Editorial

Information about incident notification

In this editorial, Steve Darnley from the WorkSafe Victoria construction team writes about the incident notification requirements in Victoria. The Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (OHS Act) requires notification to WorkSafe regarding serious workplace incidents.

The duty to notify applies to:

- an employer who has management and control of the workplace, or
- a self-employed person who has management and control of the workplace.

The OHS Act requires an employer or a self-employed person to immediately notify WorkSafe after becoming aware of an incident at their workplace.

Notifiable incidents include:

- the death of a person
- a person requiring treatment by a medical practitioner within 48 hours of exposure to a substance
- a person requiring immediate medical treatment as an in-patient in a hospital
- a person requiring immediate medical treatment for a serious injury (e.g. amputation or serious laceration)
- various incidents where a person was exposed to an immediate risk, such as:
  - collapse or failure of an excavation
  - implosion, explosion or fire
  - collapse or partial collapse of a building or structure.
**Victoria**

**Excavation wall collapse**
The vertical wall of a 15 metre-deep site excavation collapsed into a Mount Waverly construction site. Fortunately, there was no one onsite at the time of the incident. However, the collapse has put adjacent townhouses at risk as the collapse has started to undermine the foundations. WorkSafe and the Victorian Building Authority are investigating the incident.

Read more

**Western Australia**

**Improvement notices for WA mine**
The Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) has issued improvement notices to a WA mine for breaches of the Mines Safety and Inspection Act.

Read more

**Electric shock in roof space**
A worker received an electric shock, whilst working in the roof space of a nursing home in Perth. An EnergySafety inspector will investigate the incident.

Read more

**Northern Territory**

**Safety Alert**
WorkSafe NT has issued a Safety Alert after a Polycom conference phone caught fire in a Darwin Building.

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**South Australia**

**Lift emergency phone issues**
Safe Work SA has released information about emergency phones in lifts during the transition from copper wiring to NBN. The statement highlights that there may be a period where neither system are available. For the interim, 3G and 4G systems are being used.

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Queensland

House collapse injures man
A man has been injured after part of a house he was moving collapsed on him in a Brisbane suburb.

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ACT

ACT sites most dangerous in Australia
A Safe Work Australia report has highlighted that ACT construction sites are the most dangerous in Australia. The report revealed there were 29 serious injury claims per 1000 workers in the territory during 2012-13, compared with just 12.9 in Victoria.

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National

Recalls
The ACCC has released the following information around product recalls.

Hazard: Potential for electric shock
Product: Atom Lighting Pty Ltd—Atom 200VA Trailing Edge LED Dimmer

Read more

Hazard: Potential for electric shock
Product: Fuzion Lighting—Floodlight 50w LED

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World

Anchor bolts fail in fatal collapse
A company has been sentenced for contravening safety requirements, after a worker was crushed to death when a 1.6 tonne stair frame fell during the construction of stairs.

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Company fined – employee shot with nail gun
A Christchurch building company has been ordered to pay more than $66,000, after an employee was seriously injured when a nail shot from a nail gun. The nail punctured his lung and narrowly
missed his heart.

Contractor died in “death trap”
A contractor who died on a “death trap” construction site suffered burns on his arm and toes consistent with an electrocution, a court has heard. The worker collapsed while installing netting on a metal-framed barn in 2011.