



## 11 Expert Tips for Safe Snow Removal

**W**inter's still here, but if you're removing snow on your own property or as a winter business, there's still time to implement a plan to prevent injuries and protect you from liability and loss. "During a storm is not the time to improvise," says WSPS consultant Steve Zronik. "You could be working in the worst possible conditions."

William Jordan knows this very well. He's been operating a snow removal business for almost 20 years, and is chair of Landscape Ontario's Snow and Ice Commodity Group. Jordan's company, Urban Meadows Property Management Group, is based in Ayr, Ontario. Like most places in Ontario, snowfalls around Ayr can be unpredictable, so Jordan and his team are always ready to go.

WSPS Network News asked Steve Zronik and William Jordan what safety tips they have for others. Here's what they said.

- 1. Treat snow removal like any other job.** Identify and assess hazards before you start and take all possible steps to eliminate or minimize them.
- 2. Pile snow in safe locations** so that sudden meltdowns don't flood farm buildings, create run-off problems in nearby waterways, or re-freeze during freeze thaw cycles.
- 3. Keep up to date with all maintenance requirements.** Putting it off is just asking for things to go wrong.
- 4. Conduct a circle check before starting up equipment.**
- 5. Wear proper clothing and footwear.** Dress in layers. Wear or keep within arm's reach a winter jacket, winter boots, gloves, and toques. Keep an extra jacket in the cab. If working in busy areas, wear high visibility safety clothing.

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WSPS Network News: Agricultural Industrial Sector is the next generation of Farmsafe newsletter, published by Workplace Safety & Prevention Services (WSPS).

WSPS provides industry-specific health and safety products, training and consulting services to 154,000 businesses and 3.8 million employees in Ontario's agricultural, manufacturing and service sectors. Previously you knew us as Farm Safety Association, Industrial Accident Prevention Association and Ontario Service Safety Alliance. WSPS is committed to putting health and safety solutions within reach of every employee and employer in the province and we believe in building partnerships to help us deliver on that promise.

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6. **Prevent fatigue**, especially when working extra shifts or at night. Power nap if necessary.
7. **If travelling on public roads, follow all rules of the road.**
8. **Ensure you can stay in touch with others while you're working.** Install a GPS tracking system so that others know where you are at all times.
9. **Conduct end-of-shift inspections** and make any necessary repairs or adjustments.

**If you hire people to help you remove snow,**

10. **Know your responsibilities.** You're considered an employer under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. WSPS has a long list of resources to

help you fulfil these responsibilities. Find out more at [wsps.ca/Information-Resources/Topics/Employers.aspx](http://wsps.ca/Information-Resources/Topics/Employers.aspx).

11. **Ensure anyone working for you has proper training.** According to Jordan, lack of training is the primary safety issue he encounters.

"When hiring, don't overestimate people's skill level," says Jordan. "You can't just go by a prospective employee's résumé. They may not know the equipment as well as they think they do. A lot of mistakes can come from that. Or they may have bad habits."

Here's a sampling of the training that Jordan provides for the 15-20 people who work for Urban Meadows PMG every winter:

- in-vehicle skills evaluation for new hires
- group orientation training each fall,

demonstrating how to operate each machine, plowing techniques, safety procedures, online health and safety awareness training, etc. The orientation training lasts for up to two days.

- outdoor practice runs and simulations. "With an articulated tractor, for example, you can get stuck very easily. They act differently from a standard tractor"
- regular team meetings throughout the season to address unforeseen problems that operators may encounter.

"It's worth it to take the time and show your employees how to do things properly," says Jordan. "The effort you put into them is what you'll get out of them." 

## 5 Ways to Avoid Winter Slips, Trips and Falls

Slips, trips and falls consistently rank among the top four causes of workplace injuries. As snow and ice accumulate, WSPS consultant Kevin Smith offers tips on how to incorporate winter hazard considerations into your health and safety program.

### 1. IDENTIFY AND ASSESS THESE POTENTIAL WINTER HAZARDS:

- snow and ice accumulations. Are snow and ice promptly cleared from walkways and parking areas? Are they deposited in a safe place? Are entrances and exits to buildings unobstructed? Could melting runoff turn into black ice?
- portable ladders. Do they have appropriate feet for icy and snowy conditions?
- outdoor lighting. With short days, is your lighting coming on at an appropriate time?



