

Agriculture

Scenarios and report examples

Purpose

The purpose of these resources is to support the learning sequences [Agriculture: Incident and accident reports – part 1](#) and [Agriculture: Incident and accident reports – part 2](#).

However, the following resources can be used in a variety of ways.

Content

There are four resources below:

1. Accident scenario 1: Quad bike accident
2. An example accident report for scenario 1
3. Accident scenario 2: Managing bulls
4. Accident scenario 3: Managing cattle

It should be noted that all scenarios are real.

Scenario 1: Quad bike accident

Scenario 1 recounts a quad bike accident that nearly left a man dead. This scenario can be used to write a report using the frame. An example is included on page 3. However, learners may sequence the events in a variety of ways.

IT HAPPENS, JUST LIKE THAT.

In 2001, Bob* was on his quad bike out the back of his hill country property in the Wairarapa mustering cattle for TB testing. He was walking them home along a track when he backed the quad over to the edge of the track to let cattle past. When some animals wandered off the track, Bob got off the quad. He put the handbrake on but left it in gear. What happened next was a series of small incidents which, put together, culminated in near disaster.

When Bob got back on the bike, he put his hands on the handlebars and swung his right leg over. His knee accidentally hit the throttle which sent him over the handlebars. At this time, the rear wheels of the bike were almost over the edge. He got himself back on and immediately slammed on the rear footbrake. This caused a weight displacement which tipped the quad over backwards with Bob underneath. The 300kg bike landed on his chest and bent the handlebars.

Bob, fortunately was able to get out from under the bike. It took him two and a half hours to get home. He ended up being flown by helicopter to Intensive Care in Wellington with heart damage, spinal damage, broken ribs and multiple bruises. He was a week in hospital and several weeks off work. Happily, he's since made pretty much a full recovery.

The accident prompted him to do several things. He's installed a beeper on the quad that tells when the bike is in reverse gear. He always makes sure that the handbrake is on when it's parked. And he's looking at installing roll over protection and putting walkie-talkies to make up for the lack of cell phone coverage. His advice to other farmers; "You get to know where you can go and where you can't go", he says. "If in doubt, back off."

*Names have been changed to protect privacy.

Scenario 1: Accident report example

Components	Report
When	
Who	In 2001 Bob was alone in the back country of the Wairarapa mustering cattle.
Where	
Event 1	Bob got off the bike but left the bike in reverse gear with the handbrake on.
Event 2	As he got back on the bike his knee hit the throttle, sending him over the handlebars. His bike moved backwards down a slope behind him.
Event 3	Bob hit the rear brakes causing the bike to flip on top of him.
Event 4	Bob spent two and a half hours walking home and was immediately taken to hospital. He was found to have broken ribs, spinal and heart damage.
Conclusion	Bob has installed a reverse beeper and uses the handbrake when leaving the bike. Bob is also investigating increasing phone coverage across the farm.

Scenario 2: Managing bulls

AND YOU RECKON IT WON'T HAPPEN TO YOU?

Brian* is a stock truck driver. He was unloading cattle off his truck at the freezing works and was down to the last pen that had two bulls in it. One of the bulls had been agitated when loaded, but seemed to have calmed down. As he opened the door, the bull saw him and charged the door. Squeezing Brian between the door and the wall of the truck. The bull pummelled it again and again, about 20 times. "Pounding the shit out of me," as Brian said. Even when the bull left the truck and somebody came to help, it returned and tried to have another go.

Brian was airlifted to hospital where it was touch and go. He had both lungs punctured, most of his ribs broken off his sternum, part of a rib in one lung, a collarbone broken off his sternum, the hinges of his jaw broken as well as the jaw bone broken in two places, a broken nose, a cracked eye socket, both shoulder joints popped out and considerable nerve and muscle damage.

He was off work for 15 months. For the first few months he couldn't lie down to sleep and ate nothing but soft foods. He still gets horrendous headaches and aches and pains.

Brian had been around cattle most of his life, so he was far from inexperienced with stock. "Perhaps I was too blasé," he says. "If I'd been worried I'd have opened the door a wee way then climbed up on the next floor out of the way." But he hadn't. He was lucky to survive. Today, he's back driving trucks but can't do any heavy lifting work.

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Scenario 3: Managing cattle

IT COULD HAPPEN TO ANYONE.

Rod* did a job that's done thousands of times a day in farms across New Zealand every spring – tagging a calf. But this time it went horribly wrong.

He was bending over to insert the tag in the calf's ear when the cow decided to intervene. It wasn't a full-on charge but it was a hit nevertheless, and the power and angle of it were enough to dislocate Rod's neck between the 5th and 6th vertebrae. Rod knew something pretty serious had happened, but, to make matters worse, the cow came back at him another two times, breaking, as he later discovered, his pelvis. Luckily, the paddock was near the road and a neighbour saw him and called an ambulance. Later that night he was airlifted to Burwood Spinal Unit where the full extent of his injuries became apparent. He had no feeling or movement in his legs, and very little in his arms or from the chest down. He was a quadriplegic and remains so today. It stopped his farming, which was pretty tough for a fourth-generation farmer. It also led to the sale of his farm and the end of his marriage two years after the accident.

Rod now fills his time with a number of part-time jobs. He reflects on the accident. "The reality of farming is that it's more dangerous than a lot of occupations," he says. "You're out among cattle all day; you're riding your four-wheeler; you're using potentially dangerous instruments all the time. Just be aware that an accident can happen."

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