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CATHOLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Welcome to the August edition of the Safety Bulletin.

Good quotes are the kind that inspire us to do better. Safety is a tough gig. So we thought you might need some extra inspiration to turn to on a bad day. Relevant quotes are a great way to communicate Key Safety Concepts and make sure your team is always on the lookout for potential safety issues. Illustrate your quotes and bring them to life. Display them around your workplace, or add them to internal newsletters. Make an impact and get your point across. Your workplace might be better off for it.

"No problem has ever been solved by people saying 'hey let's work apart'. Teamwork is what allows us to accomplish our goals."
Captain Scott Kelly NASA Astronaut.

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

Working safely may get old, but so do those who practice it.
Author unknown

Stay safe
CSH&W SA Team

Workplace Safety: Top 5 Tips

1 Never assume the safety of your workplace



2 Consider the lesser known "Unsafe Workplace Costs"

3 Embrace workplace safety as an ethical responsibility



4 Go beyond preventing incidents and mitigating risks

5 Demonstrate how you value workplace safety daily

SafetyCulture
www.safetyculture.com

Playground Safety Resources

Kidsafe SA Incorporated is the South Australian licensee of the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia (CAPFA), a national organisation devoted to the prevention of unintentional death and injuries to children. Kidsafe SA is a not-for-profit, non-government organisation dedicated to preventing unintentional deaths and reducing the incidence and severity of injuries to children aged less than 15 years. Their underpinning philosophy is 'Prevention is better than cure'.

Within the Kidsafe website is a range of very useful information for sites. These include topics such as home safety, water safety, road safety and playground safety. The playground safety section includes a range of easy to read and very useful safety information sheets. Some examples include; A Risk Management Approach, Barriers, Guardrails and Handrails, Entrapment, Fencing Playspaces, Impact Areas, Nature Playspaces, Planning and Design, Timber in Play Areas, Shade in Playspaces, Playground Hazards and Playground Safety Management System.

These information sheets include specific requirements such as measurements for openings, heights of various components, depths of material for impact areas and practical guidance etc. These information sheets and other very useful information can be accessed through the following site.

Further information can be found at: <https://kidsafesa.com.au/playground-safety/>

SafeWork SA Asbestos Prosecution

SafeWork SA has fined a person with management and control of a workplace \$2,220 for failing to have an asbestos register as required by legislation.

Investigations by SafeWork SA identified that an asbestos register was not available for the workplace that was constructed before 31 December 2003.

An asbestos register is intended to ensure that workers and others at the workplace are aware of the presence of asbestos, so they do not disturb it.

It is the responsibility of the person with management or control of a workplace to have an asbestos register available and ensure it is readily accessible to workers and contractors on site.

SafeWork SA Acting Executive Director, Glenn Farrell said pleading ignorance to legislative requirements is no excuse.

“The requirement for having an asbestos register has been in place for more than 25 years.

There are multiple sources of information around asbestos including the Asbestos website at asbestos.sa.gov.au”.

“According to the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA), asbestos kills more than 4,000 Australians each year from asbestos-related disease. The risks are clear, asbestos is a carcinogenic and SafeWork SA will not hesitate to take action against people’s disregard for others’ health and safety”.

It is a requirement within our Catholic Safety Health & Welfare SA Asbestos Management Procedure (4) that all workplaces must have an asbestos register. If there is no asbestos at the site, the worksite must have documentation to verify this. Only new buildings constructed after 31 December 2003 do not require an asbestos register.

Psychological Hazards

Like any other physical health and safety risk, psychological health risks from psychosocial hazards must be managed. These hazards are anything in the design or management of work that increases the risk of work-related stress.

Work-related stress is the physical, mental and emotional reactions that occur when a worker perceives the demands of their work exceed their ability or resources to cope. Work-related stress if prolonged and/or severe can cause both psychological and physical harm. The longer that the work-related stresses continue unresolved, the higher the risk that a psychological injury will occur.

Employers have numerous responsibilities but workers can help too. So what are workers responsibilities?

