



Talk It and Walk It

Est. 1996



SOS – Switched Onto Safety

Autumn Newsletter 2021

What Have We Been Doing?

How time flies!

How have we made it to the middle of March 2021 already?

Can I just tell time to stop, just so I can take a breath for a minute?

Don't get me wrong, I am not complaining, as busy is good.

Changes are happening all over the place, with GHS7 transition in place in relation to Hazardous Chemicals and Work Health and Safety Regulations for Western Australia are currently being developed now that the Act was passed in parliament late last year.

Work has steadily been coming through the door, with varied types of work:

- Chemwatch training
- Suitability (Desktop) Audits (OSH & Quality)
- Compliance (onsite) Audits (OSH and Quality)
- Chemwatch / Chemical Management mentoring and training
- OSH Inspections and mentoring
- Chemwatch SiSoT stocktake assistance
- OSH / Environmental System Auditing

Looking towards the rest of 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.

If you would like to discuss anything or be interested in further information, feel free to contact us.

Current Topics of Interest

What classifies as a 'Work Place'?

A workplace or place of employment is a location/s where people perform tasks, jobs and or projects for their employment. The workplace is one of the most important social spaces other than the home. Everybody i.e. Employers and workers have an obligation of a 'Duty of Care' (Legal and Moral) to ensure the safety and wellbeing of themselves and others.

Types of workplaces can vary across industries and can be either inside or outside a building/office, metro or Rural and could be a large place or a small establishment.

Workplaces can also be mobile, and some people may work in different locations on various days. The growth of technology and Covid-19 has led to a new type of workplace, a virtual one, allowing people to work remotely (e.g. Home).

If you think about it, your home is a potential workplace for a tradesman, your front foot path is for the postie, the road out the front is one for the transport companies. The beach is a workplace for the life savers and the supermarket / shopping centres are all workplace for their respective workers. It makes you think a bit more once you realise pretty much every inch of our planet is a workplace for someone.

So, remember, a Risk Assessment must be conducted in the specific workplace to identify all potential hazards you or your workforce may be exposed to. If you need any assistance, please give us a call as we love hazard hunts 😊

Spill Management

240lt bins or 'grab bag'?

Chemical spill kits have been designed for cleaning up spills of acids, bases, coolants, solvents, oils and hazardous chemicals etc. Spill kits come in an extensive range of sizes and types to ensure a fit for purpose spill kit is on hand to help minimise risk and meet environmental obligations. From Bin types (120lt – 240lt & larger) to grab bags (smaller and more mobile). When deciding on what type of spill kit you or your organisation needs it comes down to several factors i.e. How many chemicals you have, the types of chemical you have, the environment they are used in and the amount.

Contact us for more information.



Our Team

[Megan LeNoir](#) – Business Manager

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Find us on





Advice – Tips and Hints

New and Young Workers (15-24Yrs)

When assessing risks to young people, special factors to consider:

- The size of the person and their level of physical maturity;
- Their general behaviour and psychological maturity;
- Their work experience and training;
- Their ability to make mature judgements about their own safety and that of others; and
- Their ability to cope with unexpected stressful situations

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/publications/checklist-new-and-young-workers>

Statistics

Workers' compensation claims data related to COVID-19 and legislative changes

Covid-19 has affected every aspect of Australia life, both in our private life and in the workplace. Safe Work Australia (SWA) has published a snapshot of COVID-19 related workers' compensation claims data to 31 July 2020. It identifies that:

- 533 workers' compensation claims related to COVID-19 have lodged in Australia
- 34% of these claims related to mental health impacts of COVID-19
- 34% of workers' compensation claims lodged were from the health care and social assistance industry
- 17% of workers' compensation claims lodged were from the public administration and safety industry

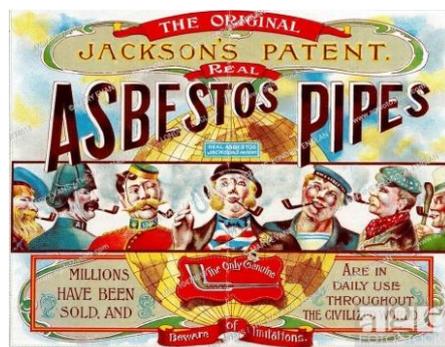
Also, of note recently were Amendments to the Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Amendment (COVID-19 Response) Act 2020 and supporting amendment Regulations. Which came into effect on 12 October 2020. The amendments address a small number of priority issues in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Both articles are worth a read if you have a few spare minutes. SWA and Workcover WA has a wealth of information available for organisations to use to manage the Covid-19.

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-11/COVID-19%20Infographic%20-%20Worker%27s%20Comp%20Claims%2031%20July.pdf>



Throwback History



Who'd of thought!!!!

Environmental Spot

You cannot deny our climate has noticeably changed over the years. Climate change has many factors that play a role in its exacerbation, there are some that warrant more attention than others.

Some of which we/you have control over and some you may not (examples of but not limited to).

- Poor Governance.
- Food Waste.
- Biodiversity Loss.
- Plastic Pollution.
- Deforestation.
- Air Pollution.
- Agriculture.
- Volcano Eruptions

We all have a role to play (no matter how small) we at SOS are very passionate about our environment so if you need any assistance in reviewing your organisations/workplace environmental aspects or impacts get in contact with us. We ourselves planted 155 native flora last year alone.

