

Please enable JavaScript in order to get the best experience when using this site.

- [Site Navigation](#)
- [Page Content](#)

[Menu](#)

State Government Victoria [Better Health Channel Logo](#)

[Caret](#)



-

[Health.vic](#)

[Victoria's hub for health services and business](#)



-

[DHHS](#)

[A gateway to the strategies, policies, programs and services delivered by the Department of Health & Human Services.](#)



-

[Seniors Online](#)

[Victorian government portal for older people, with information about government and community services and programs.](#)

[Show search toolbar](#)

[Contrast](#) [Sign Up](#) [Login](#)




Search

Type a minimum of three characters then press UP or DOWN on the keyboard to navigate the autocompleted search results

Navigation

[Home](#) [Close Menu](#)

- - [Conversation-Going-travelling](#)
- [Conditions and treatments](#)
 - [Conditions and treatments](#)
 - [Allergies](#)
 - [Allergies](#)
 - [Allergic reaction to packaged food](#)
 - [Anxiety](#)
 - [Arthritis](#)
 - [Asthma](#)
 - [Behavioural conditions](#)
 - [Birth defects](#)
 - [Blood and blood vessels](#)
 - [Bones muscles and joints](#)
 - [Bones muscles and joints](#)
 - [Foot care - podiatrists](#)
 - [Brain and nerves](#)
 - [Cancer](#)
 - [Complementary and alternative care](#)
 - [Dementia](#)
 - [Healthy living](#)
 - [Healthy living](#)
 - [Alcohol](#)
 - [Babies and toddlers \(0-3\)](#)
 - [Children \(4-12\)](#)
 - [Drugs and addictive behaviours](#)

- [Environmental health](#)
- [Family Violence](#)
- [Older people in hospital – Get well soon](#)
- [Health checks](#)
- [Healthy Eating](#)
 - [Nutrition for life](#)
- [Healthy mind](#)
- [Healthy pregnancy](#)
- [Immunisation](#)
- [Services and support](#)
 - [Services and support](#)
 - [Aged care services](#)
 - [Alcohol and drug services](#)
 - [LGBTI support](#)
 - [Carers, caring and respite care services](#)
 - [Child, family and relationship services](#)
 - [Disability services](#)
 - [Emergency, crisis and support services](#)
 - [End of life and palliative care services](#)
 - [Hospitals, surgery and procedures](#)
 - [Mental health services](#)
 - [Planning and coordinating healthcare](#)
 - [Pregnancy and birth services](#)
- [A-Z](#)
 - [A-Z](#)
 - [Conditions and treatments](#)
 - [Healthy living](#)
 - [Services and support](#)
 - [Videos](#)
 - [Service profiles](#)
- [Blog](#)
 - [Blog](#)
 - [Blog authors](#)
 - [Topics](#)
- [Podcast](#)
 - [Podcast](#)
 - [Influenza - Dr Brett Sutton & Prof Kanta Subbarao](#)
 - [Trauma - Anne Leadbeater OAM & Dr Rob Gordon](#)
 - [template](#)
- [Other sites](#)
 -  [Health.vic](#)  [DHHS](#)  [Seniors Online](#)
- [Sitemap](#)
- [My Health Life](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Googleplus](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Youtube](#)
- [Rss](#)
- [Conditions and treatments](#)
- [Healthy living](#)
- [Services and support](#)
- [A-Z](#)
- [Blog](#)
- [Podcast](#)



[Back to Safety](#)

- [Home](#)
- [Healthy living](#)
- [Safety](#)
- Farm safety – sheep and shearing

Farm safety – sheep and shearing

betterhealth.vic.gov.au

- [Share \(show more\)](#)
- [Download PDF](#)
- [Listen \(show more\)](#)
- [Listen](#)
- [More \(show more\)](#)
 - [Email](#)
 - [Print](#)

Tags:

- [Safety](#)
- [Safety - Farm safety](#)

Summary

- Handling sheep can cause a variety of manual injuries, ranging from strains and sprains through to broken bones.
- Reducing the risk of manual-handling injuries includes attention to posture, correct lifting techniques and maintaining fitness.
- Walk through all sheep-handling areas and look for hazards, then make the necessary changes to improve safety.
- Inexperienced workers are at greater risk of injury, so make sure they are thoroughly trained.

