



# Talk It and Walk It

Est. 1996



SOS – Switched Onto Safety

Spring Newsletter 2021

## What Have We Been Doing?

We have had a taste of a few warm days, which is great.

We have been working with a few new clients, which is great. All through word of mouth, which is predominantly how we get our work.

Now that we are heading into the warmer weather, we normally see that the site compliance audits recommence, especially those we are auditing out on work sites.

In September, we have had time for research, development and planning which is great. However, we have conducted and have plans for conducting the following:

- Chemical Inventories
- Suitability (Desktop) Audits (OSH & Quality)
- Compliance (onsite) Audits (OSH and Quality)
- Chemwatch / Chemical Management
- Policy / Procedure development
- Assist with Cm3 certification
- SiSoT Coaching / Mentoring
- Risk Assessment workshop
- OSH Mentoring / Coaching

As we come into the last quarter of 2021, SOS will continue to grow in terms of engaging in topical subjects and promoting discussion points. Planning for next year has begun.

A new year in terms of Work Health and Safety Legislation will definitely be moving forward and we are excited to be a part of it.



## Current Topics of Interest

### WHS Legislation update

Late last year (2020) the Western Australian (WA) Parliament passed the Work Health and Safety (WHS) Act (Bill) 2020. It will be put into effect now that the Work Health and Safety Regulations (to be released January 2022) are complete.

So, in the not-too-distant future, WA will be transitioning from our current Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) legislation into WHS Regulations.

There will be a transitional period for industries and organisations to adjust.

There will be several changes from the current Legislation to the new legislation. However, we do think individuals and organisations should not leave it to the last minute to transition their management system to encompass the new legislation and terminology. Please, do not get spooked by the OSH 'snake oilmen' when they say you'll need a full overhaul of your system. If you have a fairly robust system (which is being implemented), then you shouldn't need more than a gap analysis and action plan to address any deficiencies.

A few changes include (but definitely not limited to):

- 'Health' definition
- A broader and overlapping 'duty of care'
- New obligation to consult with workers on WHS issues.
- A new 'duty of care' for WHS Service providers.

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/work-health-and-safety-legislation-reform>

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/work-health-and-safety-legislation-reform>

## Spill Management

### Trained and competent spill response workers

We have discussed in the past the requirements around Hazardous Substance's and Dangerous Good's i.e. storage, segregation etc. But what about training of your workers in Spill Management?

There is a duty of care' for those workers that will use / handle the substance identified as hazardous are trained in the precautions for use and the personal protective requirements outlined in the MSDS. Part 5 of the WA OSH Regulation 1996 is of particular importance.

The risk assessment of the task associated with the hazardous substance should also record the training required, including spill management.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqHc9td9G94wKMnF34bZq0W4pFN7sTpm2>

Training in relation to Chemicals, we can assist. Remember we have been agents for Chemwatch for more than 20 years.

## Our Team

**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





## Advice – Tips and Hints

### Productivity Tips for you and your team

Remember to explain ‘Why’ – putting tasks in context can motivate teams to tackle them

Think twice before booking meetings – Don’t have meetings unless you really need to. At the end of the meeting, make sure everyone leaves with a list of next steps.

Improve time management – organising your day effectively doesn’t just help you get more out of it – it can reduce the productivity-sapping stress of jobs piling up.

Encourage short, frequent breaks – working for hours on end can fast-track burnout. Taking regular breaks can help you feel refreshed and clear minds.

These are just a few for starters. What are some others that you know of?

## Statistics

Why are statistics so important and what can we learn from them? Statistics can help us understand our past and make predictions about the future trends.

Using statistics, we can analyse data to monitor changing patterns, then use this analysis to draw conclusions and make forecasts.

However, we need to be honest and concise when documenting the data. So, for example if we use Western Australian Mining Industry injury and fatality statistics, a DMIRS recent report identified that the WA’s mining workforce has more than tripled since 1997 to 2019 when in 1997 there were 13 deaths — from 43,466 workers to 132,144 workers in 2019-20 with two deaths.

