

Talk It and Walk It

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SOS – Switched Onto Safety

July 2019

Winter Newsletter

What Have We Been Doing?

The last three months seemed to have whizzed by, can't believe we are into the second half of the year already.

We have been working hard with some of our regular clients, assisting them with bringing their own systems up to date in relation to the soon to arrive WHS and the new ISO / AS/NZS 45001 standard.

SOS has also taken on a variety of new clients, assisting them with meeting WorkSafe Plan certificate requirements, specialist advice and Environmental Auditing.

We have continued with our SOS video's. If you haven't already seen them, check it out on our social media pages – Let us know what you think and even send through some ideas of what we could put in our videos.

SOS were excited to be supporting Chemwatch by being involved in the AUSA – Australasian University Safety Association Conference, held here in Perth on the 25th, 26th and 27th June 2019. Chemwatch were proudly a Major Sponsor and Mobile App sponsor. It was great to see so many of our university clients in attendance.

We continue to have a high focus this year on increasing the number of Heart Safe environments across Australia with our Mindray Defibrillators. As you know, we here at SOS, are passionate about saving lives.

Current Topics of Interest

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (3R's)

There are several habits that we can do to help minimise the amount of waste we produce going to landfill, as the effects of that waste on the environment is building. It is just a matter of remembering the reduce, reuse, and recycle (3Rs). Changing our habits with regards to waste, no matter how small or insignificant, can make a big difference. The state government is currently running a campaign to encourage residents and businesses in Western Australia to recycle, reduce their rubbish and buy more recycled products.

<https://recycleright.wa.gov.au/>

The Waste Authority of Western Australia also conducts an annual review of all waste and recycling activity in the state, to check out the current report see:

<http://www.wasteauthority.wa.gov.au/programs/data/recycling-activity-review/>



Spill Management

How is your chemical management preparedness?

Each Australian state and territory has legislation, regulations as well as Australian Standards and Codes of Practice that state the requirements that any organisation

conducting an activity where the risk of a spill **must** have enough and appropriate spill control and response equipment in place.

If you work in an industry/organisation that regularly uses chemicals (hazardous or not) oils, fuels and other hydrocarbons you **must** be prepared. Especially if one of those materials spill or leak. A spill kit is the equipment used to contain, control and clean up any leak or spill of hydrocarbons or hazardous chemicals no matter how big or small.

Contact us if you are not sure of your requirements?



Our Team



Megan LeNoir – Business Manager

Guy LeNoir – Company Director / Principal

Stuart Platt – OSHQE Consultant/Auditor/Trainer

Peter Liron – Senior Consultant/Auditor

Find us on



Advice – Tips and Hints

To ensure that you don't become an afterthought, make safety your first thought with these few workplace safety tips:

- Understand the risks of the organization
- Conduct workplace inspections (in all areas)
- Reduce workplace stress (where possible)
- Take regular breaks
- Avoid stooping or twisting
- Use mechanical aids whenever possible
- Protect your back
- Wear protective equipment to suit the task
- Don't consume alcohol before or during work
- Be mindful of any medication you take which could affect you.
- Talk over any concerns (consultation).
- Understand your duty of care.
- Make sure all plant and equipment are 'fit for purpose'

We like these tips! But this is really only the 'tip' of the iceberg, so to speak.

Remember, Safety is a team effort.

Educate everyone in the workplace about the safety requirements and consider posting a list of workplace safety tips.

If you have ideas / tips of your own, feel free to drop us a line and suggest a topic. We love input from our readers.



Statistics

Current Health and safety statistics For Australia June 2019

\$61.8 billion: The cost of work-related injury and disease to the Australian economy.

64 killed: The preliminary number of Australians killed at work in 2019 to date.

\$480 million: The total amount of workers' compensation paid each year for work-related mental disorders.