Handling sheep can cause a variety of manual injuries, ranging from strains and sprains through to degenerative joint and muscle damage, and broken bones. And badly designed shearing sheds and yards can be dangerous.

Make your farm a safe working environment by identifying potential hazards and modifying the layout, equipment and safety practices of your operation. This will ensure that workers are less likely to injure themselves and your sheep.

Inexperienced or unfit workers, or workers aged over 65 years, are more likely to injure themselves, so it is important to train your staff thoroughly about safe handling. Encourage them to maintain their fitness and wellbeing by exercising and eating well, and working within their physical capabilities

Sheep handling – farm risk assessment

You can assess potential sheep handling risks in many ways:

- Walk through all sheep-handling areas and look for hazards.
- Consult with safety advisers from WorkSafe Victoria.
- Read over injury records to pinpoint recurring dangers.
- Talk over safety issues with other sheep handlers.
- Remember that inexperienced or unfit workers, and workers aged over 65, are at greater risk of manual-handling injuries.

Preventing manual handling injuries on sheep farms

You can reduce the risk of manual-handling injuries in many ways. Encourage workers to:

- Remain hydrated by drinking plenty of non-alcoholic and non-caffeinated fluids. Water is the best option.
- Exercise regularly to improve and maintain fitness, strength and stamina.
- Look after their health.
- Eat a well-balanced diet – always provide healthy, nutritious meal options if you are required to feed workers.
- Stretch and warm up with gentle exercises before shearing, and cool down afterwards with slow, continuous stretches. (A doctor or physical therapist can provide advice about safe stretching to avoid further injury.)
- Use the free Farming Fit videos, [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#), to maintain fitness. Available from the [National Centre for Farmer Health](#).
- Take regular breaks to alleviate fatigue.
- When handling a sheep, keep the animal close to their body and avoid having to lift the animal. If required to lift, use the proper technique by keeping their back straight, feet shoulder width apart and lift with their thigh muscles.
- Always get help when lifting heavy loads, or use a hoist.

As an employer:

- Protect your workers' backs by paying attention to [good workplace and equipment design](#) (ergonomics), posture and using supportive braces.
- Make sure yards and handling areas are designed to minimise the handling and lifting of sheep.
- Only ask workers to perform a task if you are confident they can handle it.

Sheep handling – a safer working environment

General suggestions for improving the safety of sheep handling include:

- Use non-slip surfaces on all tracks and walkways.
- Design a yard layout that allows sheep to move freely.
- Fit protective coverings (shade and shelter) to working and drafting races.
- Build yards on inclines rather than flat ground as they tend to drain better and sheep prefer running up a slight incline.
- Ensure adequate and even lighting.
- Regularly maintain all equipment and make sure appropriate safety guards are used.
- Be aware of high noise levels – where possible, use/provide hearing protection, choose quieter equipment, install mufflers and noise covers, place equipment away from workers and limit the volume of radios and music players.
- Ensure that all workers use personal protective equipment (PPE) such as goggles, ear muffs and gloves when grinding cutters.
- Use and store chemicals correctly according to the manufacturers' instructions.
- Use a cradle when marking or handling lambs.

- Understand sheep diseases and promptly treat any animal with symptoms.
- Be aware that animals can transmit diseases to humans via saliva, urine or contact with skin or wounds.
- Practice good personal hygiene. Always wash your hands before eating and after handling sheep.

