

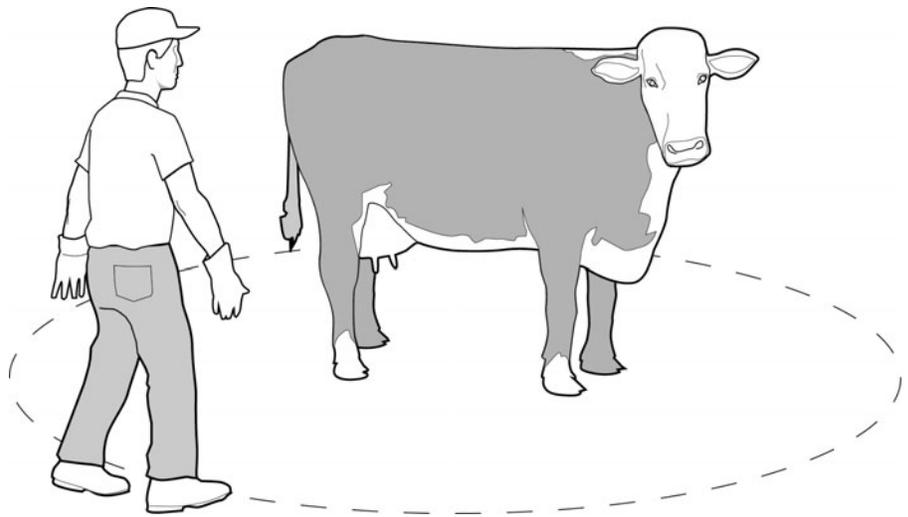
Hazard Alert

Farmhand dies after being charged by cow

A rancher and a farmhand were transferring a cow out of a pen into another, reuniting it with its calf. The cow charged the rancher, and he struck its nose with a stick. The cow stopped but then turned on the farmhand. The farmhand also struck the cow's nose with a stick, and the cow stopped. After the farmhand hit the cow's nose a second time, the cow head-butted him, inflicting serious internal injuries. The farmhand jumped over the fence, but then fell to the ground. He could not be revived.

Safe work practices

- Ensure that workers have a safe means of escape from any enclosure occupied by animals that are potentially dangerous to workers. Set up animal enclosures with a means of escape — such as “slips” (narrow openings big enough for escape), jumping panels, and blinds.
- Ensure that workers who handle animals are effectively instructed and trained, and are competent to perform the assigned work.



Make sure a cow can see you when you step into its flight zone.

Include such topics as the following in the training:

- The behavioural traits of cattle, including when cattle are likely to get agitated, such as during calving or weaning
- When and how to use paddles, prods, and other tools for control, and how cattle may react to their use
- The importance of a handler's body position relative to the animal's flight zone
- How cattle may respond to changing circumstances — for example, being handled by ranchers on foot after being handled only by ranchers on horseback or on small vehicles

Relevant legislation: *Workers Compensation Act*, section 115(2)(e); *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation*, section 28.7. Other sections may also apply to this incident.

For assistance and information on workplace health and safety, call toll-free within B.C. 1.888.621.SAFE (7233) or visit our website at worksafebc.com. To request a copy of the complete investigation report, contact the WorkSafeBC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy office toll-free at 1.866.266.9405.