You can contribute to a safe workplace by taking responsibility for your safety and the physical and psychological safety of people you work with by:

- reporting psychological safety issues;
- providing feedback on consultation;
- supporting colleagues, understanding that we do not know the difficulties they may be facing;
- ensuring you understand your role and your job description;
- requesting training that may be required;
- not taking part in toxic workplace interactions.

Source: [Psychological hazards & work-related stress | SafeWork SA](#)

Online Abuse in the Workplace

New fact sheets providing practical steps to support persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBUs) (such as employers) and workers to prevent online abuse in the workplace have been developed by Safe Work Australia and [eSafety](#).

What is online abuse?

Online abuse is behavior that uses technology to threaten, intimidate, bully, harass or humiliate someone.

It can take place on social media, online chat, and messaging services, by telephone (calls and text messages), email or any other technology used at the workplace.

Information for PCBUs and workers

Work health and safety laws require PCBUs to manage health and safety risks of workers and others. This includes managing the risks of online abuse while working.

Fact sheets:

- [Online abuse fact sheet – Information for employers](#)
- [Online abuse fact sheet – Information for workers](#)

For more information, go to our [Online abuse in the workplace](#) webpage.

Source: Safe Work Australia

Well Winter Safety Tips

Winter is here and that means products like heaters, electric blankets, hot water bottles and heat packs are coming out of storage or being purchased. These products don't just pose a safety risk if used or stored incorrectly, they can become unsafe when used together, or with other products. Our 'well winter' safety tips can help keep you and your family safe and warm.

Smoke alarms

Each year, more than 50 people across Australia die from house fires and many more are injured. Most of the homes do not have working smoke alarms. Only working smoke alarms can provide early warning and time to escape. You lose your sense of smell when you are asleep. A working smoke alarm reduces your chance of dying in a house fire by half.

Test your smoke alarm is working every month.

Replace your alarm battery every year.

Replace your smoke alarm every 10 years. If you move to a new house, check the alarm — the date of manufacture should be displayed on the smoke alarm.

Children's clothing

Children's clothing can still be flammable, even if the item is considered low fire danger, so always keep children away from open heat sources, like fireplaces and heaters. Children's nightwear must display a fire hazard label, but even nightwear that is considered a low fire hazard is still flammable. Multiple children are admitted to hospital every year with burns sustained from their clothing catching fire.

Be cautious of children's clothing purchased online, on holiday or received as gifts from overseas. These may not meet Australian standards.

Keep your child away from open flames and heaters.

Avoid buying loose fitting sleepwear, dressing gowns and clothing which could easily catch alight.

Electric blankets

If you remove your electric blanket once the colder months are over always store it rolled up, not folded. Inspect it before use and look for frayed fabric, exposed elements, damaged cords or scorch marks before using it again. If you notice any damage to your electric blanket, throw it away. Damaged or faulty electric blankets can cause an electric shock or fire hazard.

Check before use each year — cords should not be frayed and the blanket covering the wires should not be worn out.

Don't sleep with your electric blanket on - warm the bed and then turn it off.

Never place heavy items on your bed when the electric blanket is turned on.

Seek advice about using an electric blanket if you have diabetes or are pregnant.

Wheat / heat packs

If you purchase a wheat pack, follow the heating instructions and never heat more than instructed. Homemade wheat bags can pose a fire and injury risk because the moisture content and volume of these bags is not known so there are no heating times to guide you. Ageing causes the organic fillings inside wheat packs to dry out and become more combustible.

Do not heat and place the wheat pack on or in bedding. Blankets trap the product's heat and may cause it to ignite.

Allow the wheat pack to cool completely each time before re-

heating.

If you notice a burning smell, let the bag cool and then dispose of the bag — it is no longer safe to use.

Candles, matches and lighters

Candles make your home smell nice, but they are among the most common cause of fires in a home. Blow out a candle before leaving the room or before going to sleep. Ensure the wick ember is no longer glowing.

Children are naturally inquisitive. Lighters and matches can be dangerous in the hands of children.

Store matches and lighters in a safe place, out of reach of children.

Never leave children alone with any open flame.