Using farm chemicals safely

When jetting, dipping, drenching or treating for fly strike, the following safety procedures should be observed:

- Use chemicals correctly according to the manufacturers' instructions. Make sure you have read the labels and Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the product being used.
- Ensure that all workers use safety equipment recommended on the MSDS, such as skin, ear and eye protection and a respirator.
- Keep all equipment in good repair and replace faulty parts.
- Immediately see your doctor if you experience headaches, nausea, diarrhoea or other ill effects after using chemicals.
- Report any adverse events to the [Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority \(APVMA\)](#).

Mustering sheep

Safety suggestions for mustering sheep include:

- Plan the muster in advance and talk the plan through with your workers.
- Assume that every ram will act aggressively and unpredictably.
- Don't rush the muster – a calm approach results in a calmer mob.
- Use sheep dogs rather than horses or motorbike riders to control the mob.
- Further information about safety when mustering sheep is available [here](#).

Safety issues in the shearing shed

You can make your shearing shed a safer environment for you and your workers in the following ways:

- Make sure the shed is well ventilated and well lit.
 - Ensure all guards are on all shearing machinery.
 - Space your workers out to avoid clashing of downtubes.
 - Use electric motors on wool presses to reduce noise pollution.
 - [Regularly maintain all equipment](#) and keep in good repair with safety equipment in place.
 - Make sure that emergency stop buttons are easily reached.
 - Keep all walkways free from obstructions
 - Ensure adequate and even lighting.
 - Make sure catching pen floors are dry and non-slip.
 - Keep other workers, children and dogs out of the shed.
 - Discuss with your veterinarian the ability to sedate your rams when shearing.
 - Keep a stocked and up-to-date first aid kit in a readily accessible place.
 - Regularly check and maintain fire-fighting equipment, such as extinguishers.
 - [Thoroughly train new workers and children](#) in shearing shed safety.
- Further information about shearing shed safety is available [here](#) and [here](#).

Draw up a farm emergency plan

An emergency plan is vital. Some suggestions include:

- Ensure easy access to a suitable and well-stocked first aid kit.
- Make sure at least one person on the farm is trained in first aid.
- Keep emergency numbers and correct addresses next to the telephone.
- Plan routes to the nearest hospital with an emergency department.
- Regularly talk through your emergency plan with your family and other workers.
- Make sure your children understand what to do in an emergency.

Where to get help

- Your doctor
- In an emergency, always call triple zero (000) for an ambulance – know your correct address
- National Centre for Farmer Health Tel. (03) 5551 8533
- WorkSafe Victoria Tel. (03) 9641 1444 or 1800 136 089
- [SafeWork Australia](#)
- [Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning](#) Tel. 136 186
- Farmsafe Australia Tel. (02) 6752 8218
- [SaferFarms.org.nz](#) – Safe sheep handling

References

Sheep and shearing, 2014, National Centre for Farmer Health. [More information here](#).

[Send us your feedback](#)

- Rate this website
- Your comments
- Questions
- Your details

1/4 How would you rate this website?

- Excellent
- Good
- Average
- Fair
- Poor

[Next](#) [Submit Now](#) [Cancel](#)

[Send us your feedback](#)

- Rate this website
- Your comments
- Questions
- Your details

Please note that we cannot answer personal medical queries.
If you are looking for health or medical advice we recommend that you:

- talk to your doctor or pharmacist
- dial triple zero (000) in an emergency
- ring NURSE-ON-CALL Tel. 1300 60 60 24.

2/4 Your Comments

Tell us who you are

Enter your comments below (optional)

[Next](#) [Submit Now](#) [Cancel](#)

[Send us your feedback](#)

- Rate this website
- Your comments
- Questions
- Your details

3/4 Questions

What are you here to do?

Did you find what you were looking for?

- Yes
- No

[Next](#) [Submit Now](#) [Cancel](#)

[Send us your feedback](#)

- Rate this website
- Your comments
- Questions
- Your details

4/4 Your details

Postcode

Email Address

[Submit Now](#) [Cancel](#)

[Send us your feedback](#)

Thank you. Your feedback has been successfully sent.