### 2. SHARE THE RESULTS WITH

- whoever helps you with snow and ice removal. Work together to improve existing practices
- family members and anyone else who may work on your property

### 3. ADD THESE SIMPLE SUGGESTIONS TO EXISTING HOUSEKEEPING REQUIREMENTS

- keep related supplies, such as sand, salt and shovels, near potential problem areas for easy access when needed
- keep floors and other work surfaces free of snow, ice and water
- use pylons to indicate wet and potentially slippery areas, but only when needed. If they're left in place after the hazard has disappeared, people will start ignoring them

### 4. ADD WINTER STORM WATCHES TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROCEDURES

so that you can take action before weather conditions deteriorate.

### 5. TALK ABOUT WINTER HAZARDS AND SOLUTIONS WITH FAMILY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES.

Include the importance of

- watching out for and reporting hazards
- wearing proper footwear 

### HOW WSPS CAN HELP

WSPS has all the resources and expertise you need to ensure everyone has the understanding and tools they need. Start with WSPS' slip, trip and falls resources page ([wsps.ca/Information-Resources/Topics/Slips,-Trips-and-Falls.aspx](http://wsps.ca/Information-Resources/Topics/Slips,-Trips-and-Falls.aspx)), which links you to complimentary downloads, e-courses, consulting services, and more.

# Seguridad Agrícola: Agricultural Safety Tools in English and Spanish

¿No hablas español? Join countless agricultural operators who have discovered a helpful resource to help them keep their Spanish-speaking seasonal workers safe. Now's the time to do something about it, before this season's workers arrive.

Every year Ontario welcomes more than 16,000 seasonal agricultural workers, many of whom speak Spanish, explains Sandy Miller, WSPS' account manager, agriculture. "To help employers overcome potential language and cultural barriers, we've compiled a suite of tools enabling them to provide essential safety orientation and awareness in Spanish and English."

Designed to complement an employer's health and safety training program, "Seguridad Agrícola: Agricultural Safety Tools in English and Spanish" is available in electronic format on a USB data drive. It includes:

- 46 safety topic information handouts, 2-3 pages each
- 16 hazard-specific tailgate talks packaged in one booklet
- Health & Safety Awareness for Seasonal Agricultural Workers PowerPoint and presenter manual, featuring two exercises and a final quiz
- Orientation for Seasonal Workers video depicting best practices or work that seasonal workers typically do.

Before Seguridad Agrícola became available, people like Andrea Riddoch of Riddoch Ginseng were making do with a patchwork of material that she found here, there and everywhere. "But when I heard about WSPS' resources — all on one USB stick — I pounced on it," says Riddoch. "It helped streamline our training program and made my life easier."

## HOW THE TOOLS WILL HELP YOU

The tools raise awareness of common hazards by

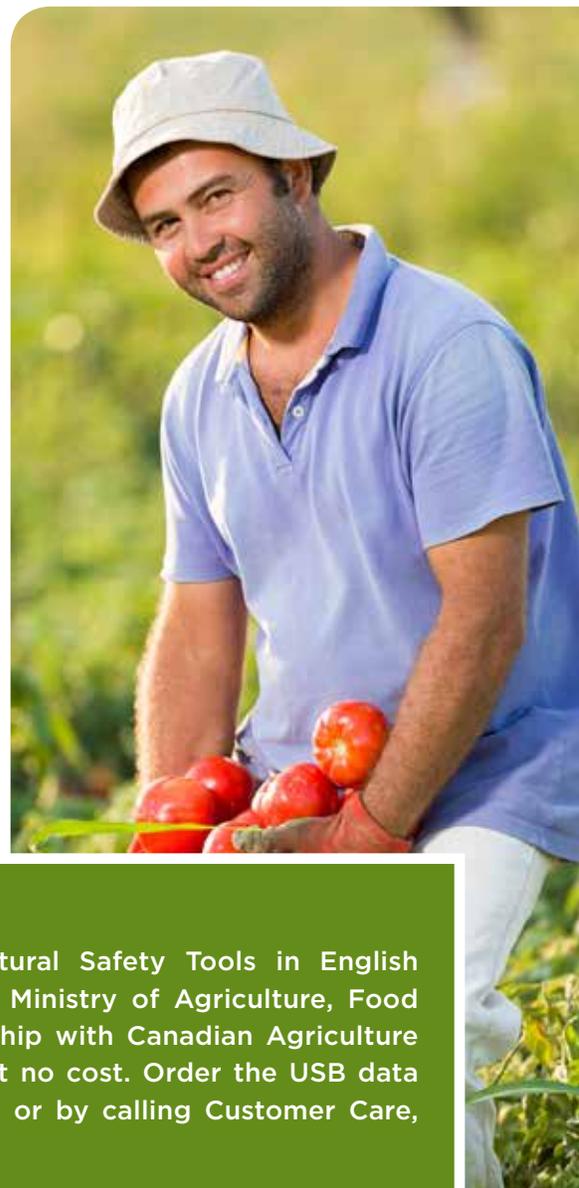
- increasing employers, supervisors and crew leads' own health and safety knowledge
- providing resources in a variety of formats for orientation sessions and health and safety talks
- providing basic information to workers for recognizing and acting on hazards.

