

# PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 73

<b>Date:</b> June 2024	<b>Focus Group:</b> Tree Planters and Operation Managers
<b>Topic:</b> Handling Cattle	<b>Issued by:</b> Nic Steens

**Background and Incidents:** During planting operations, a bull entered the area, displaying unpredictable behavior and potential aggression. Workers maintained a safe distance until the bull moved away after lunchtime.

**Injury Details:** No injuries occurred during this incident. However, the presence of aggressive livestock poses significant safety risks in planting and established areas.

**Risk Awareness:** Encounters with unpredictable cattle during establishment on farms can lead to injuries due to sudden movements or aggression. Agitated or isolated cattle are a particular risk. Handling them safely requires skill and practice.

**Safe Behaviours:** To minimise risk, those working in establishment must:

- Stay Vigilant: Remain alert for livestock entering planting areas. Report any fresh signs (droppings, rutting) and sightings immediately.
- Maintain Distance: Keep a safe distance from cattle displaying aggressive behavior. Do not attempt to approach or manage them without proper training.
- Emergency Response: Plan escape routes in advance. Ensure all workers know how to safely exit the area if confronted by aggressive animals. Keep cattle calm.
- Worksafe’s [Cattle Handling Principles](#) provide guidance on the hazards and injury prevention, such as mustering using a tractor instead of on-foot or ATV interactions.
- Report Incidents: Immediately notify supervisors of any encounters with livestock. Identify local ‘cattle handlers’ who can provide prompt assistance if necessary.

**For Site Manager:**

Print and complete the following:

1. Discuss with employees/operators:
2. Place on-site notice board or in file:

**Site Manager:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** / /  
(initials)