More information

Safety

The following content is displayed as Tabs. Once you have activated a link navigate to the end of the list to view its associated content. The activated link is defined as Active Tab

- [Safety basics](#)
- [Child safety](#)
- [Safety in and around the home](#)
- [Safe lifestyle and entertainment](#)
- [Outdoor, weather and sports safety](#)
- [Travel and transport safety](#)
- [Fire, flood and other disasters](#)
- [Work and environmental safety](#)
- [Farm safety](#)

Safety basics

- [Bites and stings – first aid](#)
[If you are bitten or stung by an insect or animal, apply first aid and seek medical treatment as soon as possible...](#)
- [How to survive a rip current \(video\)](#)
[Learn what to do if you find yourself in a rip current...](#)
- [Ladder safety matters – Mick \(video\)](#)
[Stop and think before you use a ladder...](#)
- [Ladder safety matters – Nick \(video\)](#)
[Stop and think before you use a ladder...](#)
- [Ladders Safety Matters - Paul \(video\)](#)
[We can keep our pools safe, healthy, and most importantly fun...](#)
- [Look after your health at harvest time \(slideshow\)](#)
[Farmer health, wellbeing and safety are often neglected when facing the pressures of harvest. Simple safety measures can dramatically reduce the risk of injury and illness...](#)

Child safety

- [Animals and child safety](#)
[Children should always be closely supervised near animals and taught how to behave safely around pets...](#)
- [Babies and safety](#)
[Most injuries to babies do not occur by chance - many are predictable and largely preventable...](#)
- [Baby care - moving from cot to bed](#)
[Some children are unsettled the first few nights in a 'big bed'. Try to be patient, loving and reassuring...](#)
- [Baby furniture - safety tips](#)
[Even if your baby furniture meets every safety standard and recommendation, your child still needs close supervision...](#)
- [Bicycle safety and children](#)
[As they grow and develop, and with the help of adults, children become increasingly aware of how they can manage their own safety and become safer road and bicycle users...](#)
- [Burns and scalds - children](#)
[Most hot tap water scald injuries to children happen in the bathroom...](#)
- [Child safety and injury prevention](#)
[By making a few practical changes to your home, you can dramatically reduce the risk of injury to your child...](#)
- [Child safety in the car](#)

[Taking care to restrain children correctly while travelling in a car is the best way to prevent injuries...](#)

- [Eating tips for young toddlers](#)

[Children have a natural ability to sense when they are hungry and when they are full...](#)

- [Farm safety – children](#)

[Children who live on farms are at greater risk of injury and death than their parents or other farm workers...](#)

- [Hot weather and child safety](#)

[Babies and children can quickly lose body fluids in hot weather, which can lead to dehydration...](#)

- [Internet safety for children](#)

[A child's digital footprint can be as easy to follow as their real footprints...](#)

- [Look after your health at harvest time \(slideshow\)](#)

[Farmer health, wellbeing and safety are often neglected when facing the pressures of harvest. Simple safety measures can dramatically reduce the risk of injury and illness...](#)

- [Mobile phone safety for children](#)

[Teach your child strategies for responding to mobile phone bullying...](#)

- [Playgrounds and child safety](#)

[Play environments can be safe and beneficial for your child. With proper planning, you can make sure your child gets plenty of playtime activity...](#)

- [Poisoning and child safety](#)

[Call the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 immediately if you suspect your child has been poisoned or given the wrong medicine or the wrong dose of medicine...](#)

- [Road and traffic safety for children](#)

[As they grow and develop, and with the help of adults, children become increasingly aware of how they can manage their own safety, and become safer road users...](#)

- [Scooters and child safety](#)

[Scooters can travel at fast speeds and falls and collisions are disturbingly common...](#)

- [Water safety for children](#)

[Toddlers are most at risk of drowning because they are mobile and curious but don't understand the danger of water...](#)

Safety in and around the home

- [Animals and child safety](#)

[Children should always be closely supervised near animals and taught how to behave safely around pets...](#)

