Dear Colleagues,

This time of year is a significant time for people who work in the OHS profession or have anything to do with health and safety within the workplace, as Safe Work Month (October) and National Mental Health Week (October 9-15) combine.

Of course, when you are dedicated to improving workplace health and safety outcomes, every month is safe work month. But these public awareness campaigns are excellent vehicles to reinforce and amplify the important work of our profession. And, given that the month began with the tragic loss of four lives in the first week of October, the message is as important as ever.

For Safe Work Month, our colleagues at Safe Work Australia have developed some excellent, easy-to-implement workplace activities that you could consider – simple, interactive activities that put safety on the agenda. Some of these ideas challenge us to take a slightly different approach, and there’s nothing wrong with taking a different approach from time to time.

Why not host a safety trivia competition at work, using national safety statistics? Or organise a workplace meditation session, or yoga class? Or maybe hold a safety walk, run or bike-ride, to get staff away from their
computer screens?

See more activity ideas here.

Have a great week!

Kind Regards,

David Clarke

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**NEWS & UPDATES**

**Warning over diesel fumes and “cancer time bomb”**

About 130 Australian workers are diagnosed each year in Australia with lung cancer as a result of work-based exposure to diesel fumes, according to the Cancer Council.

*Read more...*

**5 ways to manage safety and fatigue at harvest time**

As farmers and growers near harvest season, there are a number of important steps they should take in order to improve safety for themselves and their workers, according to the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety.

*Read more...*

**WA: Reminder on fall protection measures in workplaces**

Employers should use every means at their disposal to protect workers from falls from height, according to WorkSafe WA Commissioner Lex McCulloch, who said falls had led to a large number of deaths and injuries in workplaces over the past ten years.

*Read more...*

**SA: Caution issued over wild weather safety hazard**

Business owners and operators across South Australia were recently urged to prepare for extreme weather after the Bureau of Meteorology issued a warning for damaging winds and heavy rain with potential to cause flooding.

*Read more...*
**POLICY NEWS**

**WA: Safety alert over grain fire and dust explosion in silo**

WorkSafe WA recently issued a safety alert following an incident in which a farmer was seriously injured when he tried to extinguish a barley grain fire inside a large grain silo.

*Read more...*

**NT: Safety warning over OHS and large trees and palms**

NT WorkSafe recently issued a safety alert highlighting the risk large trees and palms can pose to people and the requirement to implement a regular maintenance and inspection regime.

*Read more...*

**VIC: Safety alert over hyperbaric chambers**

WorkSafe Victoria recently issued a safety alert about the safe use of hyperbaric chambers after a serious incident earlier this year involving the operation of a single person (monoplace) hyperbaric chamber.

*Read more...*

**WA: Goods and equipment rental and hire industry under safety spotlight**

WorkSafe WA is launching a proactive inspection program to look at safety issues in the goods and equipment rental and hire industry.

*Read more...*

**INCIDENTS & PROSECUTIONS**

**NSW: Essential Energy fined $300,000 over powerline fatality**

Essential Energy was recently fined $300,000 over an incident in which an electrician was electrocuted and died while performing maintenance work on powerlines on the North Coast of NSW.

*Read more...*

**WA: Company fined $110,000 after worker killed at East Pilbara mine**

X O W Nominees, which trades as Rod Mitchell’s Transport and Exploration Services, has been fined $110,000 in Perth Magistrates Court in relation to an incident which fatally crushed an employee on 20 January 2015.

VIC: Stairwell void fall ends in $80,000 fine and conviction

A construction company was found guilty of an incident in which a carpenter survived a fall of almost three metres down an unguarded stairwell void at a construction site in Doncaster in 2011.

SIA Tasmania Branch appoints Lauren Jago as Branch Chair

The SIA Tasmania Branch Committee elected Lauren Jago as incoming Branch Chair at the recent September branch meeting. Lauren takes the reigns from Ken Nolan, who has made an invaluable contribution in his two years as Branch Chair.
Meet the next generation of Safety Professionals at YSPspeak

The SIA Young Safety Professionals network invites you to attend the inaugural YSP Speak 2016 on Tuesday 25 October 2016 at The University of Queensland, St Lucia.

This event will showcase passionate, inspiring, educational and thought provoking presentations from several insightful Young Safety Professionals. Sharp videos, live presentations, and dynamic speakers will combine to spark deep discussion and connection on the diverse issues faced by the many disciplines of occupational health, safety and wellbeing.

**REGISTER NOW** for this free event.

**Have you considered OHS Professional Certification?**

Ongoing professional development is a cornerstone of every long, rewarding career. Are you ready to take the next step on your career path? Have you considered Certification?

Our OHS Professional Certification program is offered to Members of the Safety Institute of Australia. SIA Certification sets rigorous standards of education, experience, demonstrated knowledge and skills, and evaluates applicants against those standards. It gives increased confidence and guidance to employers, clients, workers and the community as to the competence and standing of the person providing professional advice.

The assessment is based on a combination of formal qualifications, experience & capability. There are 5 categories of certification and each category contains specific criteria and requirements. To apply for certification, please follow the instructions outlined [HERE](https://sia.org.au/news/newsletters/issue-278-ohs-professional).

To find out more about OHS Professional Certification and how it might benefit you in your career, visit our website or contact Marija at certification@sia.org.au.
LAST CHANCE: Register now for SANE Mindful Employer Workshop

For our colleagues in Victoria, this 3 hour workshop provides participants with important information about mental illness and the appropriate skills for early intervention.

The workshop covers:

- Prevalence of mental illness
- What is mental illness? -understanding the different types, symptoms and treatments
- Understanding and recognising symptoms
- How to help within the boundaries of your role at work
- Common workplace situations and helpful responses -what to do as opposed to what not to do
- Information and skills on managing an employee who is living with a mental illness
- How to stay well at work

This event is not to be missed. Secure your place today.

Register NOW.

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

The Safety Institute of Australia Ltd has established a list of Corporate Membership categories with associated meaningful benefits to attract an expanded range of Corporate Members (Government and Private Sector corporations, organisations, companies and associations).

If your company is considering joining as a Corporate Member, please contact Membership Services on 03 8336 1995 or membership@sia.org.au to discuss the different options available, or click here to view the information on the website.

If your company is already a Corporate Member and you would like to be featured in the e-news, please contact Membership Services or communications@sia.org.au for further details. To view our current Corporate Members please click here.
CALL FOR PAPERS: 25th Annual OHS Visions Conference

The Visions Organising Committee is pleased to invite papers from interested professionals, academics, researchers and practitioners in the field of health and safety for inclusion in the program for the 25th annual Visions OHS Conference on May 21-23, 2017.

Paper abstracts are invited on topics relevant to the field of Occupational Health and Safety and associated disciplines, and particularly this year, papers addressing the development of OHS over the last 25 years.

Read More...

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

13 Oct  Webinar: ISO 45001 Discussion Forum
14 Oct  NT: Symposium - Workplace Body, Mind & Safety
19 Oct  Webinar: Doing Safety Differently
20 Oct  TAS: Construction WHS Issues
21 Oct  VIC: Mindful Employer Workshop
24 Oct  VIC: OHS Construction Forum
25 Oct  QLD: YSPspeak Forum

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Our mailing address is:
2/217-219 Mickleham Road
Tullamarine, VIC 3043