Editorial

In this issue Dermot Moody, WorkSafe’s Construction Manager writes about the tragic first week in the construction industry’s high risk period in the run up to the festive season.

Unfortunately, the Victoria construction industry has had a dreadful start in the run up to the festive season.

After a fatality free period since early March, the past week has seen four construction workers die, including three on the same day, along with a number of others hospitalised with life threatening injuries.

Statistics reveal that November and December are the most dangerous months for fatalities. There is pressure to complete projects by the end of the year and many fatalities involve experienced workers doing routine tasks.

These recent fatalities underline the need for employers, employees and contractors to remain vigilant to workplace risks and to take the time to step back and consider what they are doing and ensure they are doing it as safely as possible.

Every workplace injury or fatality is one too many. I urge the construction industry to re-focus on safety for the next six weeks so that we ensure all construction workers get home safely to their families and loved ones for the festive period.

Victoria

Two workers die in separate workplace incidents

A worker, aged 25, died last week while performing maintenance on an air conditioner on a factory roof at Braeside, in Victoria’s south-east. He died at the scene.

In a separate incident a worker aged 29, died when a piece of equipment from a fork-lift fell on him at Keysborough, also in
Victoria’s south-east. He died at the scene. WorkSafe is investigating both incidents.

Find out more

**Worker dies in trench explosion**
A worker has died in an explosion in a trench at Harkaway in Melbourne’s south east, WorkSafe is investigating.

Read more

**WorkSafe news article**

**Man electrocuted at Geelong**
A man has died after being electrocuted while working on a private property near Geelong. WorkSafe is investigating.

Read more

**WorkSafe News article**

**Out of control truck crashes into workers**
Three workers have suffered serious injuries when an out-of-control truck crashed into a construction site in Melbourne’s east.

Read more

**Prosecution Result Summaries and Enforceable Undertakings**
WorkSafe has updated the prosecution summaries on the WorkSafe website. These summaries include the prosecution of a construction company over allowing plant to be operated without the required high risk work licence.

Read more

**WorkSafe Prosecutions**
WorkSafe has updated the list of its prosecutions scheduled for court, for the fortnight commencing 2 November 2015.

Read more

**Review of Victoria’s OHS Regulations**
As you may know, the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007 (OHS Regulations) will expire in June 2017. WorkSafe Victoria is required to review and remake the Regulations by this date.

Work practices have changed significantly over the last few years, so remaking the Regulations gives us the opportunity to have a good look at how they are working and make any necessary changes.

A comprehensive review of the regulations is currently being undertaken in the lead up to replacement of the OHS Regulations.

As part of this review, Deloitte Access Economics (Deloitte) has been engaged by the Victorian Government to develop a Regulatory Impact Statement to estimate the current impact of the OHS Regulations and the extent of any associated health and safety benefits or time and cost savings resulting from any potential changes to the regulations for businesses in Victoria.

To do this, Deloitte is seeking your participation to take part in a survey to find out about the impacts of any potential changes to the OHS Regulations (including costs and compliance). Your participation in the survey will help to ensure that the
information collected and provided to the Victorian Government provides a realistic assessment of the impacts of potential changes to the OHS Regulations, if adopted.

Access the survey here

Find out more about the OHS Regulations Reform Project

WorkSafe Awards – Health and Safety Invention of the Year
The WorkSafe Construction Program would like to congratulate Whelans Group Investments on winning the WorkSafe Awards Health and Safety Invention of the Year.

About Whelans
Whelans Group Investments is a company that specialises in Earthmoving, Road Construction, Road Maintenance and Quarries. Whelans run 15 tip trucks with super dog, quad dog trailers and one 5 axle trailer. The truck trailer combinations are used to transport rock of various sizes, sand and asphalt to various locations throughout Victoria and interstate.

Whelans have developed a quad dog trailer that eliminates the need for the trailer to be elevated to unload material.

Health and Safety Invention
The EJECTA trailer is a quad dog design steel body with a patented specialised unloading system that allows for the cartage of large rock and down to small size aggregate road making material and sand. It can be used on undulating surfaces, below overhead power lines and in tunnels.

The invention eliminates falls from heights as there no need for the driver to climb up the wall of the trailer into the body. The invention also eliminates the need for the driver to break up sticky or damp product in the trailer body.

To find out how this solution eliminates other OHS issues, please visit worksafeawards.worksafe.vic.gov.au

Congratulations to all the WorkSafe finalists on their fantastic achievements across health and safety and return to work.

For more information on the WorkSafe Victoria Awards, please visit worksafeawards.worksafe.vic.gov.au

Jobs at Home Day is here!
The highly anticipated WorkSafe Victoria Jobs at Home Day campaign is back for another bumper year!

From now until Friday 4 December – the official Jobs at Home Day; Victorians are encouraged to recognise the importance of safety at work by celebrating the jobs we do at home. Whether it’s Chief Dog Walker or Head Chef, these are the important jobs that suffer the most when we get injured at work.

Anyone can participate in Jobs at Home Day by visiting jobsathomeday.com.au and ordering a personalised badge describing their unique or special job at home. Each person who orders or receives a badge will be in the running to win a $5,000 Flight Centre voucher.

Update
The next edition of Safety Soapbox is Thursday 3 December 2015.
Western Australia

**Worker burned while refuelling chainsaw**
This media report highlights an incident where a tree lopper suffered significant burns to his arms and legs after the chainsaw he was refuelling exploded. This highlights similar risks on construction sites when refuelling equipment.

Read more

**Falsified High Risk Work Licences**
WorkSafe WA has issued a warning to check High Risk Work Licences after it received notification of a man using a falsified licence.

Read more

**Mine deaths increase**
An influx of inexperienced mine workers is partly to blame for increased workplace fatalities in the West Australian resources industry, according to a State Government mine safety inspector.

Read more

**Scaffolder fined $2,000 after work fall**
A Perth scaffolder has been fined $2000 (and ordered to pay $549 in costs) after a scaffold he erected collapsed and a worker fell and was injured.

Read more

**Truck inspection**
A mining company is undertaking an inspection of its truck fleet, looking for oil leaks following fire incidents.

Read more

Queensland

**Safety Alert - Exploding batteries**
The Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines has released a Safety Alert after 37 incidents of exploding lead acid batteries at coal mines, metalliferous mines, and quarries have been reported to the Mines Inspectorate over the last 11 years.

Read more

**Preventing dust-related lung diseases**
Three cases of dust-related lung disease in underground coal mine workers have been reported in Queensland this year.

Read more

**Death due to carbon monoxide**
An investigation has revealed that the death of a worker of a Mount Isa steel and construction company was due to carbon monoxide poisoning by breathing in air from a faulty compressor attached to
New South Wales

**Engineering firm convicted**
A St Mary's engineering company has been fined $150,000 after a boilermaker lost part of his foot when a steel beam weighing more than half a tonne fell on him.

[Read more]

National

**New guidance – diesel exhaust**
Safe Work Australia has released a guide about diesel exhaust exposure to help workplaces manage the risks of exposure to diesel exhaust.

[Read more]

World

**NZ: Mining operations suspended following death**
A NZ company has suspended operations while WorkSafe NZ and police investigate an incident where a worker was fatally injured.

[Read more]
Important information:

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