- [Asbestos in the home](#)

[Asbestos fibres breathed into the lungs can cause a range of health problems including lung cancer and mesothelioma...](#)

- [Chemicals in the home](#)

[Learn how to safely store and dispose of household chemicals, and how to respond when a person is poisoned...](#)

- [Electric shock](#)

[Always disconnect the power supply before trying to help a victim of electric shock...](#)

- [Gas heating - health and safety issues](#)

[If you service your gas heater regularly and use it correctly, it will be safe and economical to use...](#)

- [Greywater - recycling water at home](#)

[When handled properly, greywater can be safely reused for the garden...](#)

- [Groundwater](#)

[Groundwater quality varies across Victoria; in some areas, groundwater is not suitable for use...](#)

- [Ladder safety matters – Mick \(video\)](#)

[Stop and think before you use a ladder...](#)

- [Ladder safety matters – Nick \(video\)](#)
[Stop and think before you use a ladder...](#)
- [Ladder Safety – Mick's story](#)
[Injuries associated with ladder falls have been steadily increasing in Australia, especially among men aged 60 years and older doing work in and around the home...](#)
- [Ladder Safety – Nick's story](#)
[Injuries associated with ladder falls have been steadily increasing in Australia, especially among men aged 60 years and older doing work in and around the home...](#)
- [Ladder Safety – Paul's story](#)
[Paul was sanding the exterior of his house when he overreached and fell more than two metres from his ladder...](#)
- [Ladders Safety Matters - Paul \(video\)](#)
[We can keep our pools safe, healthy, and most importantly fun...](#)
- [Look after your health at harvest time \(slideshow\)](#)
[Farmer health, wellbeing and safety are often neglected when facing the pressures of harvest. Simple safety measures can dramatically reduce the risk of injury and illness...](#)
- [Medicines - safety issues](#)
[Make sure your doctor knows about every medicine you take, including vitamins...](#)
- [Older people – preventing falls at home](#)
[Falls are a major cause of injury for older people. Find out how you can prevent falls around your home...](#)
- [Pest control in the home](#)
[If you use pesticides to control pests around the house, make sure you use as little as possible...](#)
- [Swimming pools - water quality](#)
[Check your swimming pool regularly to make sure the water is safe for swimming...](#)
- [Vision loss - safety around the home](#)
[There are many ways to improve home safety for people whose vision is deteriorating...](#)
- [Water quality in tanks, bores and dams](#)
[Make sure your private drinking water supply is safe...](#)

Safe lifestyle and entertainment

- [Internet safety for children](#)
[A child's digital footprint can be as easy to follow as their real footprints...](#)
- [Mobile phone safety for children](#)
[Teach your child strategies for responding to mobile phone bullying...](#)
- [Partying safely – tips for teenagers](#)
[Don't advertise a party via SMS or the internet to limit the risk of gate-crashers and violent situations...](#)
- [Solariums \(sunbeds and tanning beds\)](#)
[There is no such thing as a safe solarium tan...](#)

Outdoor, weather and sports safety

- [Exercise safety](#)
[Training too hard or fast is a common cause of sports-related injuries...](#)
- [Heat stress and heat-related illness](#)
[Heat kills more Australians than any natural disaster. Find out how you can treat and prevent heat-related illness...](#)
- [Heat stress and older people](#)

[People aged 65 years and over are at increased risk of heat-related illnesses and need special care in hot weather...](#)

- [Heat stress – preventing heatstroke](#)

[Heatstroke is a life-threatening emergency that can be avoided by following simple prevention measures...](#)

- [Hot weather and child safety](#)

[Babies and children can quickly lose body fluids in hot weather, which can lead to dehydration...](#)

- [How to cope and stay safe in extreme heat](#)

[Know the effects of extreme heat, who is at risk and how you can prepare yourself and others...](#)

- [How to survive a rip current \(video\)](#)

[Learn what to do if you find yourself in a rip current...](#)

- [Hypothermia](#)

