrikids.ie/>

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