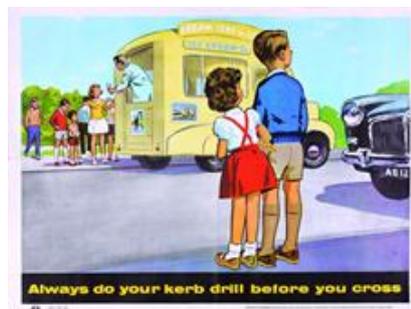
100,000+ serious injury claims lodged in each year

How prepared is your organisation to prevent an injury or fatality?

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/>

Safety is quite often viewed as an 'add on' to an activity rather than as a part of the activity. It is as important if not more important that all levels within an organisation truly understand the meaning of this. When cutting back on costs, Safety is one of the first areas that is affected, yet in the long run rather than saving a company money it can cost a company more!

Throwback History



We need to start 'Risk management' practice young!

Environmental Spot

WA Greenhouse gas assessment guidance consultation open

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) is calling for input from the community and industry on how it should consider greenhouse gas emissions when assessing significant proposals in Western Australia. This consultation will help ensure the EPA is well informed by industry and the community's views on how it should consider greenhouse gas emissions in its assessments. Have your say at:

<https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/>

Note: Behind Global warming and climate change (which are names for the increase in greenhouse gases in our atmosphere). Greenhouse gas is any gaseous compound in the atmosphere that is capable of absorbing infrared radiation and which traps and holds in heat in our atmosphere. Thus, greenhouse gases can be seen as responsible for the 'greenhouse effect' which ultimately leads to global warming. While some argue that global warming is a natural process and that there have always been greenhouse gases, the amount of gases in the atmosphere has skyrocketed in recent history

<https://www.livescience.com/37821-greenhouse-gases.html>

Lessons Learned.

WorkSafe WA to lay charges to four parties over teenage construction worker death (Knowledge Sharing)

17-year-old Wesley Ballantine died after he fell through a void in the roof of an internal atrium at the old



GPO building (refurbishment) in Forrest Place back in 2017. All workers are owed a 'duty or care' especially the young.

If you have any young (inexperienced) workers in your team/s you need to ensure exact protection is in place i.e. supervision, training and resources. Leadership is crucial

Young workers (aged from 15 – 24 years) make up a substantial proportion of the workforce. They can bring energy, new ideas and a fresh perspective. However, young workers are also at risk of workplace injury due to their lack of experience and maturity and they may be less aware of OSH / WHS risks and responsibilities

They may also be:

- Developing their skills, competencies and physical capabilities
- Unfamiliar with appropriate workplace behaviours
- Reluctant to make requests, ask questions or speak out about problems
- Overly keen to please and make a good impression, and
- Over-confident in their capabilities.

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/young-workers>

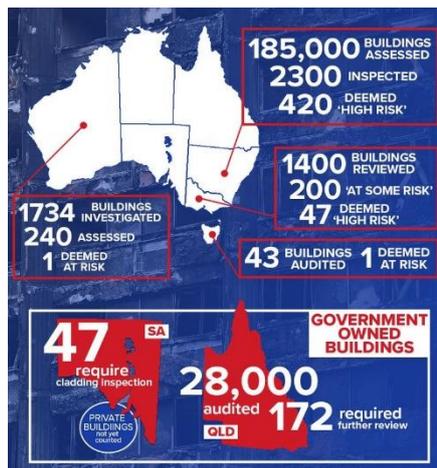
Quality

Cladding crisis continues

The cladding crisis has escalated with one state government building industry in danger of grinding to a halt because building surveyors can no longer get professional indemnity insurance. "It's a disaster," said Jonathan Barnett, national chair of the Society of Fire Safety Engineers Australia. This could tentatively transpire into other states and territories. Thousands of residents and business owners could face unavoidable multi-million-dollar bills for dangerous cladding

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-25/flammable-cladding-website-suggests-how-government-will-respond/11244182>

In WA the Government has stated that any cost linked to rectification of a building are the owner's responsibility unless the building was constructed within the past six years.