## HOW THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY HELPED WSPS DEVELOP THE MATERIAL

WSPS staff conducted focus groups with employers of Spanish-speaking seasonal workers and others to ensure we were assembling the right tools. "We wanted to understand from them exactly what was needed, and to ensure that what we were developing was on the right track," says Miller.

Tom Miedema, one of the focus group participants, is a third-generation farmer, Chair of the Fresh Vegetable Growers of Ontario, and a board member for Foreign Agricultural Resource Management Services. Miedema Produce Ltd., a family-run operation in Holland Marsh, grows root vegetables, mostly carrots, onions, red beets, and parsnips. Like Andrea Riddoch, Miedema had cobbled together Spanish language training material from multiple sources, and welcomed the opportunity to provide WSPS with input on this new resource while it was still being developed.

According to Miedema, the quality and range of the final product far exceeded his expectations. He was particularly pleased with the use of pictograms and simple language. They respond to a common concern of employers who hire seasonal Spanish-speaking workers: do the workers truly understand the training material and can they put it into practice? 



## Get Your Complimentary Copy

Development and distribution of "Seguridad Agrícola: Agricultural Safety Tools in English and Spanish" was made possible through funding from Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' "Growing Forward 2" program and in partnership with Canadian Agriculture Safety Association (CASA). The first 1,000 copies are available at no cost. Order the USB data drive through WSPS' online catalogue ([www.wsps.ca/farmsafety](http://www.wsps.ca/farmsafety)) or by calling Customer Care, 1 877 494 WSPS (9777).

# HOW TO MANAGE THE MENACE IN YOUR BACKYARD

Tree cutting is a dangerous occupation, and here's proof



In a paradoxical twist of human nature, the fear of calamity often motivates people to take steps that end up causing it.

That ash tree behind the barn, for instance. The canopy is looking yellow and thin. Could it have fallen prey to the Emerald Ash Borer, a beetle decimating ash trees across North America? You've read enough to know that means trouble.

Or maybe it's the majestic maple reaching across the driveway. You're convinced that the powerful storms visiting your neighbourhood have targeted it for damage.

Yes, time to do something fast, before you tempt fate. But pause a moment. Your next decision — do it yourself or hire someone else — could be the most critical one of all.

The Ministry of Labour reports that in the past four years, 9 people died and 67 were critically injured in Ontario while working on trees weakened by such hazards as beetles, storms, brittle branches, and the propensity of birds, raccoons and other wildlife to make trees their home. One of the fallen, a 36-year-old tree-cutter in Dunrobin, died at the scene in July 2015 when the tree he was in fell and trapped him under its heavy trunk.

A compromised tree is full of surprises. Well-trained professionals can anticipate many of them. Experienced arborists rely on knowledge gained through formal training programs and field experience to identify risks before making the cut. The detailed diagnostic process they undertake is especially important with infested ash trees, whose limbs and trunks break in unpredictable ways. Good reason not to take the task on yourself.

