



# Wilkins Safety Group

**Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

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## *Welcome to our latest Update E-Newsletter*

As ever, please feel free to share this with friends and colleagues. You will also find PDF versions of all our other newsletters on our website: [www.wilkinssafety.co.uk](http://www.wilkinssafety.co.uk) with lots more useful information and a wealth of leaflets covering Health and Safety topics.



## ***Safety warning to farmers***

Farmers are being urged to take extra care following the conclusion of a fatal accident inquiry into the tragic death of a Scottish farmer in

Lauder earlier this year.

The 66-year-old, a self-employed farmer at Newbigging Walls Farm, died after he became entangled with a sweep auger in a grain silo.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have today urged all farmers to remember to use the safe stop procedure when working with any agricultural machinery.

The safety message also follows the launch of a newly formed farm safety partnership in August. Members include NFU Mutual and HSE.

The Farm Safety Partnership will focus on four key areas: falls from height; livestock incidents; workplace transport; and machinery incidents. These four areas account for around 70% of the fatal injuries in Farming

**This week's 2 recent HSE cases look at a gate manufacturer who ignored warnings and a builder who put the lives of three workers at risk.**

**Openshaw Bespoke Timber Gates Ltd**, was fined **£10,000** and ordered to pay **£729** in prosecution costs for failing to comply with a Prohibition Notice.

- **Able Building and Roofing Services Ltd** was fined a total of **£10,000** and ordered to pay **£986** in costs for two breaches of the Work at Height Regulations 2005.

As ever, if you have a subject that you would like us to cover one week, please contact us by phone [01458 253682](tel:01458253682)  
Email [info@wilkinssafety.co.uk](mailto:info@wilkinssafety.co.uk) or via our [Facebook page](#) or by [Twitter](#)

## ***Safety warning to farmers***

**Farmers are being urged to take extra care following the conclusion of a fatal accident inquiry into the tragic death of Lauder farmer, Jim Sharp earlier this year.**

The 66-year-old, a self-employed farmer at Newbigging Walls Farm, died after he became entangled with a sweep auger in a grain silo.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have today urged all farmers to remember to use the safe stop procedure when working with any agricultural machinery:

- Put the handbrake on.
- Make sure the controls are in neutral (equipment made safe).
- Stop the engine (or turn off the power).
- Remove the key (or lock-off the power supply).

This is particularly important to remember when carrying out maintenance or repairs when you may be working with guards removed or in closer proximity to the moving parts.

Use a padlock to prevent the power being turned on accidentally or remove the ignition key and keep the key with you until the work is complete.

**Do not enter grain silos with the auger running** – use the safe stop procedure. Sweep augers move slowly but have been responsible for several accidents – usually fatal – where the individual has become entangled by a boot lace or clothing.

**Do not enter grain silos to clear blockages of any kind** unless the power is isolated and there is no chance of bridging in the grain – drowning in grain silos can occur when a person sinks into the grain as the silo empties. Also consider lack of oxygen in the silo, particularly if the grain could be damp/contaminated or if it is a sealed silo.

## **Don't leave it to FATE**

There are four key areas (Falls, Animals, Transport and Equipment) “**FATE**”:

- falls from height;
- livestock incidents;
- workplace transport;
- equipment/machinery incidents.



## **Falls from height – roof works**



**CASE STUDY** - A farm worker died when he fell through a fragile roof. He was working on top of a cattle shed, replacing damaged fibre cement roof sheets when he stepped on or fell through the fragile roof light.

Far too many people have been killed by falls from height (17% of the overall total) over the past decade on farms.

