

WHS workshops lift safety expectations

By **DARREN ARNEY**
CEO, Grain Producers SA



LAST month, Grain Producers SA started a series of work health and safety workshops for farmers, in conjunction with Livestock SA and SafeWork SA.

Of all workplace fatalities since 2005, 19 per cent occurred on farms. This is a tragic statistic and while GPSA does not want to see increased regulation, we do encourage producers to attend the workshops as a way of lifting the expectations around WHS on-farm.

SafeWork SA is taking a different approach to helping all businesses improve WHS by offering a free information, advice and support service. In July 2016, SafeWork split its educator and regulator arms of its business and information released by the government in March 2017 has found this is proving successful.

The educator arm is a completely new unit within SafeWork SA and comprises WHS advisers, who have no inspector powers and can visit a workplace to help business operators understand what they need to do to improve prevention of accidents and injuries.

It claims it has had at least 500 requests to improve work health and safety during that time, including from agricultural businesses.

It is important GPSA communicates with SafeWork SA on the grain industry. SafeWork is currently undertaking a legislative review of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012* and a report on this is due to be publicly available in April 2017. This will feed into a national review of the WHS laws.

Details: For free information, advice and support, phone 1300 365 255, email help.safework@sa.gov.au or visit <http://bit.ly/2mgqvUe>

Did you know?

48 minutes ...
that's how long before hearing damage may occur from a header or grain auger operating at 95 decibels.

Wear hearing protection!



Free work health and safety workshops

GPSA has partnered with Livestock SA and SafeWork to host a series of free work health and safety workshops around the state.

The workshops are specifically for farmers to get practical, agriculture-specific information and advice on duties and legal obligations, risk assessment, WHS policies, hazard identification and drafting a standard operating procedure.

Dates and locations include:

- March 22, **Lameroo** Football Club, 12 - 2.30pm.
- March 23, **Keith** Bowling Club, 9 - 11.30am
- March 23, **Naracoorte** Bowling Club, 3 - 5.30pm
- April 4, **Murray Bridge** Golf Club, 9 - 11.30am
- May 2, **Loxton** Research Centre, 12-2.30pm

Details: Visit <http://bit.ly/2nyFkiY> for more details

Reminder to grain growers with late grape harvest

WITH a cool and wet summer, grape harvest is running two to four weeks behind previous years – which means grain growers are urged to be cautious when spraying or managing stubble loads near vines.

The potential penalties of spray drift damage to vineyards from summer weed spraying in summer and autumn can include compliance and prosecution.

CEO Darren Arney says growers need to be on the front foot when it comes to spray drift, and monitor and record that conditions are suitable for spraying.

In addition, with such a large grain harvest, producers seeking to control stubble loads with a strategic burn need to be aware of the damage smoke taint can do to grapes.

To use Group I herbicides, grain growers must have minimum qualifications as a 'prescribed chemical user'. The change requires operators to have the formal qualification of 'prepare and apply chemicals' – acknowledging their skills in safe and correct Group I chemical use. This means training in ChemCert or equivalent as a minimum.

"Growers have a legal responsibility to ensure safe use of chemicals and that spray does not drift. We must be proactive in monitoring weather conditions to ensure drift does not occur," Mr Arney said.

"If we want to continue to have access to these chemical groups to maximise our weed management options then we must continue responsible and safe chemical use."

The GRDC has a number of fact sheets on spray applications and weather monitoring. It suggests:

- The weather before, during and after a pesticide application can have a large impact on the outcome of a spray job. It is a legal requirement of many product labels that records be kept of the weather conditions as measured at the site of application. These include the wind speed, wind direction, temperature and relative humidity during the spraying operation.
- Wind speed and direction should be measured at 2m above the ground at the site of application, in an area free of obstructions that may impede air flow.
- Daytime wind speed should be above 3km/h and less than 15km/h to 20km/h, according to the label.
- Night time wind speed should be

above 11km/h for the entire period between sunset and sunrise to avoid surface temperature inversions.

- Temperature should be measured at a height of 1.25m above the ground in a shaded position (avoiding direct radiation from the sun onto the temperature and humidity sensors).
- Relative humidity should be measured at 1.25m for record-keeping purposes, but should also be checked at the target to determine and compare Delta T values (temperature and humidity) for making decisions about droplet survival and target susceptibility

More information

- GRDC Fact Sheet on practical tips to reduce spray drift www.grdc.com.au/GRDC-FS-SprayPracticalTips
- GRDC Fact Sheet on spray equipment and weather monitoring – <http://bit.ly/2mUKybt> (search GRDC Fact Sheets)
- PIRSA Biosecurity – Comply with Legislation resources <http://bit.ly/2nd207X>
- Australian Wine Research Institute – potential for smoke taint to damage vines <http://bit.ly/2ncT9mY>

Did you know?

IT IS mandatory to make and retain accurate and detailed records when applying certain crop protection products in SA, such as when using Group I herbicides.

In fact, it is good farming practice to keep detailed spray records of all chemical applications. These records should be kept for at least two years, depending on state regulations and label requirements.

Details to record include:

- Location of paddock sprayed.
- Crop/situation and weed/pest.
- Application date, including start and finish times.
- Full name of the product, active ingredient and loading and product batch number.
- Product application rate per hectare, water volume, and number of hectares treated.
- Weather information including wind speed and direction, air



temperature, relative humidity and cloud cover during application.

- Nozzle type, spray angle and spray pressure during application.
- Name and address of person applying the product.
- Personal protective equipment used.
- Any additional information required as directed by the label or permit.

Source: Keep Our Clean Grain campaign, www.pir.sa.gov.au/cleangrain

Calling young growers for AGIC 2017 sponsorship

Grain Producers SA sponsors two young grain producers every year to attend the Australian Grain Industry Conference.

The conference, held from August 1-3, is hosted by Grain Trade Australia and brings together the Australian and international grain industries to network while providing the latest information on international grain markets.

GPSA's sponsorship is valued at \$2500 each and is designed to encourage participation of young producers in the grain industry and help build their skills by giving them exposure to end-users.

Applicants must complete the entry form to outline their experience and opinion on the grain supply chain.

More information: Contact the GPSA office or visit <http://grainproducerssa.com.au/producers/agic-scholarships/>