



Talk It and Walk It

Est. 1996



SOS – Switched Onto Safety

Winter Newsletter 2020

What Have We Been Doing?

This year is definitely turning out to be quite different to any other year, in regards to how Australia is operating and what businesses are doing.

All of us at SOS have tried to look at this time from a positive angle in terms of work and out of work planning and activities. There is always a positive way to look at things. Time with family instead of travelling to and from work so much, becoming more IT 'savy' in relation to 'Team' meetings and making more use of the tools available through our online systems.

During this time moving forward, we would like to make more SOS videos and adding to our YouTube page. If you haven't already seen it, check it out on our YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQLkHE5M9jwCaeHdkvizNRQ>. Let us know what you think and even send through some ideas of what we could add to our page.

SOS work has continued to flow through the door at a nice pace:

- Inspections,
- OSH and Quality Suitability Audits
- OSH, Quality and Environmental Compliance Audits
- Chemwatch Training
- Coaching / Mentoring
- Adding more members to our Chemwatch family.
- Specialist advice.
- Blog's

Moving forward, we are very keen to ensure that all our clients know that we continue to be here to

assist them and that we will be continuing to provide helpful, tips, guidance and coaching through our Chemwatch Tip bits, SOS videos, Social Media tips, words of wisdom etc.

Our continuous contact with clients and prospects, even if it is to just say "Hi", how you doing in these strange times? ", appears to be highly responsive given the great conversations we have had. We think this is another important aspect to help us all get through these times.

Current Topics of Interest

Things to think about when reopening Businesses after the lockdown

As we come out of lockdown (due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, for some of us at least) businesses/organisations need to be conscious of some unique risk factors, which may be outside their normal processes. To navigate the complex process of reopening here are a few things to think about.

- Developing general hygiene practices/procedures
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies
- Social distancing practices
- The level of contact with customers and other employees
- Employee health monitoring requirements
- Training new staff (old staff not available anymore)
- Starting machinery which may not have been used in a while

- Servicing and maintaining plant/machinery
- Updating your risk registers/assessments
- Facility management regarding flushing of pipes to remove contaminants.
- Ensure Legionnaires procedures are used.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-05-18/wa-businesses-reopen-as-coronavirus-restrictions-lift/12258212>

<https://www.uschamber.com/co/start/s-trategy/small-business-coronavirus-reopening-guide>

Spill Management

Storage and Spill Management should also be assessed if carrying hazardous substances in your work vehicle.



Our Team



[Megan LeNoir](#) – Business Manager

[Guy LeNoir](#) – Company Director / Principal

[Stuart Platt](#) – OSHQE Consultant/Auditor/Trainer

[Peter Liron](#) – Senior Consultant/Auditor

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Find us on





Advice – Tips and Hints

Influenza (flu)

The ‘flu’ season is an annually recurring period characterised by the prevalence of outbreaks of influenza. The season occurs during the colder months of the year throughout the country. This year’s season appears to be delayed due to the Covid-19 distancing rules. However, a flu season will still happen! So, some tips to think about with regards to planning (and preventing) the coming highly contagious virus and try to limit the spread of the virus in your organisation or family;

- Get the influenza vaccine
- Stay home if you are not well
- Cover coughs and sneezes with your inner elbow, or use a tissue and throw it in the bin straight away.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use antibacterial hand sanitisers, especially after coughing or sneezing.
- Clean surfaces and objects regularly such as decks, doorknobs, keyboards, phones etc.

https://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Article/s/F_1/Flu-influenza



Statistics

Minerals safety statistics

The annual accident and injury statistics report regarding the ‘Safety Performance’ in the Western Australian mineral industry 2018-2019 have been released by the Department of Mines, Industry regulation and safety. The figures are a reminder that “we still have

too many people being put in harm’s way while working in the State’s mining industry” the report states. Of note, is that:

- There were two fatal accidents in 2018-19
- 365 people in mining and 17 in exploration suffered from a serious lost time injury. It is interesting to see the types of serious injuries incurred including:
 - Fall while building scaffold
 - Contact with hot caustic solution
 - Cable hits worker’s head
 - Worker suffers chemical burns
 - Burns from quicklime.
 - Back injury from lifting
 - Dislocated elbow from slip
 - Arm caught by jaw crusher
 - Hand trapped in drill parts.
 - Amputation from piston actuation
 - Crush injury from unjammed drill

The report goes on to state “each and every person involved in the mining industry must take their safety responsibilities seriously”

We can learn from all of this information.

You can review the report here: http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Documents/Safety/MSH_Stats_Reports_SafetyPerfWA_2018-19.pdf



Throwback History

Spanish Flu Australia 1918



“Wear a mask or go to jail” lucky times have changed 😊 Stay Safe and Well!

Environmental Spot

Major chemical accidents and spills (What to do)

Having a plan for when the unexpected happens is very important in business these days, especially with emergency management (Environmental and Safety perspective). Spill response come under this umbrella, having a clear and defined plan for when chemicals spill either in large or small quantities is very important. It doesn’t matter if the substances are hazardous or not! All chemicals spills should be treated the same, cleaned up as soon as possible and reported.