### **Top safety tips if you have to work at height:**

1. [?] Never walk on fragile materials, e.g. fibre cement sheets, roof lights or glass
2. [?] Never 'walk the purlins' or 'walk the line of the bolts'
3. [?] Use proprietary access equipment or other measures when working at height
4. [?] Plan and set aside enough time to do the work
5. [?] Take account of environmental conditions, e.g. wind and rain
6. [?] Make sure everyone knows the precautions to be followed
7. [?] Roof ladders or crawling boards must span at least three purlins
8. [?] Roof ladders must be securely placed. Do not rely on gutters, ridge caps or tiles for support

### **Don't leave it to FATE**

## **Animals – cattle handling**

**CASE STUDY** - A farmer and son were treating cows when one of the cattle refused to go into the crush. The farmer entered the race and as he moved away from the front of the crush to the side of the race, the cow kicked an unfastened gate in the cattle race beside the crush. He died from serious head injuries when he was knocked over by the gate.

12% of all fatalities over the past decade on farms have been livestock related incidents. Handling cattle always involves risks, e.g. from crushing, kicking, butting etc.



## Top safety tips when handling livestock:

1. ☒☒ The risk is greater if the animals have not been handled frequently
2. ☒☒ Never underestimate the risks, even with good precautions in place
3. ☒☒ You should have:
  - ☒☒ proper handling facilities, that are well maintained and in good working order
  - ☒☒ a race and a crush suitable for the animals to be handled
  - ☒☒ trained and competent staff and
  - ☒☒ selection of breeding animals with the aim to improve herd temperament

## Don't leave it to FATE

### *Transport – all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) (e.g. quad bikes)*

**CASE STUDY** - A farm worker was found trapped underneath a quad bike having suffered fatal chest injuries. The ATV had been loaded with buckets of animal feed and was being driven across a sloping field. The final position of the ATV suggests that it rolled over sideways down the slope crushing the worker underneath it.

Deaths by vehicle overturns and being struck by moving vehicles such as these, account for 35% of fatalities over the past decade on farms.



## Top safety tips using ATVs:

1. ☒☒ Make sure all drivers and riders receive adequate training
2. ☒☒ Carry out regular checks and maintenance, e.g. tyre pressures, brakes etc. on all vehicles
3. ☒☒ Take extra care with trailed or mounted equipment and understand how they affect stability
4. ☒☒ Wear a helmet when riding an ATV
5. ☒☒ Passengers should not be carried on sit-astride ATVs
6. ☒☒ Secure loads on racks and make sure they are evenly balanced

## Don't leave it to FATE

## Equipment – maintenance and clearing blockages

**CASE STUDY** - A farm worker died from serious crush injuries after being entangled in a potato harvester. He was carrying out maintenance work on the machine and it appears that he started the harvester to check its operation and was then drawn in by the rollers.

People having been killed by contact with the moving parts of equipment or machinery accounts for 8% of farming fatalities over the past decade.



### Top safety tips when working on machinery:

1. Follow the 'Safe Stop' procedure before carrying out any intervention (handbrake on, controls in neutral, engine off, keys out)
2. Secure anything which could fall, e.g. by using props on tailgates/doors
3. Secure anything which could move or rotate, e.g. by using chocks
4. Remember, energy can be stored in springs or hydraulics. Consider how you will stop this energy being released or release it safely
5. Use the right tools for the job
6. Follow the instructions/procedures as set out in the operator's manual
7. When finished, replace the guards and check the machine before restarting

### Don't leave it to FATE

**As farmers know**, farms can be dangerous places so it is important that everyone on a farm takes the necessary steps so that they can stay safe while farming. However, some farmers still need to change behaviours and attitudes by promoting the steps that can be done to reduce the risks of common farm jobs.

Most people in the industry will be able to recall a close call situation that could so easily have resulted in serious injury or even fatality. By adopting some simple steps as part of everyday working practices we can reduce the number of accidents and deaths on British farms.

**The high rate of deaths in the farming sector underlines the industry's poor record of managing risks. Every year too many people are needlessly killed and injured on British farms.**

If you need further information please call us on [01458 253682](tel:01458253682) or send us an email at [info@wilkinssafety.co.uk](mailto:info@wilkinssafety.co.uk)

**Don't leave it to FATE**

## Now to the latest HSE cases:

### *Tameside firm in court over dangerous saws*



A Tameside gate manufacturer has been fined £10,000 after it ignored a formal warning about installing guards on two circular saws.