Doing it right involves inspecting trunks, limbs, root systems and canopy with a practiced eye. It involves making a detailed plan that assesses how each successive cut will affect safety. It involves wearing extensive safety gear, including chainsaw protection and a double harness system, and securing the chainsaw with a line in case it's dropped. It involves knowing what branches to leave until later to maintain the tree's stability, knowing when to hire a crane to deal with big limbs too dangerous to cut in any other way, and knowing the precise degree and angle of tension to apply so the tree will fall in the intended direction. Experienced arborists leave nothing to chance.

But be aware that not everyone who claims to be a qualified arborist is one. Surges in demand, the result of pests like the Emerald Ash Borer, tornadoes and inclement weather, combined with long waiting periods for tree trimming and removal, have led to unqualified people selling themselves to do the work. Fly-by-night operators eager to make a quick dollar close their eyes to the fact that tree cutting is a serious trade, supported by colleges and private companies offering training and apprenticeship programs.

These unskilled and inexperienced workers substitute guts and guesswork for knowledge and experience, putting themselves and their clients at enormous risk. That risk is amplified if property owners make the ill-fated decision — my tree, my backyard, how difficult can it be — to do the job themselves.

"If you're having risky work done on your property, take the right steps to reduce the impact on your home," advises Steve Kee, a director at the Insurance Bureau of Canada. "By checking to see if the business is registered and if it carries workers compensation on its employees, you're protecting yourself."

If you hire an unqualified individual who does not have WSIB or private liability insurance, and property damage occurs (a broken fence, a punctured roof), or an injury or fatality occurs (involving the tree trimmer or a bystander), two things can happen:

- your homeowners insurance policy will be called on to cover costs related to repairs, medical bills, lost wages for injured workers, and more. Your coverage may not be adequate, and your policy may not cover all situations for which you may be legally responsible.
- once you've hired someone to work on your tree-cutting project, the Ministry of Labour considers you the "owner" of the workplace under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. If a worker is injured

on your property, the ministry can investigate. If it finds proper safety precautions were not taken, you could be charged and fined.

## What you can do to mitigate risk

- Put your chainsaw away and hire a reputable, experienced tree cutter. Here are some steps you can take:
- Find out if the company who employs your tree trimmer has a health and safety program.
- Ask for a copy of the firm's WSIB clearance certificate number and other applicable liability insurance, and check to ensure it is in good standing. If you are hiring a self-employed individual, find out what type of insurance the worker has through the WSIB or another insurance provider.
- Inquire about the length of time the company or individual has been in this business.
- Find out what licenses or qualifications the individual has for this work.
- Ask what education and training, particularly safety training, the individual has completed. Make

sure the person has the right skills for the job: there is a big difference between cutting a tree at ground level and removing limbs from the canopy.

- Request details on the tree trimmer's health and safety record.
- Ask for references and follow through.
- Ask for written estimates from more than one company, bearing in mind that the right skills and equipment, and proper insurance, might cost more but are well worth the investment.
- Learn more about your liability from a brochure published by the WSIB called "*Don't forget to build in safety!*" available at [www.worksafenb.ca/docs/homerenobroch\\_e.pdf](http://www.worksafenb.ca/docs/homerenobroch_e.pdf).

## Does the arborist need to be certified?

Certification, while golden, is not a requirement. According to the International Society of Arboriculture Ontario (ISA Ontario), an arborist is an individual trained in the art and science of planting, caring for, and maintaining individual trees. Becoming an ISA certified arborist

is a voluntary examination process administered by ISA Ontario as a way for tree care professionals to measure their knowledge and competence, and developed by leading experts on tree care. Certified arborists adhere to a code of ethics and are more likely to be up to date on the latest techniques because they must continue their education to maintain their certification.

## How to find a reputable tree cutter

- Begin in your community: ask your local garden centre for recommendations, or check with neighbours who have had work done and are satisfied.
- Check "Find a Certified Arborist" on the ISA Ontario website ([www.isaontario.com](http://www.isaontario.com)), under the tab, "For the Public."
- Check the online yellow pages for specialists in tree care.
- Always follow up with the questions listed above.