A Plan, do, check and act cycle is very important. The continuous loop of planning, doing, checking (or studying), and acting provides a simple and effective approach for solving issues and managing the unexpected. It is a useful tool for testing improvement measures on a small scale before updating procedures and working methods in an organisation.

So, what should be in an organisations chemical spill response plan/procedure?

- A list of all known chemicals being used or stored (register)
- Safety data sheets (SDS’s) - ‘readily’ available **Note:** it is highly recommended that SDS’s are available for all chemicals used/stored.



- Risk assessments conducted for all hazardous substances
- Spill response kits that suit the type of chemicals used, are readily available.
- First-Aid Kits readily available (including emergency washes i.e. eyes/showers etc.)
- Trained first responders
- Evacuation plans
- Emergency services contact details available and on display.
- Documented procedures in place and reviewed on a regular basis

Being prepared is the key to a quick response!

So, when was the last time your organisation conducted a spill response emergency drill or reviewed your current plans/procedures?

Lessons Learned.

Major heavy Vehicle Accident Investigation 2020 Report

The report commissioned by the National Transport Insurance (NTI) is the ninth in a series examining issues and trends in heavy vehicle road safety using data from heavy motor industry insurance claims. Truck driver fatalities on Australian roads have tragically increased by over 50% since 2017 (sadly doubled). With 'Driver error' incidents being the biggest increase over the time period. However, where a truck and a car were involved in a fatal crash, the car was at-fault 80% of the time.

Where do we go from here? What do you see when you are driving in your car regarding the behaviours of car drivers around trucks on the road? Sometimes I see some very scary scenes that very easily could have led to one of these deaths.

<https://ntarc.nationaltransportinsurance.com.au/#introduction>

Quality

Support Australian quality products

Due to the COVID-19 crisis the global supply chain and the national economy has been hit hard. As we come out of lockdown and start up the economy again, quality should be a major consideration when sourcing products or services. Quality products are not hard to find and are not too far away from you. Australia is well known for its quality products and services. By buying locally made quality products/services you are, amongst other things:

- Supporting the Local Economy
- Supporting Local Jobs
- Enjoying Top-Quality Products
- Buying Products that meet Australian Standards

It will also assist with warranties and any claims if there are any issues. So help support local Australian Makers and buy a locally made quality product or service!
<https://www.australianmade.com.au/>



Safety and Health

Farm Safety Summit results

The Farm Safety Summit conducted recently (27th of May) looked into improving safety for those who work in agriculture. It was conducted by the state government (including several government departments) and key stakeholders in the Agriculture industry. Of note there had been 28 work-related deaths in the Agriculture sector in the past 10 years. Each year in WA it costs the

agriculture industry about \$55 million in workers' compensation premiums. The industry has an average premium rate three times then the all-industry rate and double the next highest industry (transport) Industrial Relations Minister Bill Johnston stated "*The agriculture industry is 10 times more dangerous than the mining industry, so we need Western Australian farmers to address their safety culture*" he said. Watch this space for the findings and outcome of this event.

<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/05/Farm-Safety-Summit-a-success.aspx>
<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/05/McGowan-Government-to-hold-urgent-Farm-Safety-Summit.aspx>

National Farm Safety Week is held each year to raise awareness of farm safety issues across Australia. Farm Safety Week 2020 will commence on the 20th July to the 25th July 2020. There is a great deal of information and resources out there for farmers. We don't often promote organisations, however we do assist people being able to get information they need, if it is going to help save someone's life. This we are passionate about.

Farmsafe Australia is the umbrella entity for agencies that share a common interest in agricultural health and safety:

<https://www.farmsafe.org.au/Resources-for-Farmers>





CHEMWATCH

Corner

MOBILE APPLICATIONS - SMARTSUITE

You may or may not be aware, that Chemwatch does have a mobile app that gives you access to your current system, when you are out in the field.

The app allows you to sync with your current system and therefore have fast access out in the field to:

- Vendor SDS, Gold SDS, Mini
- Emergency Response documents
- Viewing and completing chemical risk assessments; etc

This allows for easier chemicals management:

- Readily accessible SDS and chemical safety information.
- Ideal for those who work out in the community / field.
- Get instant access to the latest chemical safety documents

The app is available for Apple and Android devices.

If you would like to see how you could apply it to your organisation, feel free to contact us for a trial.

SmartSuite



Next month I will be looking at Data Extraction, the tool allowing you to have mini's, do risk assessments etc even without a Gold Review SDS. If there is ever anything you would like covered, let me know, as quite often I find, if one has asked the question there will be others out there with the same question.

Joke of the Day

What happened when the flu joined instagram?

She became an influenza!

Health and Exercise

Tips for exercising during the colder months (especially since an ease in social distancing restrictions for most places).

1. Seek out a partner or group to exercise with.
2. Find something you enjoy.
3. Set goals.
4. Exercise during you lunch break (if you can).
5. Plan your exercises times (and do your best to stick to them).
6. And 'avoid making excuses!

Remember 'you can do it'



Look out for the next quarters newsletter article regarding ladder falls having long lasting psychological effects.



Holiday's in this coming Quarter

- Monday 1st June – Western Australia Day

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

STAY SAFE AND WELL

