SMOKE.

Two weeks ago, just prior to the massive escalation of fires through the South-East, I wrote an article on LinkedIn linked to our media release calling for a more structured evaluation of the respiratory protective equipment (RPE) needs of our tens of thousands of firefighting volunteers. I also touched on the long-term population health impacts of prolonged smoke exposure, and since that time the issue has increased by some magnitude. Take a look at our feature article in this edition on outdoor air pollution. Many of you will need to look at this issue right now, in the context of the workforces you are responsible for. We’ll have more to say in the weeks ahead.

Have a great week.
David Clarke, CEO
Government and WHS regulators sound caution on outdoor air pollution

Federal and State Governments, as well as WHS regulators, recently issued warnings to employers about the hazardous risks of poor outdoor air quality as a result of bushfire smoke and airborne dust.

Read full story

WA: warning issued over child safety in workplaces

WorkSafe WA recently reminded employers to take steps to keep children away from hazardous workplaces during the school holidays.

Read full story

WHSQ issues asbestos clean-up warning following storm damage

Workplace Health & Safety Queensland (WHSQ) recently issued a reminder about the risks of working safely with asbestos following significant storm damage to old buildings containing asbestos.

Read full story

Quad bike safety under spotlight during school holidays

The Queensland Government recently issued a safety reminder to farmers about quad bike safety for children during the school holidays.

Read full story
Safety alert issued following steel mesh foot puncture

WorkSafe Victoria recently issued a safety alert regarding correct footwear in mines, following an incident in which an employee suffered a serious wound from a piece of steel mesh which punctured their footwear.

Safety warning over biological hazards in marine environments

WA’s Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety recently issued a safety alert following an incident in which a worker contracted a life-threatening respiratory infection from the Psychrobacter sanguinis bacteria.
Safety alert issued following vehicle fatalities

WorkSafe Victoria recently issued a safety alert highlighting the importance of ensuring vehicles are suitable for the task, fitted with seatbelts, and operated safely.

Read full story

NSW introduces amendments to WHS (Mines and Petroleum Sites) regulations


Read full story

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Herbert Smith Freehills Annual OHS Breakfast

THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2020 | 42/101 COLLINS ST, MELBOURNE

The AIHS & Herbert Smith Freehills invite you to attend the Herbert Smith Freehills Annual OHS Breakfast on Thursday 6 February 2020. The breakfast will provide safety and compliance professionals with the opportunity to gather insights into the evolving OHS legal and regulatory landscape in the year ahead. As part of the Annual OHS Breakfast series, Julie Nielson will provide attendees with insights into the year ahead for Worksafe VIC and outline some of its initiatives moving forward. Attendees will also be presented with the latest findings and trends in remuneration, based on the annual Safe Search HSE Remuneration Survey.
Join us **Wednesday 19 February 2020** for a training session on Career and Skills Advice for current and aspiring Safety Professionals. This training session will provide delegates with a better understanding of the recruitment cycle and how it affects you as a job seeker or an employer. We will discuss CV and interview preparation, and managing your digital presence. We will also hear from a safety professional about her journey from a graduate to safety manager, find out the necessary qualities and skills and discuss tangible pathways for networking and professional development.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **10 February** - SA - BoK Chapter Launch - Chapter on Ethics Discussion
- **12 February** - NSW - North West Safety Group Meeting - February 2020
- **20 February** - NSW - Central Coast Safety Group Meeting
- **20 February** - QLD - SCAN/AIHS WHS Networking Meeting
- **24 February** - QLD - Safety II Tutorial & Networking Event
- **25 February** - QLD - Safety II in Practice Workshop with Erik Hollnagel
- **26 February** - Webinar - Building a mindful, high-performance safety culture
- **2 March** - NSW - Improving Approaches to Workplace Mental Health

### INCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS

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VIC: mining company fined $110,000 after near-miss rock fall

Gold mine operator Mandalay Resources Costerfield Operations has been convicted and fined $110,000 after a worker was nearly crushed by falling rock.

Read full story

QLD: $75,000 fine after serious sugar mill injury leads to amputation

A sugar mill operator has been fined $75,000 after a young worker had a foot amputated as a result of a workplace injury.

Read full story

VIC: charges laid over chemical stockpiles

WorkSafe Victoria has charged a man from Harkness in Victoria over the alleged illegal stockpiling of dangerous goods at five sites in Melbourne’s northern suburbs.

Read full story

SA: amputation injury sustained while felling trees

A 24 year-old-male worker was recently using a chainsaw to fell trees and sustained a serious injury from a falling limb, resulting in amputation.

Read full story