



Media Release - SafeWork SA

Tuesday 22 January 2008

HAZARD ALERT ON HAY-BALERS AFTER KI FATALITY

The dangers of using hay-balers have been outlined in the latest Hazard Alert issued by SafeWork SA.

Hazard Alerts are information sheets developed and issued by SafeWork SA to highlight any workplace safety hazard that requires immediate warning of a potential danger.

They detail what is required of employers under workplace safety laws as well as the recommended risk control measures.

This latest Hazard Alert has been prompted by the incident at Kangaroo Island on 13 November 2007, in which a man was fatally injured after coming into contact with a moving hay-baler.

Hay-balers have been associated with a number of fatalities and serious injuries on Australian farms over the years.

This Hazard Alert details a number of safety precautions covering operation, inspection, maintenance, and advice for bystanders regarding hay-balers.

Other hazard alerts issued by SafeWork SA recently have dealt with:

- the hazards of jump-starting tractors,
- the dangers of using steel hammers on hardened steel implements,
- the potential for victims and witnesses of workplace incidents to suffer post-incident shock.

Electronic versions of all Hazard Alerts can be downloaded from the SafeWork SA website: www.safework.sa.gov.au. (Go to OHS in the drop down menu and look for 'Hazard Alerts')

Further information is available for interested members of the public by calling SafeWork SA's Telephone Help Centre on 1300 365 255.

For answers and advice on workplace health and safety and the relevant laws, SafeWork SA operates a telephone Help Centre on 1 300 365 255 or 8303 0400. To report serious accidents or incidents, in the workplace call 1 800 777 209