Editorial

In this edition, Tony Cockerell, WorkSafe Senior Construction Advisor talks about his experiences with the most basic welfare facilities.

While hazards and risks can vary significantly between housing, commercial and civil construction sites, there is one thing they all have in common - and that is the need for basic hygiene and welfare facilities.

Importantly, that includes toilets.

In my many years as a construction inspector, I have looked into more site toilets than I care to think about. I have seen the good, the bad and the absolute disgusting.

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Victoria

Worker dies in fall
We regret to announce the death of a worker on Monday February 15, after falling down a shaft on a multi-storey apartment construction site in Melbourne. WorkSafe is investigating.

Read more

Attention Safety Professionals
Did you know the WorkSafe Construction Program has a forum for safety professionals working in or servicing the construction and utilities industries?

The Construction Program is looking for Victorian safety professionals who are prepared to commit to attending and participating in this interactive forum.

Read more
discussions, raise safety issues and provide the Construction Program with insights on the issues confronting frontline safety people.

Forums include being briefed by WorkSafe on:

- Current and future compliance focuses
- New and proposed guidance
- Construction safety initiatives
- Regulations and Code reviews.

Often the forum will include external presentations, such as from other Government Authorities (e.g. VBA, ESV, EPA), and on new construction safety innovations.

This forum is normally held three times a year at the WorkSafe head office at Exhibition Street Melbourne.

If you are interested and are prepared to commit to regularly attending the forum, please email anthony_cockerell@worksafe.vic.gov.au with your name, safety position, preferred email address and contact phone number.

WorkSafe Inspector recruitment - closing

Applications for the WorkSafe inspector positions, currently advertised, need to be in by 5pm, Friday 19th February 2016.

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Wall collapse sentence a reminder to keep public safe

WorkSafe has issued a media release following the County Court convicting and fining a Melbourne sign writing company $250,000 over its role in the collapse of a wall in Swanston Street in 2013 that killed three pedestrians.

Read more

Current prosecutions - updated

WorkSafe has updated its list of prosecutions that were before the courts from 1 – 11 February 2016.

Read more

Prosecution summaries - updated

WorkSafe has updated its list of prosecution summaries and includes a number of construction prosecutions.

Read more

Western Australia

Working in extreme temperature

WorkSafe WA has issued a warning on guarding against the effects of extreme temperatures in work environments during the current heatwave and for the remainder of summer.

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Significant Incident Report

The Department of Mines and Petroleum has released a Significant Incident Report relating to the failure of a crane head sheave.
Wall chasing work needs adequate controls
WorkSafe has issued a reminder about the serious health hazards associated with wall chasing work and urged that the work only be performed in accordance with workplace safety and health laws.

Queensland

Angle grinder death
A man has died after an angle grinder hit him in the chest in an incident in southeast Queensland.

Worker crushed by granite slab
A 750kg slab of granite fell on two workers at a Gold Coast workplace. A 25 year old man is in a critical condition with compound fractures to both ankles and a broken femur and pelvis.

Worker shot in chest with nail
An 18 year old man is in hospital in a serious condition after being shot in the chest with a nail from a nail gun on a worksite north of Brisbane.

Safety film targeting young workers
A new safety film targeting young workers and their employers was recently released in a bid to focus attention on preventing young worker deaths and injuries on construction sites.

Safety Alert – high pressure water jet injection injury
Queensland’s Department of Natural Resources and Mines has issued a Safety Alert after an incident in which a worker conducting a pre-start check on a truck-mounted high pressure (28,000 psi) water jet blaster sustained a lower abdominal injury when the water jet blaster hose ruptured.

New South Wales

SafeWork NSW – fall from heights
SafeWork NSW is urging businesses and workers across the state to take extreme care after two workers were killed and eight others
were seriously injured in falls from heights since the beginning of the year.

Read more

Safety Alert - worker seriously injured when pipe assembly failed pressure test
NSW Department of Industry - Resources and Energy has issued a Safety Alert after a worker was seriously injured when struck by a pipe blanking cap while performing a pressure test on a length of plastic pipe. The crimped connection between the ferrule and pipe failed.

Read more

Incident summary
The Department of Industry – Resources and Energy has released weekly mine incident summaries.

10 February summary

Read more

3 February summary

Read more

Northern Territory

Fatal communications tower fall
A 43 year old worker has died after an accident while working in Adelaide River, Northern Territory police say. It is possible the man fell from a communications tower.

Read more

South Australia

Convicted for illegally dumping construction waste
The sole director of an earthmoving company has been convicted and given a suspended sentence and fined more than $40,000 for illegally dumping construction waste over a two year period.

Read more

National

Product safety recalls - Bosch Australia, Orbital Sander PSS Series
What are the defects?
A defect of the ventilation wheel could cause a break of the device housing.

What are the hazards?
If the housing is broken then smaller parts of the ventilation wheel could be ejected, and the risk of injury cannot be excluded. There is the possibility of electric shock if live components were exposed from broken housing, although there have been no reported incidents of this.

Read more

World

Prison sentence for construction project manager
For the first time in Ontario Canada, a construction project manager has been sentenced to serve time in prison for criminal negligence.

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£1m fine for loader crane fatality
A civil engineering company has been fined £1m after a worker was killed by a crane while repairing a central reservation barrier.

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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.