This is what a lack of decent quality control can have on a product.



Safety and Health

Worksafe WA Inspection program in machinery repairs uncovers safety concerns

An inspection program recently undertaken by WorkSafe WA which looked into safety regarding machinery and equipment repair workshops has uncovered concerns with hazardous substances, mobile plant and emergency procedures. WorkSafe inspectors visited premises where repairs are carried out on items such as agricultural and farm machinery, lawnmowers, outboard motors, pumps and compressors, mining equipment and material handlers in Perth and regional areas of the State.

The WorkSafe Director of Industrial and Regional Chris Kirwin said today the machinery repair and maintenance sector had been identified as an industry with high rates of work-related injury. He stated "in this sector over the past five years there has been an increase of more than 80% in the number of injuries that kept employees off work for more than a day, and a whopping 230% increase in the number of injuries that kept employees off work for 60 days or more," Mr Kirwin said. "The inspection program has uncovered some concerns with safety in the areas of hazardous substances, emergency procedures and mobile plant and vehicle movement.

The inspectors were also surprised to find more cases than they expected of workers operating mobile plant without being in possession of a High-Risk Work Licence."

Megan's Affirmation

I can Learn Anything!

I can Know Anything!

I can Be Anything!



As a result, inspectors will be paying extra attention to High Risk Work Licenses in all workplaces they visit, and this sector in particular will be closely monitored.

They firmly believe that raising the safety awareness of everyone in the workplace is the best way in which to lessen the risk of work-related injury and illness.

<http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/announcements/inspection-program-machinery-repairs-uncovers-safety-concerns>

<https://www.chemwatch.net/page/news/announcements/better-your-chemical-communication>

Safety Saying of the Day

We'll keep saying it! K.I.S
Keep it simple.....



Health and Exercise

Australia is on track for a bad flu season with more than 230 reported deaths to date this year. Over 42,000 Australians have been diagnosed with the virus last month alone. This time last year that number was under 2000.

To keep the flu at bay or to stop spreading it:

1. Get the flu shot
2. Practice good health habits
3. Try flu antiviral drugs
4. Maintain your immune system
5. Quit smoking
6. Limit alcohol intake
7. Keep hydrated
8. Wash your hand and face with soap
9. Stay away from people with the flu
10. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze

Read the current report here:

<https://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cda-surveil-ozflu-flucurr.htm>

Gus shows us how important it is to know how to use all fire equipment!



Public Holiday's in this coming Quarter

None this quarter so everyone back to work!

Contact



If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us direct on **(08) 9295 0311** or for further details on what SOS can provide, refer to our website www.switchedontosafety.com.au

MINDRAY DEFIBRILLATORS



Dust and water protection, IP 55

Pre-connected pads – Adult / Paediatric auto identification.

Clear audio AND visual guidance

Colour visual animations easily guiding you through a crisis

Adheres to ANZCOR guidelines (ANZCOR recommendation: Default initial energy of 200J / Escalating energy to maximum available for subsequent shocks)



Corner

Emergency Response Hotline
You may or may not be aware that Chemwatch's emergency response hotline gives you and your organisation 24/7 access to Chemwatch's team of experts. Chemwatch have your SDS's and example emergency scenarios on file, so the team with backgrounds in OHS, Chemistry, Toxicology, Environmental Science and medicine can advise on the best action to take in the event of an incident involving your chemicals. This is available globally in 150 languages.
In addition to the in-house use by organisations subscribing to other services, the Emergency Response Hotline services are available for manufacturers and vendors to add Chemwatch's hotline number to your chemical SDS and labels.

On another not, did you know Chemwatch can assist you with communicating chemical safety and hazards to your workers
Join our FREE Chemwatch webinar on August 8 at 11am EDT to learn how to use documentation to better communicate with your staff about the chemicals they use.