Openshaw Bespoke Timber Gates Ltd was prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) after it continued to expose its workforce to danger by operating the saws for one month after being ordered to take them out of use at its workshop on the Greenside Trading Estate in Droylsden.

Trafford Magistrates' Court heard today (5 December 2014) that two inspectors had spotted the unprotected saws during an unannounced visit to the site on 14 April 2014. They issued a Prohibition Notice requiring the saws not to be used until guards had been fitted.

When HSE inspectors returned to the site a month later, they found the saws still in use and no attempt had been made by the firm to fit guards.

Openshaw Bespoke Timber Gates Ltd, of Greenside Lane in Droylsden, was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay £729 in prosecution costs after pleading guilty to breaching the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 by failing to comply with a Prohibition Notice.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE Inspector Sarah Taylor said:

*“When we first visited the factory in April, we were immediately concerned by two of the saws which were not guarded and could easily have resulted in an employee losing a finger.*

*“We therefore issued a Prohibition Notice requiring the saws to be taken out of use but the company failed to take any action until we returned to the site one month later, despite it being a legal requirement.*

*“The firm has since subcontracted its wood cutting work to an outside firm so the saws are not needed. If it had done this when we first served the notice, or fitted guards to the saws, then it would have avoided having to pay a court fine.”*

More information on improving safety in factories is available at [www.hse.gov.uk/manufacturing](http://www.hse.gov.uk/manufacturing).

## ***High dangers caught on camera***

**A Berkshire construction firm has been fined after three workers were photographed on a roof and ladder platform in Windsor without any safety measures in place.**

Able Building & Roofing Services Ltd, which operates across the South East, was prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) following the incident at a two-storey house in Windsor between 16-18 October 2013.

Reading Magistrates' Court heard (1 Dec) that the householder, who hired the firm for roofing work, was so concerned by the obvious dangers faced by the workers, he took photos and sent them to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), which investigated.



The photographs showed workers using an unguarded ladder platform that had not been erected properly, and also working on top of the main roof without any means of preventing falls.

HSE told the court that the company had failed to plan the work at height, which is inherently hazardous, leaving their workers without adequate protection against falls of up to six metres.

Able Building and Roofing Services Ltd, of Nine Mile Road, Finchampstead, near Wokingham, was fined a total of £10,000 and ordered to pay £986 in costs after pleading guilty to two breaches of the Work at Height Regulations 2005.

After the hearing, HSE Inspector Dominic Goacher said:

**“The company put the lives of three of their workers at risk by carrying out the roofing job in a totally unsafe manner. Anyone falling from the roof of a two-storey house would likely be killed and that type of disregard for safety is totally unacceptable.**

**“Able Building and Roofing failed to follow basic, and well-known, safety precautions and heed the guidance available to roofing companies.**

**“If the work had been planned correctly, more suitable equipment, such as a scaffold, and effective fall protection measures would have been in place. Where practical when working on roofs, there should be fully-guarded platforms or good edge protection in place to stop falls happening.”**

Information on working on roofs safely at height is available at <http://www.wilkinsafety.co.uk/pdf/whss/roofwork.pdf>

## Remember

Unlike other organisations who send out newsletters giving you a little 'titbit' of information, then stating that if you want to follow the full link or read the full story or get more information you must pay to subscribe to their service.

- Our newsletter service is FREE,
- the links we supply are FREE,
- the helpline advice is FREE.

If you find this newsletter service of use and you think others might also find it useful, then kindly pass it on and ask them to subscribe for free, so they can continue to receive it in their own right.

Also contact us if you have a particular health and safety subject or question you would like covered



If you have any queries on any health and safety matter, please contact Jon Wilkins on [01458 253682](tel:01458253682) or by email on [jon@wilkinssafety.co.uk](mailto:jon@wilkinssafety.co.uk)



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Safer in Our Hands