

Working with Stock - Hazards, Risks and Control Measures

Hazard	Risk	Control measure
Animal behaviour	Animal charging, kicking, trampling leading to injury	Be aware of the animals at all times – don't take them for granted! A good yard design allows for a quick exit from the yard.
Dust	Limited vision Breathing problems	Water yards with sprinklers or a water truck. Use of a scarf to protect your nose and mouth.
Noise	Hearing loss Diminished hearing ability	Use of hearing protection when the noise is very loud.
Moving parts on equipment such as slide gates	Injuries such as broken arms	Keep arms and hands away from gates Make sure plant and equipment is well maintained.
Hazardous substances	Poisoning, skin exposure and inhalation	Read Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and labels and use substances according to the directions. Dispose of and clean up spills correctly.
Heat from branding furnace and brands	Burns	Take extreme care when using your brands – carry them by your side. Ensure correct positioning of the animal when branding. Ensure the brand is the correct temperature.
Sharp objects such as scalpels, vaccinating needles and dehorning knives	Injuries such as deep cuts, puncture wounds or needle stick	Handle sharp objects with care. Have a safe place to place them in between uses. Use correct disinfecting techniques to stop the spread of disease to other animals. Do not leave needles unprotected when not being used. Dispose of needles in a sharps container. Always tell the person in charge if a needle stick injury has occurred.
Solar radiation	Dehydration Sunburn Heat stroke	Wear a broad brim hat; not a cap. That is the correct PPE. Drink plenty of water. Work in the cooler parts of the day. Wear a hat and sunscreen.

Animal blood, saliva and urine	Contamination Disease Contracting zoonosis such as Q-fever	Always make sure you are working in a hygienic manner. Wash any area that may have come into contact with animal blood, saliva or urine with a strong disinfectant. Obtain relevant immunisation.
Snakes, wasps, bees etc.	Bites, stings, allergic reaction	Be aware of your surroundings and keep a look out to ensure that the first aid kit is available. If you have known allergies to any bites or stings, ensure that you have the correct medication on hand at all times.
Employees from different background	Injury – not understanding safety	Demonstrate procedures, in sequence each time you perform a task, for any workers who may have problems with language, literacy or that have a disability. As the person to demonstrate what they have learnt so that you can check their understanding. Show patience and understanding and take time to assist them. Lead by example. Respect everyone’s beliefs, culture and religion. Remember: You do not have to agree with their beliefs, but you have to respect their right to have them. Assist when you can with language, literacy and numeracy skills. Help those who are physically handicapped. Prevent yourself and others from being hurt.