

There are two industries in New Zealand that share the worst record for Health and Safety; they are farming and forestry. They also share other similarities.

Let's have a look at the employment structure.

Everyone in forestry works for the forest owner, directly or indirectly. Cynically the forest owners absolve themselves from accountability by employing contractors even though they are technically the "principals." They only pay lip service to H and S because they have removed themselves from the accountability stakes. However, the contractors only work for one forest owner and should be treated as employees for H and S and ACC purposes.

Most dairy farmers have a single customer for their milk; Fonterra. Therefore they should be treated as employees for H and S and ACC purposes. Fonterra should be accountable as the principal and take responsibility for their staff (suppliers)

If this were to change and the principals were held accountable, we would see a considerable drop in workplace fatalities in these two industries. This would achieve the target of a drop in workplace fatalities.