[The early responses to hypothermia will be moving around, seeking shelter, hair standing on end \(goosebumps\) and shivering...](#)

- [Walking - safety and environmental issues](#)

[Choose a route that is appropriate for your age and fitness level. Warm up and cool down with a slow, gentle pace to ease in and out of your exercise session...](#)

- [Water from natural resources](#)

[Drinking untreated water, such as creek water, bore water and sometimes even rainwater can lead to illnesses including gastroenteritis...](#)

- [Water safety for children](#)

[Toddlers are most at risk of drowning because they are mobile and curious but don't understand the danger of water...](#)

Travel and transport safety

- [Bicycle safety and children](#)

[As they grow and develop, and with the help of adults, children become increasingly aware of how they can manage their own safety and become safer road and bicycle users...](#)

- [Child safety in the car](#)

[Taking care to restrain children correctly while travelling in a car is the best way to prevent injuries...](#)

- [Look after your health at harvest time \(slideshow\)](#)

[Farmer health, wellbeing and safety are often neglected when facing the pressures of harvest. Simple safety measures can dramatically reduce the risk of injury and illness...](#)

- [Motor vehicle crashes](#)

[Motor vehicle crashes continue to be one of the biggest killers and causes of injury in Victoria...](#)

- [Road and traffic safety for children](#)

[As they grow and develop, and with the help of adults, children become increasingly aware of how they can manage their own safety, and become safer road users...](#)

- [Safe driving](#)

[Safe driving is up to every individual on the road. You can be a safe driver by being alert and ready to take action at any time...](#)

- [Scooters and child safety](#)

[Scooters can travel at fast speeds and falls and collisions are disturbingly common...](#)

- [Travel safety tips](#)

[You can reduce your risk of being mugged or robbed while travelling by taking a few simple precautions...](#)

Fire, flood and other disasters

- [After a flood – animal and insect related hazards](#)

[When returning to a flood-affected area, remember that wild animals, including rats, mice, snakes or spiders, may be trapped in your home, shed or garden...](#)

- [After a flood – returning home safely](#)

[When returning to your home after a flood, take precautions to reduce the possibility of injury, illness or disease...](#)

- [Bushfire aftermath - safety tips](#)
[Houses, sheds and other buildings or structures burnt in a bushfire can leave potential health hazards...](#)
- [Bushfire preparation advice](#)
[Being prepared for a bushfire helps you cope better in an emergency...](#)
- [Bushfire smoke](#)
[Bushfire smoke can reduce air quality in rural and urban areas, and may affect people's health...](#)
- [Emergencies - floods](#)
[You and your family should work out an emergency plan in case of flood...](#)
- [Smoke from planned burns](#)
[Bushfire smoke can reduce air quality in rural and urban areas, and may affect people's health. Planned burns are an important part of reducing the risk of bushfires...](#)
- [Talking to children about bushfire risk](#)
[Children can be affected by information regarding bushfire risk and they may become concerned about issues of safety. Talking to children openly in a way that suits their age, while also involving...](#)
- [Urban flash floods - FAQs](#)
[Urban flash flooding can happen quickly and without warning. Heavy rain causes runoff to collect in dips, car parks and roads, and there is a risk of contamination, injury and disease...](#)

