

FORKLIFTS AND TRACTORS - FATALITIES

199. Hon NIGEL HALLETT to the minister representing the Minister for Employment Protection:

I refer to the answer to question 140 of 3 April 2007 about Western Australian tractor and forklift fatalities from 1999 to the present.

- (1) What were causal factors of -
 - (a) tractor fatalities; and
 - (b) forklift fatalities?
- (2) For the same period, what were the fatality numbers for each state and territory for -
 - (a) tractor accidents; and
 - (b) forklift accidents?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1)
 - (a) In 1997, three incidents occurred. First, a fencing contractor was crushed when a tractor rolled over onto him when he was driving down a steep embankment. The tractor was not fitted with rollover protection or lateral restraints. Second, a farm manager was operating a tractor pulling a grass slasher. The hydraulic hose on the tractor ruptured, spraying him with hot oil, causing him to fall in front of the moving slasher. Third, a self-employed farmer died when he was run over by a tractor when he attempted to jump-start the tractor while it was in gear. In 2004, a self-employed farmer died when he was run over by the tractor he was working on.
 - (b) In 1997, two incidents occurred. First, a forklift operator died from head injuries received when the forklift he was driving reversed over the end of a loading dock and fell 1.2 metres. A seatbelt was fitted but was not worn. Second, a labourer died when he was run over by a forklift driven by a 16-year-old fellow employee. Immediately prior to the accident the deceased had been riding on a pallet mounted on the tines of the forklift. In 2000, a training provider received fatal crush injuries when the forklift he was driving rolled over. In 2005, a truck driver died when he fell from the raised tines of a forklift and landed on his head.
- (2) WorkSafe does not collect this information and the relevant information is not readily available.