

# Fall Round-up With AgSafe

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**F**all is upon us, cattle are being gathered and earnestly sought, many with few fences to contain them, this is a very busy time. There are a bunch of things to catch up on, lots on the go so I am grateful for this chance to cover a few different things and update you on some key issues and areas.

## Association Meetings

The time of year is approaching when the associations from around the province get together. AgSafe consultants in each region welcome your invitations to attend and to provide updates, get to know you better and make plans for follow up work that we can assist you with over the winter.

Please take time to contact and invite your regional consultant. <http://agsafebc.ca/about/our-team/>

## BC Premises ID

Among the things often discussed at association meetings are things like BC Premises ID. Many have sat through many a meeting and heard about this or other key issues and not followed up and registered. The ID number became crucial in the Cariboo Regional District during the wildfires this past summer. The BC Premises ID became the perfect filter to satisfy authorities and bureaucracies in establishing controls and filters, enabling the creation of a system which included the issuance of permits for producers. This was key to the development and evolution of an effective tool in authorizing and enabling ranchers to remain in an order zone and work the essential portions of their operation. The uptake on the BC Premises ID in this situation was fantastic. The value of the ID is now evident and is seen to be of great value when an emergency hits. This viable reality will certainly make me sit up and pay attention to some of the great information that comes our way at association meetings!

## WorkSafeBC Rates

Good news! Way to go out there! The preliminary rates for 2018 are out and we are seeing a significant downward move in the rate for ranching. Stay tuned for the final numbers but, it would appear that there will be a decrease of \$1 or slightly more on the base rate for 2018. This is in part due to a small decrease in the amount of time lost at work. The ability to return a worker to the job site and do work that is both within their limited abilities and of meaning, has made a difference.

While the number of days that the time loss has been reduced by has been small, it is a great indicator of one way forward in a continued effort to see a larger reduction in the rate. No matter the size of your operation, if you have an injured worker and can return that worker sooner, it will save the industry money. This has been a key part of the messaging provided by my team and I in the past year. If you want to know more about return to work, we are available and have great resources available to help. In addition, the actual number of significant injuries resulting in claims and time loss was down and this also reflects in the rate. This downward rate trend is a fickle filly and will only continue if we continue to see reductions in the number of days a worker is away from the job. That combined with fewer actual injury incidents will help us toward a target of lower rates. The more important fact is that it will also reflect fewer workers were injured or killed on the job.

## Surprising Fact

Do you know what the biggest source of injuries is? The crazy cow? Nope. The rank bronc? Nope. Give up? Housekeeping, yes that is true, boring perhaps but true. Housekeeping, the messy shop and cluttered floor is not flashy and not what one might think is the leading cause of injury. However, over 25 percent of the injuries on a ranch are caused by various types of poor housekeeping. Slips, trips and falls from the same elevation are the leading cause of injury for us. This means that someone tripped over that thing you did not put away, it means that someone slipped on the tractor step that is covered with ice and snow and you just left it. It means that stepping off an implement or trailer or hopping off a piece of mobile equipment and onto a surface covered with loose gravel or ice caused a fall that resulted in an injury. The good news? This should be an easy fix and if it is, if we focus on this over the next year, then the incidents, injuries and rates should go down. Put tools away, clean off ladders and steps, maintain a three-point stance exiting the tractor, wear proper foot wear, fix the sticking up stuff, bend over and pick it up, ...and slow down.

## Safety Program

We are continuing to work at the development of a very effective but simple program that meets all the requirements of the regulations and is super user friendly. If you are an employer in the province you are required, depending upon your size, to have a safety program for your ranch. The size of your operation considering primarily the number of employees determines if this will be a "formal" or "informal" health and safety management system, or program. AgSafe is here to help with every step and the development of a program that reflects the way you do business. The AgSafe team and I welcome the chance to assist you with this, give us a call. This is one of the most cited requirements that is missing when WorkSafeBC officers visit your site. It includes the meetings, inspections, training, competency determination and orientations that are being looked for by an inspector.

## COR, the Certificate of Recognition

Get registered for COR!

It is our desire to help you attain COR status, a 10 percent reduction in your WorkSafeBC rate and a marketable ability to make a statement that you don't just care about your animals and crops, you care about your people. COR completion takes you a long way toward the compliance required by the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations and the other legislation applicable to ranch health and safety matters.

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## Well Licence Deadline Approaching!

Apply before December 31, 2017 to avoid  
application fees!

Need help submitting the application? Ask us!

## Waterline

1-844-585-0802 (Toll Free)

250-585-0802 (Direct)

[wsa@waterlinerresources.com](mailto:wsa@waterlinerresources.com)

Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, Okanagan



**AgSafe** WISHES EVERYONE A MERRY  
CHRISTMAS & SAFE, HAPPY NEW YEAR

Call: 1.877.533.1789

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