COVID-19: Show leadership - focus on evidence, point others to the facts

A lot is happening with COVID-19, and a level of anxiety which is not necessarily consistent with the threat has been ramping up in communities, resulting in plenty of empty supermarket shelves. I believe our evidence-based profession has an important responsibility to focus on providing others with the facts, and to show leadership in the workplace. It’s important that we are part of helping the community have a more accurate understanding of the real potential health burden of the virus – as opposed to the fear response.

Next Tuesday 10th March, in Melbourne, Richard Coleman from Laing O’Rourke is leading a panel of senior health and safety leaders (including Michael Holmes and Andrew Dick from Telstra and Karen Oldaker from Medibank) in a forum/discussion about effective health and safety planning and management in situations like this. This is not a health briefing about the spread of COVID-19. You can attend directly, or you can view the event on live-stream if you’re from interstate.

Register here, and have a great week.
David Clarke,
QLD Government refers Dreamworld to WHS prosecutor following inquest

With the inquest into the deaths of four people at Dreamworld in 2016 complete, the Queensland Government has referred the matter to the independent Work Health and Safety Prosecutor to decide whether action will be taken against Dreamworld’s owner, Ardent Leisure, under the Work Health and Safety Act.

Read full story

What exactly is silicosis and how does it develop?

Regulators around the country are cracking down on silicosis, with the introduction of the new national exposure standard designed to guide employers in protecting workers from silica dust.

Read full story

WorkSafe ACT resources up with more inspectors

WorkSafe ACT has received a mid-year budget funding boost which will help support an increase of inspectors and staff at the work health and safety regulator.

Read full story

NSW unveils strategy to stamp out silicosis

The NSW Government recently announced a new plan to reduce cases of the lung disease silicosis, caused by ingesting harmful dust when dry-cutting manufactured stone.

Read full story
Safety warning issued after semi tippers overturn while unloading

WorkSafe Victoria recently issued a reminder about the risks associated with unloading trucks, after two recent incidents involving semi tippers rolling over at mines.

Resources regulator warns about failure of highwalls, low walls and dumps

The NSW Resources Regulator recently issued a safety bulletin following several incidents where people and equipment have been exposed to significant health and safety risks as a result of highwalls, low walls and dumps failing.

Read full story
WA: WHS Bill passes through lower house

Western Australia's Work Health and Safety Bill 2019 recently passed through the Lower House of the State Parliament.

Read full story

Safety warning issued following excavator-related amputation

SafeWork SA recently issued a safety alert following an incident in which a young worker at a demolition site was seriously injured while greasing an excavator attachment, resulting in the amputation of the left leg below the knee.

Read full story

AIHS Life Membership Nominations close March 7

Life membership is one of the highest AIHS awards that can be bestowed on a member of the Institute.

Read the conditions of nominating and find the nomination form here.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Join us Tuesday 10 March to build industry understanding on pandemic planning for Covid19. The new coronavirus is causing significant concern globally due to its transmissibility and as a result many businesses are activating pandemic management plans and the AIHS recognises the important role those working in health and safety play in that process. This event will provide the opportunity for OHS professionals to discuss the importance of pandemic planning and provide an insight on how OHS professionals can implement management plans within their organisation. This event will be live streamed nationally.

Register here

The AIHS, in partnership with Better Work Tasmania is presenting the 'Be Silica Safe - Breathe Easier by being informed' over the 11, 12 and 13th of March. The event incorporates three sessions over three days and includes interesting and engaging speakers that will discuss airborne contaminants such as silicosis. Expert speakers will touch on an overview on silicosis, the implications of the new silica occupational exposure standard, latest technologies used to control exposure and more.

Register here

UPCOMING EVENTS

10 March  VIC: Coronavirus: 'Pandemic' Planning for Health & Safety
11 March  NSW - North West Safety Group Meeting- March 2020
11 March  TAS - Be Silica Safe: Breathe Easier by being informed
VIC: developer fined $125,000 for serious safety failures

A property developer in Victoria has been convicted and fined $125,000 for putting workers and the public at risk of serious injury or death.

NSW: 18-year-old apprentice auto electrician killed

An 18-year-old apprentice auto electrician recently died after becoming trapped between the cab of a truck and its engine, at a workshop in Brocklehurst, north of Dubbo.

Company fined $40,000 after corrosive acid incident

Builder fined $20,000 over Gold Coast workplace injury
The director of cleaning chemicals manufacturer B&J Industries has been fined $40,000 after an employee was left permanently scarred from highly corrosive acid which splashed onto his skin.

A qualified carpenter working on a Gold Coast house has been fined $20,000 over a workplace incident which left his apprentice with a fractured leg.