

Caution: Quadbikes can be killers

FARMSAFE Australia (farmsafe.org.au) has developed a Quadbike Safety Guide for farmers that can help farmers reduce the risk of serious injury associated with quadbike use on farm.

When farmers are considering using four wheeled motorbikes for work on farms, Farmsafe encourage the following safety principles:

- * Is the quadbike the most appropriate vehicle to do the job? A farm ute or small Utility Vehicle (Side by Side vehicle) is better to carry passengers and heavy loads safely.

- * A suitably tested crush protection device (CPD) should be fitted to the quad bike.

- * When riding a

quadbike, always wear a helmet.

- * Always keep the quadbike well maintained and tyres correctly inflated according to manufacturer's recommendations.

- * DO NOT allow riders under 16 years old to operate a quadbike.

- * DO NOT carry passengers and

- * DO NOT carry heavy loads or overload a quadbike. They become more unstable and may roll causing fatal crush injuries.

According to Farmsafe Australia, quadbikes are a leading cause of death and serious injury on Australian farms.

There are on average 14 farm quadbike related fatalities on Australian farms every year.

In 2011, there were 18 quad bike related fatalities on Australian farms.

Meantime, NSW Minister for Finance and Services Greg Pearce has announced that the NSW Government will spend \$1 million to try and reduce the number of quad bike deaths across the State.

The money will be used to fund research into vehicle safety and improve quad bike protective devices and accessories.

"According to Farmsafe Australia, more than 150 people have died in quad bike incidents in the last 10 years, with almost nine out of 10 rollover deaths occurring on farms," Mr Pearce said.

The research would be conducted at the University of NSW's Transport and Road Safety research facility.

"Through this \$1 million research project, experts in vehicle safety will conduct a series of crash tests to identify engineering and design enhancements which could improve quad bike safety," Mr Pearce said.

"Most fatalities are the result of head injuries or from being trapped under overturned vehicles and for the first time anywhere in the world, the role of protective systems in the prevention of asphyxia and serious chest injuries when a quad bike rolls over will be tested."



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