



Talk It and Walk It

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SOS – Switched Onto Safety

Spring Newsletter 2020

What Have We Been Doing?

Well time certainly has not stood still this year. As we are nearing the end of the year, we look back and think what a strange year this has been.

We at SOS can certainly say that we have been fortunate to be based in Western Australia as we have not had too much of an effect from 'COVID'. In fact, we have certainly seen positives come out of this year especially from our increased use of technologies available to us as well as the ability to encourage the time with family.

Since our last newsletter we have engaged with a number of new clients and continued to provide services, including but not limited to the following:

- OSH and Quality Suitability Audits
- OSH and Quality Compliance Audits
- Chemwatch Training
- Chemwatch Mentoring / Coaching
- Independent Incident Analysis's
- Specialist Advice
- Internal Audits – ISO 45001, ISO 14001, ISO 9001.

We have a number of tenders we are completing, as we are keen to continue to grow in our areas of expertise.

Looking towards 2021, SOS will continue to grow in terms of engaging in topical subjects and promoting discussion points through our various social media avenues including but not limited to our website – blogs, LinkedIn, FaceBook, Instagram etc.

Current Topics of Interest

WA Manslaughter and Work Health and Safety legislations passes through the Upper House finally.

As previously shared the WA Work Health & Safety Bill 2019 was passed by the Legislative Council on 21 October 2020. It is anticipated it will receive royal assent soon after consideration of amendments by the Legislative Assembly in November 2020.

When assented, the WHS Act will not be operational until regulations are complete. Work to develop the regulations is presently underway and will continue in 2021.

This provides workplace participants with time to become familiar with the provisions of the WHS Act. Transitional arrangements will also be in place to provide sufficient time for duty holders to adapt their safe systems of work to the new requirements.

Note: as generally accepted the definition of industrial manslaughter is *"A criminal offence where the inaction or action of an employer leads to the death of an employee"*. There will be two main industrial manslaughter offences in the bill described as a "crime". The laws could impose penalties of up to 20 years jail on employers found to be criminally responsible.

The Industrial Manslaughter legislation will support the recently passed Work Health and Safety Bill 2019 (WA Bill) which replaces our current OSH Act 1984.

<https://www.lawsonlegal.com.au/industrial-manslaughter-in-wa/>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-10-22/wa-upper-house-passes-work-safety-industrial-manslaughter-bill/12801790>

Spill Management

How ready are you in case of a chemical spill?



Our Team

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Megan LeNoir – Business Manager

Guy LeNoir – Company Director / Principal

Stuart Platt – OSHQE Consultant/Auditor/Trainer

Peter Liron – Senior Consultant/Auditor

Dr Lincoln Morton – Dangerous Goods Consultant

Find us on





Some questions you should ask yourself when reviewing your chemical management processes.

- Can you stop the source of the spill or leak from spreading if one was to happen?
- What equipment/resources do you have at hand?
- Do you have enough equipment/resources?
- Do you have the appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for chemical use spill response?
- Have you conducted training/emergency drills for chemical spills?
- Do you have a process to evaluate the outcome of an emergency spill?
- Do you have a process for chemical management?

The process involved in cleaning up emergency and non-emergency chemical spills and leaks are basic and similar in nature. If you need a review of your chemical spill response please get in contact with us *"we love chemical management"*.

Advice – Tips and Hints

Chemical-Free Recipes for DIY Spring Cleaning

Some of the most common (and most useful) non-toxic cleaning products

- Baking Soda
- Castile Soap
- Vinegar
- Lemon Juice
- Olive Oil
- Essential Oils
- Borax

<https://greatist.com/health/27-chemical-free-products-diy-spring-cleaning#1>

Statistics

Safe Work Australia Annual Report 2019-20

This is Safe Work Australia's 10th year in operation. If you weren't already aware, Safe Work Australia was established as an independent statutory agency in 2009 to develop national policy for work health and safety and workers' compensation. Has just been released for the 2019-20 year. This Annual Report is published to inform federal Parliament, state, governments and the community about Safe Work Australia's performance in delivering improvements to key work health and safety and workers' and compensation arrangements across Australia. Despite the decrease in worker fatalities in a variety of industries, in 2019, 183 workers were killed at work. While each year more than 100,000 are compensated for a serious work-related injury or illness. From these statistics we can see why we cannot afford to become complacent. By collecting and reviewing the data assists all relevant stakeholders in developing material and resources to support safe work practices. It's worth a read to understand and identify where your industry/organisation lies.

<https://www.transparency.gov.au/annual-reports/safe-work-australia/reporting-year/2019-20> <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/>



**safe work
australia**



Throwback History



Old time working at height construction

Environmental Spot

What is your environmental hazard profile?