Below is a link for an article that may be of interest. Remembering factors that humans are not involved in such as natural events add to this issue, however there are areas that we can help to improve on.

<https://earth.org/the-biggest-environmental-problems-of-our-lifetime/>





Lessons Learned.

Have we learned the lessons from the 2010 NZ Pike river disaster?

The Pike River Mine disaster was a coal mining accident that began on 19 November 2010. It has now been a decade since that explosion at the mine that killed 29 miners (whose remains have never been recovered). The 29 men ranged in age from 17 to 62. The incident investigation identified the "Miners were doomed by fatal flaws" i.e. insufficient safety control measures and a lack of "Due Diligence" from upper management. However, the families have never really received closure or compensation for their loss.

The disaster initiated a Royal commission, several prosecutions and a change in legislation. However, since this disaster 700 other NZ workers have lost their lives in workplace accidents.

Note: Current update. As of June Minister for Pike Mine Re-entry Andrew Little announced that it was "impractical" to expect the remains of the fallen miners to be recovered as the cost of recovery is approximately NZ\$35million and probably going to be higher.

Have you identified all the hazards and potentials hazards within your workplace? Fatal flaws can all add up to a disaster.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-54956219>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/19/pike-river-mine-disaster-10-years-on-families-mark-painful-anniversary>

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

Quality

Quality improvement and Hazard Management

Quality improvement should always be an integral part of any organisation that produces products or services. Hazard management should go 'hand' in hand with the continuous improvement process an organisation implements. They both should form an integral part of the organisation internal Plan, Do, Check, Act processes. Once the hazard is identified the hierarchy of control process should be implemented, with the goal of using the upper rungs of control and not the easier lower rungs for the control of the hazard. (it is also a very good idea that this process is documented). If you are constantly reviewing your system for improvements and implementing elimination, substitution, engineering controls, then you are well on your way to creating a sustainable quality system/process.

If you do need assistance with your quality system get in contact with us "we love reviewing systems".



Safety and Health

Safe Design (SID / CDM)

Safe design is about integrating hazard identification and risk assessment methods early in the design process, to eliminate or minimise risks of injury throughout the life of a product. This applies to buildings, structures, equipment and vehicles.



Designers need to consider how safety can best be achieved in each of the lifecycle phases, for example: designing a building with a lift for occupants, where the design also includes sufficient space and safe access to the lift well or machine room for maintenance work.

Five principles of safe design:

- Persons with control – those who makes decisions affecting design and are able to promote safety and health at the source.
- Product lifecycle: safe design applies to every stage from conception to disposal.
- Systematic risk management: apply hazard id, risk assessment and risk control processes.
- Safe design knowledge and capability
- Information transfer: effective communication and documentation of design and risk control information amongst everyone involved in the phases of the lifecycle.

Benefits of safe design:

- Prevent injury and disease
- Improve useability of products, systems and facilities
- Improve productivity
- Reduce costs
- Better predict and manage production and operational costs over the lifecycle of a product.
- Comply with legislation
- Innovate, in the safe design demands new thinking.

This is an area that all of us at SOS are passionate about.

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/safe-design>



CHEMWATCH

Corner

Transitioning to GHS 7

The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) as you may or may not now is a global method of classifying chemicals and preparing labels and safety data sheets (SDS). The 3rd revised edition of the GHS was implemented in Australia in January 2012.

On 1st January 2021 Australia began a two-year transition to the 7th revised edition of the GHS. During the transition, manufacturers and importers may use either GHS3 or GHS7 to prepare classifications, labels and SDS for hazardous chemicals. From 1st January 2023, only GHS 7 may be used. Moving to GHS7 will allow us to stay up to date with trading partners and up to date with international best practice for chemical assessment and hazard communication. This also brings improvements that will help businesses move away from animal testing and encourage the safe use of hazardous chemicals. In relation to Western Australia, under the OSH Regulations 1996 a substance is a hazardous substance if it meets criteria under the (1) Approved Criteria (AC) classification system; or (2) GHS.

You may or may not know that Chemwatch have within their system an Elearning that explains the updates to GHS7. This is freely available to any user who has access to the Chemwatch System. If you have any questions about the this or anything else related to the system, please do not hesitate to contact us.

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/ghs-7-transition>

Joke of the Day

What did the ocean say to the beach?

Nothing, it just waved!



Health and Exercise

Tips for staying healthy over winter?

In preparation for the colder months coming up, here is some tips to prepare yourself:

1. When the time comes enjoy winter seasonal vegetables and fruit – while fresh is great, don't be afraid to stock the freezer.
2. Take time for tea – black and green tea are rich in plant chemicals with antioxidant effects.
3. Stews, casseroles and leftovers – remember winter is a great time to re-think the size of your meal, try using smaller plates.
4. Get active indoors.
5. Sit Less
6. Rug up.



Important Dates

2nd April – Good Friday

4th April – Easter Sunday

5th April – Easter Monday

25th April – ANZAC Day

28th April – World Day for Safety and Health at 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

STAY SAFE AND WELL

