

CottonInfo: Connecting growers with research

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## Keeping our families safe on our farms

**Farms are a fantastic place to raise a family, but they can also be dangerous, as unlike most other homes, they are also our workplaces. Help keep our most important resource - our people - safe.**

- Assess your farm for potential dangers.
- Create a safe and contained play area for young children close to the house and away from hazards.
- Make sure everyone on the farm is properly educated on safety procedures, farm risks and trained in first aid.
- Keep all equipment in good repair.
- Set a farm speed limit.
- Always use appropriate safety equipment, such as machinery guards and shields, helmets, gloves, goggles and breathing apparatus.
- Store dangerous items, like machinery, firearms and chemicals behind locked doors and remove keys to a safe place.

### **On-farm safety during cotton picking:**

As all growers know, picking is one of the most dangerous times of the year.

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A report from the Primary Industries Health and Safety Partnership (funded in-part by CottonInfo partner CRDC) has found that **injury claims cost the cotton industry over \$5 million each year**, with the key risks of death or injury being motor vehicles (utes, cars, quads and trucks) and electricity (particularly coming into contact with overhead powerlines). You can find the full report [here](#).

That's why Cotton Australia (another CottonInfo partner) and the Australian Centre for Ag Health and Safety have developed the **Cotton Harvest Safety: A practical safety guide** for cotton growers. This guide covers off cotton harvest WH&S, the legal obligations of growers, and finding and fixing safety problems on farm - including with key machinery, like pickers, tractors and module builders.

**It's a must read for all cotton growers. [Download your copy here](#). And please, stay safe during cotton picking.**

#### For more on-farm safety information and resources, visit:

- CottonInfo's [Australian Cotton Production Manual](#).
- Cotton Australia's [CottonSafe page](#).
- myBMP's [HR and WH&S module](#).



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