Keep lit candles away from any combustible material including: curtains, bedding, clothing.

Heaters

Heaters need to be checked every year, no matter how old they are. Make sure there are no exposed wires or loose connections on the cables. Only use one appliance per power point and switch each off when not in use.

Gas heaters must be vented adequately as the carbon monoxide produced when the gas is burnt is odourless, colourless and deadly. It is particularly important to have gas heaters serviced regularly by a qualified tradesperson to ensure that there are no carbon monoxide leaks.

Heaters should be placed on a flat, level surface.

Never use a gas heater or BBQ made for outdoor use inside your home.

Always supervise children and pets when heaters are in use.

Keep heaters well clear from items that might burn. A minimum of one-metre clearance from clothes, bedding, furniture, curtains and other combustibles is recommended.

Mould

Heavy rainfall, cold temperatures and heaters all cause condensation that can lead to mould growth. Mould and dampness in homes can cause health problems. Any mould needs to be removed and the area kept ventilated to avoid regrowth.

Pregnant women, children and people with weakened immune systems or chronic lung diseases should not be present when mould is removed. Mould is not a major health hazard for most people — however, there are some important safety tips to follow when trying to remove mould and reduce the chance of mould regrowth.

Open windows and doors each day to ventilate your house and reduce the growth of mould.

Don't let it settle in — clean up mould as soon as you notice it. Scrub mould off hard surfaces using soapy water. The physical action of scrubbing is the most important component as all the mould must be physically removed to prevent regrowth.

Make sure you scrub up to 50 cm from the edge of the visible mould as there may be new growth that is not visible to the naked eye.

Clean up any mould residue caused by the scrubbing. Use a damp cloth or vacuum cleaner with a HEPA filter.

Dry the area and then find and fix the source of the moisture.

Published: 1 Jun 2021 ACCC Product Safety Australia. <https://www.productsafety.gov.au/news/well-winter-safety-tips>

Exploring Options for a New Safety Data System

The CSH&W SA unit are currently exploring whether to upgrade the current RAPID System or purchase a new Safety Data System to meet our reporting needs.

Systems currently under review are

- Donesafe
- SkyTrust
- SolvSafety

Access will be given to the various sectors to be able to use these systems in a sandpit environment and provide feedback to the CSH&W SA unit.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact CSHWSA Office cshwsaoffice@cshwsa.org.au.

Event Management Procedure

Whether you are hosting a morning tea, celebrating a Saint's Day or a huge fundraiser where there are various stall holders, amusement rides, fireworks etc, these are all events. As such, someone has responsibility to oversee and manage this event, typically known as an event organiser. The organiser has a responsibility to ensure a risk assessment is completed. The detail included in the risk assessment depends on the complexity of the event.

Most of our worksites host events thus a new Event Management Procedure (31) will be introduced into our system. It is currently on the Catholic Safety Health and Welfare Website for [consultation](#).

Parish Volunteer Pack

People choose to volunteer for a variety of reasons. For some it offers the chance to give something back to the community or make a difference to the people around them. For others it provides an opportunity to develop new skills or build on existing experience and knowledge.

To ensure that volunteers understand their role, the activities they are involved with, what is expected of them and that they have the knowledge and skills needed to safely and effectively carry out their duties, each volunteer must receive a site induction.

To assist with this CSH&W SA are developing a Parish pack that could be left in the Church for all Volunteers to take home. A booklet will be provided which will be adapted to the specific site e.g. where the assembly point is located. Also included in the pack is an Induction form for Volunteers to sign. The Induction form is to be returned to the Parish so records can be maintained. If any specific questions or general enquiries contact your WHS Coordinator or the Parish Priest.



Safe Work Month 2021

National Safe Work Month 2021 is happening in October and the campaign kit is now live! The theme for this year is: 'Think safe. Work safe. Be safe.' Go to the website and download a range of resources and start planning your work health and safety activities for October now. Further information can be found at: [National Safe Work Month | Safe Work Australia](#)



think safe. | work safe. | be safe.

#safeworkmonth | safeworkmonth.swa.gov.au | #ThinkWorkBeSafe

