

ACCIDENT ALERT

Deaths of farm youngsters highlight need for greater parent care

Farms can be dangerous places, especially where children and young people are concerned.

The recent deaths of four youngsters highlight the

need for farm parents to ensure greater care is taken.

- A young child, who was playing near a wind-thrown tree being cut up for firewood by the

mother, was crushed by the tree when it was cut from the stump.

- A young child fell off a tractor footplate and was crushed under a rear wheel after the father stopped to clear a blockage and restarted.
- A teenager's relative inexperience on tractors led him to select an unsafe route back to the farm buildings rather than use a formed track. The tractor rolled over, causing fatal injuries.
- A teenage student helping to cut up a fallen tree for firewood was crushed when the unstable log rolled on to him.

Guidelines to keep your children safe

- Do not allow young children near areas where work is being carried out.
- Keep children well away from farm machinery such as tractors and chainsaws when in use.
- Recognise that young people lack the depth of experience of adult workers and don't assign them any potentially hazardous tasks—especially with machinery—unless they are properly supervised.
- If supervising youngsters at work, do not put them at risk or allow them to move into a danger area or potentially hazardous situation.



Children and farm machinery are a dangerous combination. By law, no youngster under 12 may drive a tractor on a farm.