## If you have questions

Contact ISA Ontario:  
Ph. 1 888 463 2316 or 416 493 7022;  
Fax 1 855 329 4726 (1 855 FAX ISAO);  
[info@isaontario.com](mailto:info@isaontario.com) 



### SAFETY MESSAGE: Ladder Safety

A large number of farm injuries each year happen as a result of falls from ladders. Placing a ladder correctly is important. The base of the ladder should be one foot out for every four feet up. The base of the ladder should be secured. It is also a good idea to tie off the top of the ladder. Follow these simple instructions to avoid a ladder accident on your farm.

## MARK THE DATE: MARCH 15 AGRICULTURE SAFETY WORKSHOP

Sign up for a one-day series of workshops in Vineland, ON held by WSPS in conjunction with Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA). Commemorating Canadian Agriculture Safety Week, the event includes

- 90-minute workshop on the Ontario FarmSafe Plan, a handy business risk management tool that you can customize for your own operation
- Three 35-40 minute workshops on
  - Age Related Tasks OR Tractor Refresher: Reinforcing Good Habits
  - Women in Agriculture OR Orienting Young Workers
  - Safe Play Areas OR Noise: Getting Ready for Regulations\*

The event takes place alongside a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day.

\* Workshop topics may change. Watch your Inbox or mailbox for more information.



# Stop Tractor Runovers with this 4-point Approach

“Tractor runovers are the #2 killer in farming, and the #1 killer of farm children 14 and under. It’s time to stop being complacent and start preventing them,” says Dean Anderson, strategic advisor, agriculture initiatives, for WSPS.

“We’ve all heard the stories... ‘I just had to move the tractor a couple of feet,’ or ‘I thought she was still playing in the backyard.’ You can imagine the anguish over what in most cases results from a moment of inattention.

“If something goes wrong, you rarely have time to react,” continues Dean, “but you can manage the risk of runovers just like any other risk to your operation.”

## Who’s at risk

Tractor runover injuries and fatalities typically involve

- bystanders, especially children. “But it could also happen to a worker or family member who, say, happens to be lying on the ground greasing the rear axle.”
- passengers who are thrown or fall from tractors.
- operators who fall off or are standing next to the tractor when it moves into gear.

## How to prevent these incidents

Dean recommends a four-step approach that incorporates preventive maintenance, safe operating procedures, safety equipment, and training. With only slight variations, you can apply this approach to the operation of any farm equipment. The goal is to create and sustain a safety culture in which hazards are anticipated and controlled or eliminated.

“It may take a bit of forethought and preparation, but preventing even one injury is a priceless return on your time. And now’s the time to do it, before the next planting season begins.” Here’s what Dean suggests.

### 1. Perform preventive maintenance

- Follow the maintenance schedule in the manufacturer’s manual.
- Ensure the tractor’s electrical system, brakes and clutch are always in good working condition.
- Ensure all guarding is in place.
- Perform maintenance and repairs in a safe place where there is no risk to you or others.

### 2. Implement safe operating procedures

- Create “no pedestrian” zones in heavy traffic areas.
- Provide a safe play area for children and ensure they’re supervised at all times.
- Implement a no-rider policy unless you have a factory installed extra seat.
- Conduct a walk-around before starting or moving the vehicle.
- Start the engine only from the driver’s seat.
- Before shifting into gear, ensure clear visibility on all sides.
- Drive with caution, especially on uneven or sloping ground.
- Continually scan the area for other people.
- Before leaving the tractor seat, shut off the engine and set the parking brake.

### 3. Provide safety equipment

- Retrofit your tractor with an audible reverse warning device if it doesn’t already have one.
- Replace old pan-type seats with seats that have back and arm rests.
- Always wear a seatbelt on tractors with a ROPS.
- Don’t tamper with safety interlocks installed by the manufacturer.
- Don’t wear loose clothing that could catch on levers and moving parts.

### 4. Train

- Provide orientation and refresher training on runover hazards and safe operating procedures to anyone who may operate a tractor.
- Train all workers and family members on how to stay safe around moving vehicles, including how to get the tractor operator’s attention before approaching it.
- Observe and coach.



### SAFETY MESSAGE: Keeping Children Out of Harm’s Way

Many child fatalities on the farm occur when youngsters aren’t under adult supervision. Toddlers are run over by equipment that is being backed up. Older kids are trapped in flowing grain, while other youngsters fall into ponds or manure storages. A fenced yard may be the only answer for the little ones. Farm children may face more hazards than kids in urban centres. Their safety is the responsibility of adults.

