Editorial

New WorkSafe Victoria inspectors

Twenty new inspectors have joined WorkSafe after graduating from an intensive training and coaching program.

Minister for Finance, Robin Scott, and WorkSafe Acting Chief Executive, Clare Amies, presented each graduate with a certificate of appointment and their inspector badge at a ceremony attended by work colleagues, friends and family.

The new inspectors will take up roles within health and safety and return to work inspectorates, and will be based at WorkSafe offices in Melbourne and regional Victoria.

Another inspector intake will be conducted in the coming months, further boosting WorkSafe’s ability to regulate workplace safety and support injured workers returning to safe and productive work. A further two inspector intakes are planned for 2016.

Congratulations to all the new inspectors!

View the full media release

Victoria

Subcontractor guilty over part in wall collapse

A magistrate has found a sign installer guilty for his role in the collapse of a brick wall in Melbourne that killed three people, and issued him with a $7,500 fine. WorkSafe gave evidence it took the watchdog 18 months to unpick who was in control at the site.

Read more

Companies to spend $570,000 on industry education

Two companies working in the construction sector have each entered into an enforceable undertaking to spend a total of $570,000 on industry-wide education material and training
Demolition of Australia’s tallest structure
Gippsland’s 430 metre tall Omega communications tower has been demolished. The defence facility was used for submarine navigation in the 1980s and 90s and was decommissioned in 2008. The Department of Defence decided to demolish the tower after a young base jumper died last year when his parachute failed to open.

Don’t miss out - WorkSafe Awards 2015
Entries for the 2015 WorkSafe Awards are now open! Workplaces and businesses are encouraged to nominate individuals who are committed to health and safety and return to work in their workplaces. Be quick, entries close 26 June!


New South Wales

Trapped worker rescued
A worker was rescued after becoming trapped when a wall collapsed on him at a fire station undergoing refurbishment. WorkCover NSW is investigating the incident.

Diver almost drowns in training exercise
WorkCover NSW is conducting an investigation into an incident where a diver participating in underwater tradesman training nearly drowned at a property west of Albury.

Worker operating without a harness, checking phone on the job
A worker operating without a harness on the roof of a Sydney building was lowering numerous sheets of corrugated iron down to a colleague – all while checking his phone.

Worker exposed to live electrical wires
Two electricians were conducting commissioning work in a switchroom, when one of the electricians mistakenly tested a live circuit, resulting in a flash over. This is the second electrical incident in a year at the Barangaroo site.

Bridge collapse
A mobile crane crashed into a creek after the wooden bridge it was crossing couldn’t handle the weight of the vehicle.

Worker dies on civil site
Police and WorkCover NSW are investigating the death of a worker, who was crushed by earthmoving equipment at a construction site in Sydney’s south-west.

Read more

**Safety Alert**
WorkCover NSW has issued a Safety Alert, highlighting the potential risks of a scaffold collapsing and provides information about preventing it from happening.

Read more

**Western Australia**

**Worker dies at Pilbara copper mine**
A man has died at a copper mine in the Pilbara region. Department inspectors are investigating the site and police have also confirmed they are investigating and will prepare a report for the coroner.

Read more

**Queensland**

**Man crushed by skid-steer loader**
A 25 year old has died when he was crushed by a skid-steer loader he was working on in a backyard at Toogoolawah. Police said the man was crushed between the bucket and the body of the skid-steer loader. Workplace Health and Safety QLD is investigating.

Read more

**Dealing with emergencies onsite**
The following article highlights the importance for builders and contractors to consider how they are going to handle onsite emergencies to ensure that an injured or ill worker will receive prompt medical attention and rescue.

Read more

**ACT**

**Canberra contractor pleads guilty to death**
A Canberra construction company has pleaded guilty to a work safety charge over the death of an employee struck by a heavy grader.

Read more
South Australia

Last chance to convert Certificates of Competency
SafeWork SA has issued a media release urging workers to convert any Certificates of Competency or old style tickets issued between January 2005 and September 2010 to the national high risk work licence before the deadline of 1 September 2015.

National

People at Work
Did you know there's a free tool to help you assess and manage mental health risk factors in your workplace?

Respirators recalled
The ACCC has issued a product safety recall relating to respirators.

NZ

Increase in unsafe work practices in Christchurch
WorkSafe New Zealand has doubled its number of Christchurch inspectors, leading to a 3,000 per cent increase in notices issued for unsafe work practices.

Linesman injured by live transformer
A linesman was injured after being flung from a live transformer in Auckland.

World

Crane fault likely cause of worker's death
The death of a worker who fell 19 storeys after being hit by a towers crane load could have been due to a fault in the crane's design, a Ministry of Manpower (MOM) investigation has revealed.
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.

This email was sent by WorkSafe Victoria,
222 Exhibition Street, Melbourne 3000, Australia.