In relation to lost time injuries we had a slight increase from the previous financial year (18-19) to 19-20 ie 425 to 429. It is also important to note that of these there were 378

classified as serious, indicating an injury that disables a worker for two weeks or more.

There are further aspects that can be taken from this report, it depends on what is relevant to you / your organisation and perhaps on what it is you want to take from these results. How will you use them? Comparing to your organisation’s statistics, training purposes, new focus areas etc

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-01-29/wa-mine-workers-seriously-injured-at-rate-of-more-than-one-a-day/13104168>

## Throwback History



Historical Respiratory Protection  
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nppt/Respiratory-Protection-history.html>

## Environmental Spot

### Abandoned Mines and Rehabilitation

Here at SOS we are very passionate about the environment and are always trying to limit our environmental footprint and recycle, reuse and reduce wherever we can. However, a lot could be said about past mining activities. Mining activities have been conducted here in WA for over 150 years. Since then, there are approximately 10,000 abandoned mine sites across WA at the moment (the majority of these are yet to be rehabilitated). In 2016

The WA government implemented an ‘abandoned mines program’. This program was initiated following the enactment of the Mining Rehabilitation Fund Act 2012. You can view these abandoned mines through Abandoned Mines database (Link below).

You will see that a lot of mines have still yet to be rehabilitated, which is a shame as we only have one planet to live on and if we do not repair what we have done then what will be there for future generations?

<http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Environment/Abandoned-mines-projects-18193.aspx>

[https://www.minerals.org.au/sites/default/files/Mine%20rehabilitation\\_Update%20AUG%202018\\_FINAL.PDF](https://www.minerals.org.au/sites/default/files/Mine%20rehabilitation_Update%20AUG%202018_FINAL.PDF)

<https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/abandoned-mines>

## Lessons Learned.

### Director jailed

A small business owner in the Southwest of Western Australia has become the first individual sentenced to imprisonment (eight months' imprisonment, with an additional 18 months suspended for 12 months).

It was one of the first cases in WA since harsher penalties were introduced for breaches of workplace safety laws in October 2018.

This sentence was following the death of one of his workers and serious injury of another.

The director and company both pleaded guilty to gross negligence with the director pleading guilty to allowing the company's gross negligence to occur with his consent or through his neglect for the purposes of section 55 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 1984 (WA) (the Act).

The company has also been fined a total of \$605,000 for gross negligence and for breaching safety regulations.





It should be a timely reminder for business owners and managers in WA that now is the time to ensure appropriate systems and processes are in place to satisfy due diligence obligations ahead of them taking effect under the Work Health and Safety Act 2020 due to be in operation early next year. **Note:** the business has subsequently closed down.

If you would like an independent / transparent customised gap analysis of your current management system get in contact with us, we would love to help.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-05-25/worksafe-wa-commissioner-speaks-about-jail-term/100163204>

## Quality

### Quality Targets and objectives

It is important for an ISO9001 accredited organisation to set (document) measurable quality targets and objectives and not just OSH targets and objectives within their management system.

- Objectives describe a measurable goal/s.
- Targets are specific desired outcomes that support achieving a set objectives.

These quality targets and objectives should be measurable, consistent with the quality policy and relevant to products and services the organisation offers.

Quality targets and objectives should be communicated throughout the organisation and updated to ensure relevance to changing business needs as required.

Further to this, there should also be a process for measuring these objectives and targets. This is

important, as it doesn't really achieve anything if objectives and targets are set, but they are not being achieved without anyone knowing. These objectives and targets are set to assist a business in its processes.

<https://www.iso-9001-checklist.co.uk/6.2-quality-objectives-gbp.htm>  
<https://smallbusiness.chron.com/quality-management-system-goals-objectives-58994.html>

## Safety and Health

### Reducing the Consequence of a Risk

Over the many years SOS has been in operation and auditing we have reviewed many risk assessments, SWMS, JHA's/JSA's etc. This was either for a direct client or client's contractors (including sub-contractors). One item that seems to pop up on a regular basis when a person/people are conducting and writing up the assessment is that they have reduced the severity of the consequences of a hazard i.e. Major – minor.

