Adaptation.

The feature article of this edition of the eNews explains how blanket cost-cutting across organizations’ production lines during the COVID-19 pandemic can see increases in safety risks. It is the role of our profession to identify and assess these new risks, many of which you could be facing for the first time. Your work may have changed and adaptation is the order of the day. The article discusses pathways to increase health and safety within your own industry without necessarily impacting productivity.

At the Institute, we’re adapting by working to change our busy training calendar to an online experience, and during this critical period of change, giving the best access we can to up-to-date, accurate information to inform your decision making. In May and June, we’ll be delivering the first Australian Workplace Health & Safety Awards, and our national conference online for the first time. Keep your eye out for these announcements and I hope you join us as we learn together to make it all happen.

Have a great week.
David Clarke
How OHS professionals can use protective capacity to shock-proof organisations

The approach that some organisations take to improve supply chain security in response to crises such as the current COVID-19 pandemic can hinder organisational agility and impair workforce resilience while multiplying safety risks, according to an expert in the area.

BHP outlines workforce measures to reduce COVID-19 risks

BHP has implemented a wide range of stringent measures across its assets to reduce the risk of COVID-19 among its workforce and local communities and to keep its operations up and running.

What are the key pillars of effective contractor safety management?

There are a number of important factors OHS professionals need to consider when it comes to effective safety contractor management, according to Sue Bottrell, from contractorSAFE.

Caution sounded over offshore rig roster changes to reduce COVID-19 risks

The National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) recently expressed concerns about operators introducing modified roster arrangements to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission among members of the offshore workforce.
Safety alert issued after farm worker killed by reversing trailer in a paddock

WorkSafe Victoria recently issued a safety alert after a farm worker was struck and killed by a trailer.

WA resources regulator takes collaborative approach to coronavirus containment

Western Australia’s Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) is working with key resources sector stakeholders to enable the agency to support the sector during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Safety alert issued after worker electrocuted in roof space

WorkSafe WA recently issued a safety alert following an incident in which an air-conditioning installer suffered a fatal electric shock while working in the roof space of a house.

Safety warning issued following serious crush injury

NT WorkSafe recently issued a safety alert highlighting the risk when not properly assessing plant and equipment or providing sufficient training or instruction of workers on equipment being used.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ISO 45001 can help organisations to improve worker safety, reduce risks and create better, safer working conditions all over the world. A structured approach to managing health and safety means implementing a system and not a standard. Organisations that implement a standard tend to focus on compliance and not effectiveness. The CSIRO has implemented AS/NZS ISO 45001 and the presenter of this Webinar is Dr Angelica Vecchio-Sadus, HSE Manager, Victoria/Tasmania at the CSIRO. This presentation outlines how the CSIRO constructed the elements of the health and safety management
system, engaged with workers and interested parties to develop the system, and promoted it.

3 TIPS TO SETTING UP A WORKSTATION AT HOME
BY EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY

INCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS

City of Armadale fine increased to $110,000 after WorkSafe appeal

The City of Armadale in WA has had a fine increased to $110,000 over a 2014 incident in which a member of the public was seriously injured when struck by a frontend loader at a waste disposal site.

Bulk haulage operator fined $90,000 after worked killed by truck tailgate

The owner of a bulk haulage company was recently convicted and fined $90,000 over an incident in which a worker died as a result of a truck tailgate falling on his head.
Company fined $300,000 for gas bottle explosion

A maintenance firm in Bayswater Victoria has been convicted and fined $300,000 after a worker was permanently disabled in a gas bottle explosion in December 2017.

Small business and its director fined more than $40,000 for unsafe electrical practices

A small Queensland concreting business and its sole director have been fined a total of $42,500 for unsafe electrical practices which exposed people to the risk of serious injury or death.