What is Industry 4.0?

Have you heard of the term Industry 4.0? In broad terms, it’s from the concept of a fourth industrial revolution, which is said to be taking place right now. It focuses on new technology: for example new data, new energy systems, new computing, robotics and artificial intelligence, and the way they are driving the creation of new systems of work and new ways of getting things done.

These things are no longer in the future. They are happening, and they are already affecting the evolution of the practice of health and safety in workplaces. If you see yourself in a health and safety role in even five years from now, I predict that you will look back and be amazed at how new technology has changed in those five years or impacted your role directly, as well as how you approach the health and safety of others in the workplaces you’re responsible for. It’s worth looking into – right now. Our feature article ‘What impact will industry 4.0 have on WHS?’ is definitely worth a read.

Have a great week.
David Clarke, CEO
What impact will Industry 4.0 have on WHS?

There are a number of important trends in AI and robotics impacting health and safety, according to an expert in the area, who explained that WHS professionals need to stay abreast of these trends in order to benefit from them from both a functional and organisational perspective.

Read full story

Investigation recommends key measures to avoid autonomous vehicle incidents

The NSW Resources Regulator recently recommended a number of important engineering and technology measures to make autonomous vehicles safer following an investigation into a heavy vehicle collision involving automated machinery at Wilpinjong coal mine near Mudgee.

Read full story

Regulators issue warnings on Q fever safety risk as drought worsens

People working in rural areas of Queensland were recently warned to take steps to guard against Q fever as drought conditions persist and dust and high winds increase the risk of the disease spreading.

How the law of unintended consequences complicates OHS compliance

The introduction of OHS-related legislation can sometimes lead to an overreaction on the part of some organisations, which inadvertently results in unnecessarily complex or rigid
procedures – potentially increasing risks rather than decreasing them.

Residual funding is available to support the development of female leaders across Australia’s workplace health and safety sector. The initiative is providing women with grants of between $2,000 and $7,000 to enable participation in one of three programs that cover such things as reinforcing resilience and wellbeing, engaging with challenge and conflict, creating future focus, leading authentically and driving performance.

Find out more and register your interest by completing the Expression of Interest form here prior to 22nd November.

POLICY & LEGISLATION

Mines safety message drives across WA

WA's Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety recently launched its annual Mines Safety Roadshow which focuses on promoting on-site risk awareness.

Read full story

Alert issued over safe use of medical oxygen cylinders

WorkSafe WA recently issued a safety alert on the safe use of medical oxygen cylinders following an incident in which two workers were injured performing maintenance tasks on a cylinder.

Read full story

Standards Australia publishes guidance on aluminium cladding products

Standards Australia recently published technical specifications which detail minimum requirements for the marking of aluminium composite panel (ACPs) to enable their identification throughout the life of the product.

Read full story

New ground control code of practice and guideline reinforce mine safety

Western Australia’s Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) recently released a code of practice and guideline for ground control of WA mining operations.

Read full story
Webinar - Accessible and immersive technology

The AIHS in partnership with HFESA invites you to join our webinar 'Accessible and immersive technology to achieve optimum work performance' on Thursday 14 November from 2.30 - 3.30 pm (AEDT). Immersive experiences provided by modelling, simulation, virtual or augmented reality, animation, serious games, and interactive technology can enhance traditional messages of safety, hazard identification, and risk assessment. Learn more about the webinar by clicking 'register here' below.

Register here

NT Branch Seminar - Step forward in health and safety

How can you take the next key innovative steps to improve health and safety in your organisation? This workshop will explore the innovative idea of enabling health and safety, based on three key principles:
1. Empowering people as a solution, rather than a problem to control;
2. Enabling – health and safety is about positive outcomes, rather than the absence of negative outcomes; and
3. Ethical operating – health and safety as an ethical responsibility rather than a bureaucratic activity.

Register here

UPCOMING EVENTS

23 October  Brisbane - H.O.P & Learning Teams Course: Never Stop Learning
23 October  WA - Workers Compensation - Enough is Enough
27 October  Adelaide - ANZSOM Annual Scientific Meeting 2019
Worker killed after being pulled into wood-chipper

A worker in Sydney recently died from fatal injuries after being pulled into a wood-chipper machine.

Read full story

Employee injured from slurry tank failure at paste plant

A worker in Victoria was recently injured in an incident in which a filter tank ruptured during commissioning of a paste plant and released about 400 tonnes of slurry.

Read full story

Company fined $80,000 after tyre shredder injury

Electrical worker fined and loses licence for 10 years
The operator of a tyre recycling facility in Victoria has been convicted and fined $80,000 after a worker’s arm was crushed by machinery.

Queensland’s Electrical Licensing Committee recently disqualified a negligent electrical contractor from holding an electrical work licence for a period of 10 years.