



Talk It and Walk It

Est. 1996



SOS – Switched Onto Safety

Winter Newsletter 2022

What Have We Been Doing?

It has been a little while since our last newsletter. What with the start of the year - hectic run of work, along with the preparation for the commencement of the new West Australian legislation, we certainly have been kept busy.

This year also started off with a number of new clients taking on the Chemwatch system. Welcome to the family.

Easter and ANZAC day seem a long time ago. We are into the colder / wetter months of the year and we would love to hear from our current clients and also organisations that haven't experienced our services as yet, especially if you need assistance with the changing world of Work Health and Safety.

So, what are some of the activities we have engaged in this year:

- SWMS / SOP development
- Suitability (Desktop) Audits (WHS, Quality and Environment)
- Compliance (onsite) Audits (WHS and Quality)
- Chemwatch / Chemical Management System implementation
- Chemical Risk Assessments
- Site inspections
- Chemwatch training / mentoring
- WHS Mentoring / Coaching



Current Topics of Interest

WHS Legislation now implemented

As you will be aware, Western Australia has joined the majority of other states and territories with alignment with the Work, Health and Safety (WHS) legislation. The new WHS legislation began on March 31st 2022, which replaces the Occupational safety and health Act 1984 and Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996. The current legislation is:

- Work Health and Safety Act 2020;
- Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022,
- Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulations 2022 and,
- Work Health and Safety (Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Operations) Regulations 2022.
- Criminal Code Amendment (Industrial Manslaughter) Bill 2017

So, what happens now? If you have a robust system in place already not too much. However, no matter what system you have in place, a review (gap analysis) is required to ascertain any gaps in your organisations safety management system between the previous legislation and the current WHS legislation.

If you would like an independent assessment or review of your current safety management system to see how your system stacks up against the current legislation (a simple gap analysis) drop us a line!

Note: there is a transitional and implementation timeline in place. However, the sooner your system is reviewed and updated the sooner you will feel assured, your

organisation will meet the WHS legislation

<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2022/03/New-Work-Health-and-Safety-rules-to-begin-March-31.aspx>

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

<https://www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/taxonomy/term/251>

Quote of the Month

Nothing is impossible.
The word itself says
I'm possible.



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





Spill Management

Minor or major chemical spill?

Does your organisation use chemicals?

- Lots of different chemicals or just a few?
- In large amounts or small quantities?
- Is your organisation a large one or small one?
- Are you prepared for a chemical spill?

A recent 'minor' chemical spill by a large resources company who stated it was a minor spill of **25,000 litre!** In their eyes it was a minor spill. What do you think?

It appears issues were identified previously with the equipment storing and transferring of the chemical. If these previous issues had been assessed and addressed adequately in the first instance, then maybe the minor/major spill may not have occurred?

We believe here at SOS there is no need to downplay an incident or accident especially chemical spills. It is important for full transparency to ensure true learnings are gained from the incident. Remember this type of incident also affects the surrounding marine environment. This intern helps to ensure the environment and people are well protected or get the best and fastest response if something was to go wrong in the future.

<https://www.watoday.com.au/business/companies/environmental-group-disputes-negligible-impact-of-santos-wa-oil-spill-20220329-p5a8ym.html>

Advice – Tips and Hints

5 Top Tips for Working from Home Work Area

Having a designated work area can help you feel more focused, whether it's a designated home office where you can shut the door or a coffee shop with good Wi-Fi. Finding a place that works for you will stop your mind wandering.

Get Dressed

You don't have to sit at home on your own in a full suit and tie but starting your day off right by getting out of your pyjamas and into 'real' clothes is a good way to get into work mode.

Routine

Having a set routine for the day can really help you get into the right frame of mind and ready to work. Having set times for breakfast, lunch and short breaks can also help to keep track of time and stay focussed. Setting a time to finish work for the day helps to keep your work and home lives separate.

Plan / To Do

Procrastination is a big challenge for many. You can overcome this by setting yourself a to-do list or a plan for the day in advance.

Stay Connected

Staying in regular contact with your colleagues when you are working outside the office is important to make sure you are staying on track with your work and not feeling isolated. Technologies for video conferencing such as TEAM's are fantastic for this. The fact that you may be visible to colleagues via video conferencing is another great motivation to change out of your onesie and brush your hair.



Statistics

Key work health and safety statistics, Australia 2021

Safe Work Australia has released the Work-related Traumatic Injury Fatalities data set for 2021.



This data set provides national statistics on all workers and bystanders fatally injured at work. This data draws on a range of information sources. The data note still 194 workers were killed in the workplace over this period. The report breaks down the fatality rates between gender, ages, location and mechanism of the incident etc. Sombre reading and worth the read to see how many workers were lost in your industry.

