Editorial

In this issue, WorkSafe’s newly appointed Construction Manager Dermot Moody highlights the high-risk period in the run up to the festive season and the need for people working in the construction industry to be extra vigilant.

The Melbourne Cup public holiday traditionally marks the commencement of a high risk period for the construction industry in Victoria.

With only seven weeks until the festive season, builders, sub-contractors and workers will be under pressure get jobs completed prior to the holiday break.

As a WorkSafe inspector, I attended numerous construction sites in this period where workers had been killed or injured as a result of largely preventable workplace accidents.

While there are always a number of factors that contribute to any incident occurring, in my experience a common factor in many of these incidents was rushing to get the job done.

The pressure to get the work finished all too often results in short cuts with safety being taken and duty-holders losing sight of some of the fundamentals of a safe construction workplace.

Read more

Victoria

WorkSafe Ballarat office has moved

The WorkSafe Ballarat office has moved to the Central Square Shopping Centre. The new office can be found at Office 1, Level 2 Central Square, 18 Armstrong Street, South Ballarat.

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

From Monday 16 November – 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.

From Monday 16 November, you can show your support for workplace safety by ordering a free, personalised badge with your job at home for yourself (or someone special) at jobsathomeday.com.au.

Jobs at Home will launch on Monday 16 November at jobsathomeday.com.au - so watch this space!

Western Australia

Mine Safety Bulletins
WA Department of Mines and Petroleum has issued two new mine Safety Bulletins and two new Significant Incident Reports. To access this new information please refer to the Safety Bulletins on the Safety Regulation System as provided below, and use the ‘search’ function.

Read more

Queensland

Water tank collapses at Sunshine Coast University Hospital site
A water tank has collapsed at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital site, washing a car off the road and causing traffic nightmares.

Read more

Safety Alert: Explosives truck rollover
The Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines has released a Safety Alert after a mobile mixing unit explosives truck rolled over.

Read more

New South Wales

Safety Alert: Dangers involved in cutting conduit
WorkCover NSW has issued a Safety Alert to remind workers of the dangers involved in cutting conduits that contain or are located near
electrical circuits.

Read more

Safety Alert: Hazards associated with drilling rigs
WorkCover NSW has issued a Safety Alert to highlight the hazards associated with drilling rigs and the action required to manage these hazards.

Read more

For information on Victoria’s requirements see the 2005 Safety Alert: Drill Rig Operator Injured by Unguarded Auger.

Read more

NSW Mining design guidelines
NSW Mine Safety has updated and re-published three mining design guidelines. The guidance material has been updated to incorporate recent legislative changes and to ensure it reflects current best practice. Updated guidelines can be accessed by clicking on the link below.

Read more

ACT

Truck carrying excavator smashed into tunnel roof
A truck carrying an excavator has smashed into a tunnel, causing part of the roof to collapse on Canberra's Parkes Way.

Read more

NT

Old ammunition dug up
What is believed to be an old explosive ordnance store area and dumping pit has been uncovered at a construction site in the Northern Territory.

Read more

National

Construction deaths
Statistics from Safe Work Australia show 10 construction workers have been fatally injured while at work since the beginning of this year. Over the last 10 years the construction industry has featured among industries with the highest number of workplace deaths in Australia.
Information on neutral start controls
Plant Assessor has released an article focussing on the hazards associated with uncontrolled movement of plant or vehicles, and the importance of neutral start controls. Where there is a risk of uncontrolled movement at start up, a Plant Assessor inspection requires assessors to determine whether a neutral start control is in place.

World

NZ: Tradies speak out against 'cowboys'
House painters in the Bay of Plenty are competing against law breaking "cowboys" who often shave thousands of dollars off quotes by not following safety regulations, industry leaders say.

NZ: Findings - Collapse of suspended sculpture
WorkSafe NZ has released its findings into the collapse of a suspended one-tonne eagle installation that fell down onto a food court in a 2014 earthquake.

NZ: Charges over roadworks death
Two companies and one of their employees have been charged in relation to the death of a female motorcyclist who was reversed over by a truck at road works.