There are many potential workplace hazards in farming and ranching, depending on the types of work being performed. All employers in BC are required to identify hazards, assess the risk to workers and control the hazards to workers. To assist in measuring the risk of equipment, materials, tasks or jobs performed, use the Risk Assessment Rating Matrix on the following pages.

WorkSafeBC Regulations specify several higher risk tasks / situations that require a documented Safe Work Procedure. That is a written specific step-by-step description of how to complete a job safely and efficiently. Below are some of the tasks or situations that require a Safe Work Procedure. If these exist at your farm or ranch, review the AgSafe documents: ‘Safe Work Procedures/Safe Work Practices Policy’ and ‘Safe Work Procedure Template’.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Assessment of Tasks, Situations or Equipment To Determine  If A Written Safe Work Procedure Is Required | | |
| Tasks, situations or equipment identified in the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations (OHSR) that require safe work procedures | **Yes**  (Check if present in the workplace) | No  (Check if not present in the workplace) |
| Working alone or in isolation |  |  |
| Handling, mixing, storage or application of pesticides |  |  |
| If flammable liquid solvents are used in cleaning |  |  |
| Evacuation procedures for first aid |  |  |
| Potentially hazardous confined spaces that might be entered by workers |  |  |
| Equipment or machinery that must be locked out to prevent unexpected movement during repair or maintenance work |  |  |
| Construction, excavation, trenching or demolition activities |  |  |
| People who must work at heights that are not protected by permanent guardrails, but that pose a risk of falling more than 7.5m, or where work at heights is protected with a monitor and control zone, or if horizontal lifelines are used |  |  |
| Operating a tractor without a Roll Over Protective Structure (ROPS) |  |  |
| Operation of an ATV on slopes of more than 5% |  |  |

***Note:* If any of the tasks, situations or equipment listed above have been checked “Yes”, then safe work procedures must be developed.**

**Any tasks, situations or equipment listed above that are high-risk or complex, safe work procedures must be developed.**

**Risk Assessment Rating Matrix**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Consequences** | | | |
|  | **Extreme**  Death or permanent disability | **Major**  Serious bodily injury | **Moderate**  Medical treatment and time away from work may be required\* | **Minor**  First aid, no lost time |
| **Likelihood** |
| **Very likely**  Could happen frequently | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Likely**  Could happen occasionally | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| **Unlikely**  Could happen, but rare | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| **Very unlikely**  Could happen, but likely never will | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

**\*** Don’t underestimate “moderate” consequences. They could be very important — give them serious consideration.

The scores (1 – 7) indicate how important it is to do something about each risk

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1, 2, 3** | **HIGH, do something about these immediately** |
| **4,5** | **MODERATE, do something about these risks as soon as possible** |
| **6,7** | **LOW, these risks may not need immediate attention** |

**Factors to consider when determining:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Likelihood** | **Consequences** |
| Number of times a situation occurs | Potential for chain reaction |
| Number of people exposed and duration | Substance concentration |
| Skills/experience of persons exposed | Material volume |
| Position of the hazard relative to people and other hazards | Speed of projectiles or moving parts |
| Special characteristics of workers that may affect the likelihood of an incident | Height of worker or lanyard |
| Quantities of materials or point of exposure | Worker position relative to the hazard |
| Environmental conditions | Weight of worker or hazard |
| Condition of the equipment | Forces and energy level |
| Effectiveness of existing control measures |  |

**Control the hazard:**

Once you’ve identified hazards and assessed the risks associated with them, you need to find ways to control those risks. Often, there can be more than one way to control a hazard. Use the Hierarchy of Control to identify the most effective control method for each hazard.

**Hierarchy of control:**

Some types of control are more effective than others, although it may not be practicable to use the more effective solution. Whenever possible, though controls must be implemented in the following order of preference:

1. Elimination

Physically remove the hazard. When possible, eliminate the hazard so there is no risk of injury.

1. Substitution

Replace the hazard. Replace the material, tool or revise the process to lower the risk. Can you use something less harmful?

1. Engineering control

Isolate people from the hazard. Designing or installing safeguards for equipment that do not rely on individual judgment training or decision making. i.e. installing a guard rail for an elevated work area or installing a shield over the PTO connection point.

1. Administrative controls

Change the way people work. Use policies or written safe work practices or safe work procedures. These include reducing exposure time, worker training and education.

1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PPE should only be used as the last resort, when it’s not possible to reduce risk in any other way. PPE must be selected based on the identified hazards i.e. chemical resistant gloves for spraying pesticides, not leather work gloves.