The same as last year – but different.

This newsletter comes to you two days early to coincide with 'World Day for Safety and Health at Work and Workers' Memorial Day'. The theme of the day this year is 'Stopping the Pandemic: Safety and Health At Work' which is appropriate for the times. Although the profession has always understood worker risk, the public now understands it in a much more immediate way, as they observe healthcare and other essential service workers doing their job in the face of risks that have put fear into us all. In seeing these things, we have a community whose eyes are more open to the concept of good workplace health and safety.

This week, we have a short 3 minute video from professionals talking about their work: in which Wade Needham from Serco Asia Pacific and Kathy Taylor from Ramsay Health Care provide some brief reflections on COVID-19 and how their work in risk management, prevention, mental health and generally keeping your workforce safe, is changing.

Have a great week.
David Clarke
How Blacktown City Council managed the coronavirus pandemic

An all-of-business approach has been critical to the successful organisational management of the coronavirus pandemic for Blacktown City Council, according to its chief safety officer Geoff Hoad.

Read full story

Workplaces fall short with social distancing, PPE and cleaning protocols

One in five workers are reporting that they do not have appropriate social distancing protocols in the workplace, according to a recent survey from the ACTU.

Read full story

What OHS can learn from elite sports about injury prevention and improving RTW outcomes

The most effective injury prevention and return to work programs exist in the elite sports field, which can teach OHS professionals valuable lessons about using wearable technology to reduce injury risk and improve return to work outcomes, according to an expert in the field.

Read full story

Regulator issues safety warning about quad bikes during school holidays

SafeWork NSW recently launched a campaign urging quad bike owners to keep children off quad bikes during the school holidays.

Read full story
Safety alert issued over mine operators and COVID-controls

The NSW Resources Regulator recently issued a safety alert after receiving several enquiries and complaints from mine workers who allege that mine operators are not implementing effective controls to minimise the risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus in the workplace.

Read full story

Safety warning issued over unguarded voids on construction sites

NT WorkSafe recently issued a safety alert highlighting the dangers of unguarded voids (also known as penetrations) on construction sites and the requirement to manage the risk of falls following a number of serious incidents.

Read full story
NOPSEMA progresses COVID-19 inspection program

The National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) has started collecting regulatory information via a series of targeted inspections across the offshore resources industry.

Safety alert issued after worker sucked into auxiliary fan ventilation tube

The NSW Resources Regulator recently issued a safety alert following an incident in which a mine worker, who was installing an auxiliary fan ventilation tube, was sucked into the end of the tube.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Join us Wednesday 20 May for a webinar presentation titled: Next Generation: Tackling Employee Mental Health. This presentation presents a summary of key research reports that investigate workplace mental health to provide strategies that work to improve employee well-being outcomes. In brief, the presentation provides: key statistics, stigma barriers to help-seeking, strategies for business, ROI for business investing in mental health and e-mental health solutions. Presented by Dr Susanne Bahn is the CEO and Co-Director of Tap Into Safety.
World Day for Safety and Health At Work and Workers’ Memorial Day

Today the AIHS recognises April 28th as World Day for Safety and Health At Work and Workers’ Memorial Day. The theme this year is ‘Stopping the Pandemic: Safety and Health at Work’, which acknowledges the struggle that COVID-19 is currently placing on workplaces across the world.

To recognise the day, we interviewed Wade Needham, Head of Safety, Environment and Wellbeing at Serco Asia Pacific and Kathy Taylor, Deputy National Safety Manager at Ramsay Health Care to hear their thoughts on the work of health and safety during this pandemic.

INCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS

Concrete pump operator fined $375,000  Charges laid over Campbellfield
in relation to workplace fatality
A Sydney concrete pumping company has been fined $375,000 by the NSW District Court while its director has been fined $10,000 after a worker sustained fatal head injuries when he was struck by an unsecured hose attached to concrete pumping equipment at a Fairfield building site.

chemical fire
WorkSafe Victoria recently charged Bradbury Industrial Services over an explosion and chemical fire at a Campbellfield warehouse in April 2019.

QLD: worker killed in conveyor crush
A worker in Queensland recently died after being trapped in a conveyor system at a workplace.

VIC: solar company charged over fatal fall
WorkSafe Victoria recently charged a solar panel installation company with failing to control the risk of a fall from height at a residential property in Bendigo.