### WSPS can help

Our health and safety consultants are on hand to answer questions, identify and assess hazards, help write safety policies and procedures, and deliver safety awareness training. Contact WSPS Customer Care today: 1 877 494 WSPS (9777); [customercare@wsp.ca](mailto:customercare@wsp.ca). We also offer complimentary downloads on a variety of farming hazards at [wsp.ca/farmsafety](http://wsp.ca/farmsafety).

For a comprehensive approach to controlling farm safety hazards, WSPS also offers the Ontario FarmSafe Plan, a business risk management tool that guides you through a step-by-step process for creating a health and safety plan customized to your operation. Download it now at [wsp.ca/farmsafety](http://wsp.ca/farmsafety), or watch for announcements on complimentary half-day workshops to get you started.

# New JHSC Certification Training Requirements



**A**s of March 1, 2016, new training requirements for certification of joint health and safety committee members have taken effect. WSPS is standing by to help you act on these new requirements if you have joint health and safety committee members who require certification training. WSPS is the first training provider to receive Ministry of Labour approval for both Part One and Part Two certification training.

The ministry is implementing these changes to provide a more interactive and consistent learning experience. A companion standard for training providers ensures high quality and consistent delivery of training programs by approved trainers. For example, WSPS's new certification training now includes videos, sector-specific workplace examples, as well as interactive activities that help participants transfer their learning to the workplace.

## Which workplaces must have JHSCs?

A JHSC is required if you have 20 or more regularly employed workers who have duties related to any of these farming operations: mushroom • greenhouse • dairy • hog • cattle • poultry. “Regularly employed” means the number of workers employed for a period that exceeds three months. This includes permanent full-time staff, permanent part-time staff, contract staff, and seasonal workers. It also includes managers and supervisors.

Please note that not all farming operations required to have a JHSC must have certified members on their committee. The certification training requirement applies to the above types of farming operations only if they regularly employ 50 or more workers.

## What changes as of March 1

The following changes will apply to all workplaces required to have a JHSC:

- Part One, Part Two and refresher training must be taken from a MOL-approved trainer, such as WSPS
- Parts One and Two must be completed within 6 months of each other
- Part One is a minimum of 3 days; Part Two, a minimum of 2 days
- certified members must take refresher training every 3 years to maintain their status

## How your workplace can meet its certification training requirements

Starting March 1, 2016, WSPS is offering Certification Training under the new standards in classrooms throughout Ontario. We can also accommodate busy schedules with flexible onsite sessions — an ideal option for group training.

Registration for classroom training is already open. Take advantage of special pricing if you call to register between now and May 1 for both Parts One and Two. Conditions apply. Call Customer Care for more information and to register: 1 877 494 WSPS (9777). 

## 7 Ways to Prepare for Ontario's New Noise Regulation

For the first time, all farming operations covered under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* will be required to comply with noise prevention requirements when a new noise regulation takes effect July 1. The regulation adds farming to a list of industry sectors already covered by noise prevention requirements. The new regulation is designed to help workplaces better protect employees from the debilitating effects of noise-induced hearing loss.

When it comes to noise protection, many farming operations tend to rely heavily on personal protective devices such as ear muffs and plugs, says WSPS consultant Steve Zronik. But the new regulation is much more comprehensive. For example, employers are required to

- **reduce noise exposure by applying a**

**“hierarchy of controls.”** These controls are generally considered to include, in descending order, elimination, substitution, engineering controls, administrative controls, and finally personal protective equipment such as hearing protection devices.

- **select the right hearing protection devices in situations where other controls are not appropriate.** Selection must be based on the sound levels workers are exposed to and the devices' ability to attenuate sounds to an acceptable level.
- **provide specific instruction and training to workers wearing a device.** They must include the device's limitations, proper fitting, inspection and maintenance and, if

applicable, cleaning and disinfection.

### Steps to compliance

Before the busy season begins, Zronik advises all farming operations to take steps to comply with the new regulation, even if your operation doesn't fall under the act.

