Editorial

In this edition, WorkSafe’s Dermot Moody shares an end of year message with Safety Soapbox readers.

On behalf of the Safety Soapbox team and the Construction Program here at WorkSafe, I would like to wish all those working in and associated with the construction industry a safe, happy and restful time over the Christmas holiday season.

For many, a good break away from the demands of work, either at this time or at other times during the year relieves the fatigue and stress associated with working in the construction industry. Quality time with family and friends is essential to keep us refreshed and to improve our families’ quality of life.

Unfortunately, there are a number of families who have lost a loved one at work this year and our thoughts go out to them at this time.

Over the holiday period I urge you all to remain focused on your own and your family’s safety when traveling on the road or when in high risk bush fire areas and when in or near water.

Finally, thank you to all the subscribers and readers who contribute directly to Safety Soapbox and to those who promoted its messages within and beyond their workplaces. We continue to welcome your contributions and are keen to promote safety solutions you have developed for your workplaces.

The Safety Soapbox team is also taking a well-earned break during January. Safety Soapbox will return in early February.

Regards,
Dermot Moody
Manager, Construction Program
Guilty over van explosion
A Melbourne refrigeration company has pleaded guilty over the
death of an employee in an explosion caused by a leaking gas
cylinder.
Read more

Current prosecutions - updated
WorkSafe has updated its list of prosecutions currently before the
courts.
Read more

Prosecution summaries - updated
WorkSafe has updated its list of prosecution summaries and
includes those associated with a precast panel collapse, workers
falling through an awning and a worker injuring an apprentice.
Read more

Protect workers from extreme heat
With temperature starting to climb, WorkSafe Victoria is urging all
employers to protect Victorian workers from the risks of extreme
heat.
Read more

Media Release: Builders urged to secure construction sites
WorkSafe Victoria has issued a media release urging builders to
secure construction sites during the Christmas break.
Read more

Jobs at Home Day
The Jobs at Home Day team are thrilled to report that we received
close to 10,000 Jobs at Home badge orders and almost 500
businesses participated in Jobs at Home Day!
To see the prize winners and all the great photos and job titles
check out jobsathomeday.com.au. Thanks to all who got involved!

Western Australia

Two mine death convictions
A Perth company has been convicted over the Christmas Eve death
of a vehicle services worker at a mine in the Pilbara.

In another case, a mining equipment company has been convicted
over the death of a labour hire boilermaker in its metal fabrication
workshop.
Read more

Mine significant incident reports
The Department of Mines and Petroleum has released four
significant incident reports.

Underground operator collapses underground - fatal accident
Read more
Falling rock damages tele-handler leading to serious injuries
Read more

Isolation issues with rail-mounted stackers
Read more

Worker seriously injured by hot caustic solution while cleaning an inline
Read more

Queensland

Worker injured at mine
A man is recovering in hospital following a workplace incident at a central Queensland mine where his hand was crushed by a hydraulic ladder, while working on mining equipment at a workshop.
Read more

New South Wales

Convicted over crane rollover
A NSW construction company and one of its project managers have been convicted and fined following an incident where a crane rolled over while erecting structural steel as part of the construction of a hall at a school.
Read more

Scaffold collapse at hospital
Scaffolding collapsed onto the roof of the Lismore Base Hospital maternity ward during a storm.
Read more

Safety Bulletin - Analysis aims to reduce injuries while travelling underground
The Department of Energy and Resources has conducted an analysis of injuries sustained by personnel travelling in rubber tyred vehicles in underground coal mines in NSW.
Read more

Information release - Open cut high wall failure adjacent to a public road
The Department of Energy and Resources has released information about and incident at an open cut mine, where a section of the high wall adjacent to a public road failed.
Read more
Safety Alert - Sudden burst of truck tyre
The Department of Energy and Resources has issued a safety alert after an incident where the driver’s off-side (position two) tyre of a haul truck suddenly failed and burst. Pressurised air was blast into the immediate vicinity where workers were intending to check oil levels on the truck.

Read more

Safety Alert - Workers hurt when pressurised fluid escapes
While carrying out weekend maintenance activities on an excavator in October, three workers were exposed to a high pressure fluid release ending in two people being taken to hospital by ambulance.

Read more

National

Safety Recalls
The following products have been recalled:

SKL Cables Australia—Flat Cable 2C+E TPS
The cables fail the required ageing tests of AS/NZS 5000.2. The insulation could become prematurely brittle with age.

Read more

Beaver Brands Pty Ltd—Chain Block described as ‘Lift-All V series Chain Block C/W Overload Protection’
The retaining spring could dislodge causing some ball bearings to fall out of the chain block. As a consequence, the top hook block could separate from the chain block causing the chain block to fall.

Read more

Fisher & Paykel Appliances Pty Ltd—Electric Ceramic Glass Cooktops
Accessible parts may not be effectively earthed.

Read more

World

NZ: Electric shock injury
A Dunedin man is in a serious condition in hospital after striking an underground cable.

Read more

NZ: Convicted over crane death
An Auckland construction company has been ordered to pay $116,000 for not doing enough to protect an employee who died on the job.
NZ: Fine for roof fall
An Auckland company has been fined $50,000 and ordered to pay reparation of $10,000 after one of its workers fell from a roof he was working on that did not have fall protection in place.

Important information:
1. WorkSafe Victoria collects personal information to enable us to perform our functions. For more information about the use, access and disclosure of this information, refer to our privacy policy at our website worksafe.vic.gov.au.
2. Safety Soapbox includes material from a variety of other sources.
3. Material from other organisations is provided in good faith as representing the views and policies of those organisations. It does not necessarily reflect the views or policy of WorkSafe Victoria.
4. Please consider the environment before printing.

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