Work and environmental safety

- [Asbestos and your health](#)
[When asbestos fibres become airborne, people working with asbestos may inhale particles which remain in their lungs...](#)
- [Cadmium](#)
[Low-level exposure to cadmium over a long period of time may cause health effects because cadmium can accumulate in the body...](#)
- [Computer-related injuries](#)
[Using a computer can contribute to problems of the muscles and joints, eyestrain and overuse injuries of the arms, wrists and hands...](#)
- [Eye safety at work](#)
[Wearing eye protection appropriate for the task can significantly reduce the risk of injury...](#)
- [Ladder safety matters – Mick \(video\)](#)
[Stop and think before you use a ladder...](#)
- [Ladder safety matters – Nick \(video\)](#)
[Stop and think before you use a ladder...](#)
- [Ladders Safety Matters - Paul \(video\)](#)
[We can keep our pools safe, healthy, and most importantly fun...](#)
- [Look after your health at harvest time \(slideshow\)](#)
[Farmer health, wellbeing and safety are often neglected when facing the pressures of harvest. Simple safety measures can dramatically reduce the risk of injury and illness...](#)
- [Q fever](#)
[Q fever is caused by a micro-organism that can be carried by cattle, sheep and goats...](#)
- [Shiftwork](#)
[A person working the night shift is at greater risk of various disorders and accidents...](#)
- [Skin cancer - protecting outdoor workers](#)
[People who work outdoors are in one of the highest risk groups for skin cancer...](#)
- [Workplace conflict](#)
[A clash of personalities at work is bad for business, because it can affect productivity and increase absenteeism...](#)

- [Workplace safety - confined spaces](#)
[Around 60 per cent of people killed in confined spaces were trying to rescue someone else...](#)
- [Workplace safety - coping with a critical incident](#)
[Stress responses can develop over time after trauma, and support may be required by some workers or groups...](#)
- [Workplace safety - dangerous goods](#)
[Dangerous goods are objects or substances that are potentially harmful to people or the environment, such as explosives or chemicals...](#)
- [Workplace safety - hazardous substances](#)
[A hazardous substance can be inhaled, splashed onto the skin or eyes, or swallowed...](#)
- [Workplace safety - infection control](#)
[The spread of many pathogens in the workplace can be prevented with regular hand washing...](#)
- [Workplace safety - noise pollution](#)
[There are many ways to reduce exposure to excessive noise in the workplace...](#)
- [Workplace safety - overuse injuries](#)
[Occupational overuse syndrome, also known as RSI, is caused by repetitive movements or awkward postures...](#)
- [Work-related fatalities](#)
[In 2013, 196 people lost their lives due to work-related accidents in Australia. Find out more about your industry and which organisations help to prevent work-related deaths in your workplace...](#)

Farm safety

- [Chemicals and spray drift](#)
[Sprayed chemicals can drift over neighbouring properties or water sources, and can affect human health, animals or the environment...](#)
- [Farm safety and handling agrichemicals](#)
[To reduce risks on the farm, use hazardous chemicals according to manufacturer guidelines or replace them with less dangerous options...](#)
- [Farm safety – children](#)
[Children who live on farms are at greater risk of injury and death than their parents or other farm workers...](#)
- [Farm safety - confined spaces](#)
[Any confined space on a farm can be dangerous and the threat may not be apparent until it's too late...](#)
- [Farm safety - crush injuries](#)
[Hand and finger injuries are the most common crush injuries that occur on Victorian farms...](#)
- [Farm safety - falls](#)
[Falls are a common farm hazard, especially for older farmers...](#)
- [Farm safety - handling animals](#)
[Any animal-handling practices can increase the risk of injury to farmers, farm workers and the animal...](#)
- [Farm safety - machinery](#)
[Poorly used or faulty machinery is a major cause of death and injury on farms...](#)
- [Farm safety - manual handling](#)
[Farm workers often experience muscle and ligament strain, but good manual handling techniques and safe work habits can prevent most injuries...](#)
- [Farm safety - quad bikes](#)
[Most injuries and deaths involving quad bikes \(all-terrain vehicles\) are caused by the bike rolling over the rider...](#)
- [Farm safety - risks and hazards](#)
[Farms can be dangerous places for workers and family members, but the risks can be reduced...](#)
- [Farm safety – sheep and shearing](#)
[Handling sheep can cause manual injuries and badly designed shearing sheds can present a range of hazards...](#)

- [Look after your health at harvest time \(slideshow\)](#)

[Farmer health, wellbeing and safety are often neglected when facing the pressures of harvest. Simple safety measures can dramatically reduce the risk of injury and illness...](#)

Related Information

- [Farm safety - risks and hazards](#)

Farms can be dangerous places for workers and family members, but the risks can be reduced...

