

December 2016 Compliance Activity Report



Government
of South Australia

SafeWork SA

Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry

This report captures workers engaged in growing crops, raising animals and growing and harvesting timber, as well as those harvesting fish and other animals from farms or their natural habitats.

SafeWork SA inspectors ensure work health and safety and public safety standards are met and take appropriate action when breaches are detected.

A grain producer was harvesting grain using a bagging machine attached to a tractor that ran parallel to another tractor towing the harvester. An employee was filling storage bags in between the bagging machine and harvester when his foot/ankle were run over by the harvester as he knelt down.

A safe system of work incorporating the review of farm machinery being introduced as "new" to the work processes was being investigated and reviewed for compliance.

A worker was found deceased (of natural causes) at the premises he rented from his employer. The incident was being reviewed as non-work related. However, the person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) has an obligation to review the general health and wellbeing of workers with regard to general fitness for work.

A second hand truck purchased four days earlier had caught fire while in use, a reported engine management system alarm alerted the worker just before fire emerged from under the bonnet. The driver got out safely and suffered no injury, he was taken to the local hospital for observation and was released later that day. Local CFS and a farm unit attended the scene to put out the fire. The PCBU advised that the insurance company would take possession of the vehicle. Compliance investigation indicated the truck has been serviced regularly and still within the manufacturer's warranty.

A labour hire worker was using secateurs (right-handed) to trim foliage off young vines and as she pulled the foliage she stabbed herself in her left palm. She was not wearing protective gloves. The stab wound required three stitches and she was back to work three days later.

Host and labour hire PCBUs are reminded to enforce personal protection equipment (PPE) policy where tasks require adequate worker protection. SafeWork SA will focus on the "Use of PPE and PCBU policy enforcement" with its addition to the Proactive Winery compliance auditing program currently in progress.

Report work health and safety issues to SafeWork SA on 1300 365 255 or help.safework@sa.gov.au.