It is interesting to note, that the overall trend in worker fatalities between 2003 and 2020 has decreased by 50%

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/incident-statistics>

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/resources-and-publications/statistical-reports/key-work-health-and-safety-statistics-australia-2021>



Throwback History



As some of you may know, Stuart is a qualified and experienced commercial diver. So, we thought we'd throw out one of his favourite topics 😊

<https://allthatsinteresting.com/vintage-deep-sea-diving-photos>

Environmental Spot

Western Australia Environmental issues and reporting

Environmental factors such as air and water are essential to maintaining good health for the workforce and the public, but what happens when the environment starts to affect your health or the local community? We need to know when issues may affect our own health or our local community.

For example, renovation of your own house, investment property etc. I hear you ask, what does this have to do with environmental health. Well, asbestos, is the key factor here. Those houses built prior to 1990, may still have a variety of materials that can contain asbestos

It is important to be aware of such environmental issues.

If you know of any environmental issues, please report them to the applicable agency as soon as you know as it may affect you or even our next generation.

<https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Safety-and-first-aid/Environment>

<https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/state-environment-reporting>

Lessons Learned.

How to investigate an accident, incidents and near misses

Over the years we have conducted numerous thorough independent, transparent incident investigations/reviews for a variety of organisations. Learning lessons from previous incidents can potentially prevent the incident from occurring again if the corrective actions are agreed upon by all and implemented fully.

The main objective of an investigation is prevention. A good investigation aims to establish a series of events that should have taken place and compares it to what actually happened to identify areas that need changing.

Quality

How does a Quality Management System help your business?

When staff have a purpose and are trained, they're happier and more productive. Implementing a quality management system helps to define their purpose and help you to achieve your business goals. Quality Management improves communication within your team to reduce costly errors.

Miscommunication can cost even small businesses thousands of dollars.

The good thing about implementing a quality management system is that your business will need to be in a position where communication errors are all laid on the table to be analysed.

Quality management systems will provide a framework for your staff – so they know the right process of

communicating. It will be a clear and precise process and will relate to your business goals. Your business goals will help guide the training of your staff, so they are continually building and improving the system. This is just one way a quality management system can help your business.

Ever thought that a quality management system can help you retain clients and get new ones. Something serious to think about. <https://www.businessbasics.com.au/2-ways-quality-management-systems-will-help-your-business/>

Safety and Health

Safety in Design

Safe design refers to the integration of hazard identification and risk assessment methods early in the design process to eliminate or minimise the risks of injury throughout the life of a product being designed.

This is where we can be a positive difference, we facilitate to get design ideas into methodology

Buildings, structures, machinery and equipment, tools and vehicles all need safe design to protect the people who use them from injuries and disease.

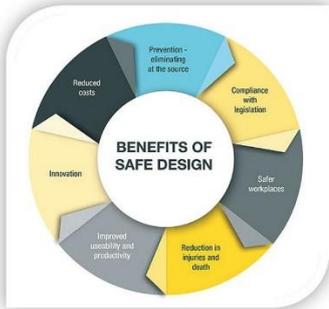
Safe design starts at the concept phase, when a PCBU is deciding and identifying:

- Design and intended purpose
- Materials
- How someone will build, maintain, operate, demolish, dismantle or dispose of it.
- Legislation, codes of practice and standards it'll need to comply with.

Safe design will always be part of a wider set of design objectives, including practicability, aesthetics, cost and the functionality of the product. Safe design is the process



of successfully achieving a balance of these sometimes competing objectives, without compromising the health and safety of those potentially affected by the product over its life.



Corner

Smarter Suite mobile app syncs with your PC-based Chemwatch system, providing ready access to essential chemical safety documents and allowing your workers to be up to date with their chemicals management at all times. With Smarter suite, you can also share documents and chemical inventory information to and from your cloud account. Compatible with iOS and android operating systems. Some of the features include:

Smart SDS

- Available in 48 languages
- Fully GHS compliant worldwide
- Fully REACH compliant (EU)
- Available in over 80 local SDS formats, including Australia, USA, Europe, Singapore etc.

Smart V

- Vendor SDS from chemical suppliers and manufacturers
- Choose from Chemwatch's chemical inventory of over 100 million SDS documents
- Multiple country/formatting options
- Readily accessible SDS for your workers

Smart COBRA

- Calculate your chemical's Risk



Assessment

- Health and safety and Risk Management processes
- Implementing control measures and observing hazard and risk levels
- GHS compliance and hazard identification service.



Safety Saying of the Day

An incident is just the tip of the iceberg, a sign of a much larger problem below the surface.

Health and Exercise

Tips for exercising during the colder months

1. Seek out a partner or group to exercise with.
2. Find something you enjoy.
3. Set goals.
4. Exercise during your 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'



Joke of the Day

**Why did the M&M go to school?
He really wanted to be a Smartie**

Important Dates

6th June 2022 – WA 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