However, further analysis of these assessments indicate many reduced consequences are based on either administrative controls or PPE controls (This can lead to unwanted outcomes later if procedures weren't followed or PPE not applied)! They haven't appeared to consider other higher level controls or identify that the likelihood would reduce but not the consequence (based on these admin / PPE controls).

There are several options for risk control:

- Controls that reduce the likelihood of the hazardous event or hazard.

- Controls that reduce the consequences of the hazardous event or hazard.
- Controls that reduce both likelihood and consequence. Risk assessments are conducted utilising the Hierarchy of Control either as an individual control or a combination of controls. Eliminating the hazard and risk is the highest level of control in the hierarchy, followed by reducing the risk through substitution, isolation and engineering controls, then through administrative controls/ Reducing risk through PPE is the lowest level of control.

Hierarchy of Control examples:

#### Elimination Control:

- During the design phase you place the air conditioner on the ground and not on the roof you eliminate the working at height issues when installing it or maintaining it.

#### Substitution Control:

- Substitute the air conditioner for a thermal mass maze.
- When installing and maintaining air conditioner, utilise battery powered portable tools.

#### Isolation Control:

- When conducting maintenance of the air conditioner disconnect the air conditioner from the electrical power source

#### Engineering Control:

- Place guarding around the fan belt and fan areas to reduce the chances of the cutting and entanglement hazards.

#### Administrative Controls:

- Tag out procedure when performing maintenance on the Air conditioner
- Tag out sign / tag.



## Personal Protective Equipment Controls

- Wear gloves

Generally, consequence will not be reduced unless the hazard is eliminated or substituted.

If you do need any assistance in reviewing your current risk assessments get in contact with us.

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/how-get-started>

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces/industry-information/agriculture/risk-assessment>

<https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/pdf/hierarchy-control>

Smart V (vendor SDS), Smart MINI, Smart COBRA and Smart ER. SmarterSuite is accessible offline, which eliminates the burden of an internet disruption of any active sessions. SmarterSuite is compatible on both Android and iOS devices and can sync with your desktop-based version of the products. Contact us for an obligation free trial.

## Safety Saying of the Day

**“Safety isn’t expensive, it’s priceless”**

## Health and Exercise

**Limited mobility doesn’t mean you can’t exercise**

The truth is, regardless of your age, current physical condition and whether you’ve exercised in the past or not, there are plenty of ways to overcome your mobility issues and reap the physical, mental and emotional rewards to exercise.

Starting an exercise routine:

- Start slow and gradually increase level.
- Make exercise part of your daily life, Stick with it
- Expect ups and downs

Stay safe when exercising:

- Stop exercising if you experience pain, discomfort, nausea, dizziness etc. try limiting the time e.g. start at 5 – 10 minutes.
- Avoid activity involving an injured body part
- Warm up and cool down
- Drink plenty of water
- Wear appropriate clothing

## Joke of the Day

**Did you hear about the Zen Master who ordered a hot dog? He said he’d have ‘one with everything’.**



## Important Dates

27<sup>th</sup> September – Queen’s birthday (WA)

4<sup>th</sup> October – Queen’s Birthday (Queensland)

## 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](http://www.switchedontosafety.com.au)

## STAY SAFE AND WELL



## CHEMWATCH

## Corner

### SmarterSuite – Chemwatch App

SmarterSuite (previously know as Walkabout) is Chemwatch’s new mobile app.

I’m not too sure if you were even aware that Chemwatch have had a mobile app.

The new app now combines the features of our current apps, SmartSuite and SiSoT mobile (when applicable), enabling accessibility from a single location. SmarterSuite is a one-stop-shop for clients to access extensive health and safety information, including risk assessments, and to manage their chemical inventory, using barcoding via SiSoT.

SmarterSuite syncs with your PC-based Chemwatch System, providing ready access to essential chemical safety documents and allowing your staff to be up to date with their chemicals management at all times. SmarterSuite component is made up of five sections, being, Smart SDS,