1. Make a list of equipment that produces noise — tractors, forklifts, grain dryers, power tools, lawn mowers, etc.
2. Determine how close workers are to the noise source and roughly for what periods of time.
3. Determine levels of exposure; the maximum allowable limit is 85 decibels over an 8-hour period. Noise levels will vary depending on the equipment and activities performed. For example: idling of lift trucks, reversing, carrying loads,

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noise reflection and reverberation based on proximity to buildings and enclosures, and other equipment (conveying belts) in the area). For this reason, it is best to conduct noise exposure testing using approved calibrated equipment, and a qualified professional.

There are other ways to estimate sound levels, including: noise emission information provided by equipment manufacturers or suppliers; noise measurement data from similar farming activities; published data from recognized sources such as Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture (CCHSA), The Agricultural Health and Safety Network, and National Institute for Safety and Health (NIOSH). Remember a general rule of thumb: if people have to raise their voice to communicate an arm's length away (1m) away, the noise is probably at or above 85 decibels.

4. Start at the top of the hierarchy of controls to see if you can
  - eliminate the noise (have workers work far away from the noise source)
  - substitute (instead of a noisy tractor, use a tractor with an insulated cab and lower noise levels)
  - use engineering controls (e.g., maintenance on older equipment). "Maybe it's a clunky old thing and with a tune-up the noise disappears."

- implement administrative controls (e.g., rotate workers or tasks so that no one is exposed to 85 db over 8 hours)
5. Use personal protective equipment only as a last resort. "Bear in mind that not all hearing protection is created equal," says Zronik. "You want to get the right protection for the various types of noise you are dealing with." Also look for the equipment's noise reduction rating, which indicates how much noise the device blocks.
  6. Train workers on the use of PPE according to the requirements set out in the regulation: the device's limitations, proper fitting, inspection and maintenance and, if applicable, how to clean and disinfect it. A good seal is critical for the protection to work correctly, so read the instructions and convey this information to workers. Find out how the PPE works if you have long hair or a beard. Check that workers are using the equipment properly. "I remember coming across a worker who had drilled holes in his ear muffs for air circulation, so they offered no protection."
  7. Show that you have done your due diligence by keeping records of everything you do, from testing to training.

## HOW WSPS CAN HELP

1. Know what you're dealing with by
  - reading O. Reg. 381: Noise ([www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r15381](http://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r15381))
  - downloading these online resources from [wsp.ca/InformationResources/Downloads](http://wsp.ca/InformationResources/Downloads):
    - Agricultural Safety Topic: Protecting Against Noise
    - Hearing Conservation and Personal Protective Equipment
2. Expand your understanding by
  - taking these one-hour e-courses ([wsp.ca/Shop/Training/e-Courses](http://wsp.ca/Shop/Training/e-Courses)): Preventing Hearing Loss from Workplace Noise • Personal Protective Equipment: The Basics
  - signing up for Noise Control & Hearing Conservation ([wsp.ca/Shop/Training/Training-Schedules/Noise-Control-Hearing-Conservation.aspx](http://wsp.ca/Shop/Training/Training-Schedules/Noise-Control-Hearing-Conservation.aspx)), a half-day onsite course facilitated by a WSPS occupational hygienist
3. Speak with one of our occupational hygienists ([wsp.ca/Consulting/Technical-Consulting#occupational](http://wsp.ca/Consulting/Technical-Consulting#occupational)). We can conduct noise assessments, and work with you to develop and implement noise control strategies.

## Seasonal Resources

Check out these and other complimentary downloads in the "Resources" section on WSPS' website - [wsp.ca](http://wsp.ca):

- Carbon Monoxide in the Workplace
- Cold Weather Exposure, featuring prevention and treatment tips (also available in Spanish)

Also of interest:

- Doing a Circle Check on Your Truck
- How Does Safety Rate On Your Farm? (checklist)
- Ontario FarmSafe Plan, a risk management tool to assist you in keeping your workers and business healthy and safe



### SAFETY MESSAGE: Hand Protection

The most valuable tool of an agricultural worker is his hands. They button a shirt, cut a steak, operate the controls of machinery and perform numerous other feats. Do you protect your most valuable tools? Or do you nick, cut, mash or scrape them? A high percentage of all injuries requiring medical attention involve hands. Wearing the right gloves for the job can reduce these accidents.

## WHERE WE LIVE IS WORTH INVESTING IN.

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