- [Farm safety - confined spaces](#)

Any confined space on a farm can be dangerous and the threat may not be apparent until it's too late...

- [Farm safety - handling animals](#)

Any animal-handling practices can increase the risk of injury to farmers, farm workers and the animal...

- [Farm safety - manual handling](#)

Farm workers often experience muscle and ligament strain, but good manual handling techniques and safe work habits can prevent most injuries...

- [Farm safety - machinery](#)

Poorly used or faulty machinery is a major cause of death and injury on farms...

[Home](#)

Related information on other websites

- [Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety.](#)
- [Australian Government - Farming & Fishing Health & Safety.](#)
- [Farmsafe Australia.](#)
- [National Centre for Farmer Health.](#)
- [Victorian Farm Safety Centre.](#)
- [WorkSafe Victoria.](#)

Content Partner

This page has been produced in consultation with and approved by: National Centre for Farmer Health



Last updated: May 2016

Content on this website is provided for information purposes only. Information about a therapy, service, product or treatment does not in any way endorse or support such therapy, service, product or treatment and is not intended to replace advice from your doctor or other registered health professional. The information and materials contained on this website are not intended to constitute a comprehensive guide concerning all aspects of the therapy, product or treatment described on the website. All users are urged to always seek advice from a registered health care professional for diagnosis and answers to their medical questions and to ascertain whether the particular therapy, service, product or treatment described on the website is suitable in their circumstances. The State of Victoria and the Department of Health & Human Services shall not bear any liability for reliance by any user on the materials contained on this website.



NURSE-ON-CALL

Provides immediate, expert health advice from a registered nurse. Call 1300 60 60 24

[NURSE-ON-CALL](#)

Service Search

betterhealth.vic.gov.au

Service Search

Find services near you

Service:

Location:

Type a minimum of three characters then press UP or DOWN on the keyboard to navigate the autocompleted search results

[Use my location](#)

Recent Activity

8 people have watched a video today

- **Health topics**

- [Conditions and treatments](#)
- [Healthy living](#)
- [Services and support](#)
-

- **Explore**

- [Recipes](#)
- [Healthy pantry](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Consumer medicine information](#)
- [Multilingual health information - Health Translations Directory](#)

- **About**

- [About us](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- [Content partners](#)
- [Privacy](#)
- [Terms of use](#)
- [Contact us](#)

- **Connect with us**

- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [YouTube](#)

Page last reviewed: 30 Aug 2011

<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au:443/health/healthyliving/farm-safety-sheep-and-shearing>

- <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au:443/about/privacy>
[Privacy Statement](#)
- <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au:443/about/terms-of-use>
[Copyright Notice](#)
- <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au:443/about/terms-of-use>
[Disclaimer Notice](#)

This web site is managed and authorised by the Department of Health & Human Services, State Government of Victoria, Australia

© Copyright State of Victoria 2018.

[Back to Top](#)

This page has been produced in consultation with and approved by:

National Centre for Farmer Health

Content on this website is provided for information purposes only. Information about a therapy, service, product or treatment does not in any way endorse or support such therapy, service, product or treatment and is not intended to replace advice from your doctor or other registered health professional. The information and materials contained on this website are not intended to constitute a comprehensive guide concerning all aspects of the therapy, product or treatment described on the website. All users are urged to always seek advice from a registered health care professional for diagnosis and answers to their medical questions and to ascertain whether the particular therapy, service, product or treatment described on the website is suitable in their circumstances. The State of Victoria and the Department of Health & Human Services shall not bear any liability for reliance by any user on the materials contained on this website.

For the latest updates and more information, visit www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au

Copyright © 1999/2019 State of Victoria. Reproduced from the Better Health Channel (www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au) at no cost with permission of the Victorian Minister for Health. Unauthorised reproduction and other uses comprised in the copyright are prohibited without permission.