Do you know how to identify and manage environmental hazards and climate risks associated in relation to your business/organisation? Just like Occupational Safety and Health hazard identification and control process, if your activities/processes expose any environmental situations i.e. close to water ways, animal habitats, local communities, ground based water sources, escape into the surrounding air etc, these should be raised as hazards / risks. It could be an environmental impact such as chemicals, fumes/pollution, noise etc. If so, then you should assess those activities/processes to see if they have an impact on the environment, both in normal operation and during incident / accident.

So, do you know what your organisations environmental footprint is? Have you conducted an environmental assessment of your work practices/ processes?

If you need any assistance get in contact with us.



Lessons Learned.

Fall from height

We have just recently had a close friend have a fall from a ladder so we thought it prudent timing to discuss ladder falls. It only takes a moment to fall off a ladder, but the psychological impacts are long-lasting, particularly for older males (the main category of fall from ladder victims). The majority of injuries occur at less than three metres above the ground (SWA)

Some of the main issues identified from falls from ladder are;

- Incorrect Use of Ladders
- Using the Wrong Type of Ladder for the task
- Using Old, Worn or Damaged Ladders
- Incorrect set up of Ladders

Good practices when using ladders are to;

- Ensure they are secure before climbing
- Is set up on even ground
- Always have a help or support the base while a ladder is being used.
- Should only be used for access and egress (unless it's a platform ladder)
- Select the right ladder for the task at hand

We are very lucky to still have our good friend with us, so please all be mindful when using ladders.

<https://www.news-medical.net/news/20200629/Ladder-falls-have-long-lasting-psychological-impact-for-older-males.aspx>

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/system/files/documents/1702/falls-from-height.pdf>

Quality

Quality Auditing

A quality audit is a process by which a review is conducted of your activities, processes and / or products against a set standard/criteria. It evaluates an element of your business/organisation to ensure that you are meeting those certain standards/criteria's (either internal or external). These standards can vary in detail and depth, with the outcome set for guidance. You can set these standards yourself or you can follow standards set by your industry or external stakeholders i.e. client specifications.

Your organisation does not have to be accredited to ISO 9001.

So if you are not ISO 9001 accredited but need assistance to conduct a quality audit on your business, organisation, service or product do not hesitate to get in contact with us.



Safety and Health

Workplace inspection

Over the years we have conducted thousands of audits and workplace inspections for our clients (on themselves or their contractors) and

one thing we look at is the internal auditing/inspection process. Workplace inspections are a useful tool to help identify hazards and prevent risk. We constantly identify gaps within these processes such as;

- Not enough details as to what was reviewed
- Several process of the organisation was not identified (so hence no inspections conducted)
- Inconsistent timings of inspection
- Not enough inspections conducted
- Personnel not trained to conduct workplace inspections etc.

Workplace inspections help prevent work-related injury and illness. They are an important part of an effective Health, Safety and Environmental management system. When you conduct a workplace inspection, you are critically examining your workplace to identify and report potential hazards that can be removed or avoided. They are an extremely important tool you have at your disposal if used correctly.

Have you reviewed your current workplace inspections to ascertain if they address all aspects of your operations/activities?

If you would like a review of your organisation do not hesitate to contact us *"we love a good Audit/Inspection"*.

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/workplace-inspections>





Joke of the Day



CHEMWATCH

Corner

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW?

It has come to my attention that as wonderful a product Chemwatch is and the variety of systems, such as Goldffx etc that it has, if personnel in an organisation are not given roles / privileges applicable to their needs they may be missing out on getting the most out of the system, without even realising it.

A number of situations presented themselves over the past month or two, that were examples of this exact situation.

It had been sometime since our client had reviewed their current users and their roles / privileges. This was evident when the client felt they were limited when doing Risk Assessments as they could not generate their own user defined tasks. When the privileges were reviewed it was identified that the person had not been allocated such privileges. They said this would have been so handy if they could have had this available to them right from the beginning.

It is important for all organisations with the Chemwatch System to have a review of their system in relation to users / roles / privileges and see if they are still working how you want it to, have there been changes in the system that need updating, do personnel update their training in relation to the system. I ask this, because there are constantly changes and advancements occurring in the system all the time. If you have any questions about the system, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Health and Exercise

Haven't exercised much over the winter break?

Never mind! Here are a few handy tips to get you started for spring and summer.

1. Start slow
2. Set achievable goals
3. Find activities you love
4. Mix up your cardio
5. Strength train
6. Incorporate intervals
7. Take rest days
8. Make fitness social
9. Track your workouts
10. Use rewards



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

