A Year in Review from AIHS Chair, Naomi Kemp

2019 has been a year of change at the Institute. Most significantly, honouring the legacy of the Safety Institute of Australia as we transitioned to the Australian Institute of Health & Safety. Repositioning ourselves as a future-focused profession and putting an emphasis on ‘health’. But that’s not all we’ve done!

We have spoken out loudly about the inaccessibility of standards, called for urgent legislative reform in dust disease and provided input to industrial manslaughter laws. We welcomed the establishment of regional networks in Kalgoorlie and Hunter Valley and we continued to expand on our professional development offerings and events. We re-energised the AIHS College of Fellows, refined Certification, and refreshed the OHS Body of Knowledge with new chapters and a new website.

We are proud of our achievements and we look forward to an exciting year of growth and celebration in 2020 with the inaugural Australian Work Health & Safety Awards.

On behalf of the Institute, I’d like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and safe New Year.

Naomi Kemp, AIHS Chair
Victorian Government passes new workplace manslaughter laws

Employers who negligently cause a workplace death will face fines of up to $16.5 million and individuals will face up to 20 years in jail under new workplace manslaughter laws recently passed by the Victorian Government.

Beware legislative pitfalls in adopting Industry 4.0 technology

Many employers are exploring how they can adopt Industry 4.0 technology for organisational benefit, however, they need to be aware of relevant legislation around the collection of employee data and how this data is utilised, according to technology transformation firm Velrada.

Why RAA exclusions for psychological injuries are on the rise

There will likely be an increase in the application of the reasonable administrative action (RAA) exclusion to psychological injuries in the future, according to an expert in workers' compensation law.

Regulators issue warning over dangers of working in high-heat environments

Western Australia’s Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) recently issued a reminder to guard against the effects of extreme temperatures in work environments following a forecast of above-average temperatures this summer.
The Survey will touch on:
• Occupation and demographic (anonymous)
• Job stressors experienced
• Feelings of chronic job stress and burnout experiences
• Adverse effects of job on physical health & sleep
• Stress management strategies adopted
• Adverse effects of job stress-induced health problems on your overall job performance Consent needs to be provided before participation.

Read more about the survey and fill out the consent form here and email it to imriyas.kamardeen@deakin.edu.au. Find the survey here.

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POLICY & LEGISLATION

New workplace safety laws tabled by WA Government

The Western Australian Government has

NSW launches new high-risk workplace strategy

Construction sites, hazardous chemical
tabled a new Workplace Health and Safety Bill which if passed will introduce a number of important changes and see workplace safety come under a single Act covering all workplaces.

facilities and sites with mobile plant equipment are some of the workplaces targeted in a new high-risk workplace strategy recently launched by the NSW Government.

SafeWork NSW conducts safety blitz on silica exposure

A cross-industry strategy lead by SafeWork NSW has significantly increased awareness of silicosis and standardised practices of exposure prevention.

Safety alert issued following vehicle hoist fatality

NT WorkSafe recently issued a safety alert highlighting the risk of serious injury or death when using a vehicle hoist following an incident in which a workplace fatality occurred as a result of using a modified vehicle hoist.
Super Early Bird ticket specials are now open for the 2020 AIHS National Health & Safety Conference which is happening 27-28 May in Melbourne. The conference will explore the theme: Across the #safetyscape. It will bring together stakeholders across the health and safety profession to discuss some of the challenges currently faced by WHS professionals and practitioners and explore the impacts these have on the OHS profession, as well as new ideas, innovation, research and leadership. Super Early Bird ticket specials close 31 January.

Register here

Join us and Forge Works on February 25-26 for a 2 day workshop Safety II Tutorial and Safety II in Practice Workshop with Erik Hollnagel. The workshop is open to everyone regardless of their level of experience with Safety-II (For newcomers it may be a good idea to attend the Safety II Fundamentals Workshop on Monday 24th Feb). It will address the use of Safety-II in a variety of fields and for purposes ranging from investigations, performance analyses, organisational management and development, individual and organisational learning, and resilience.

Register here

UPCOMING EVENTS

13 December  Gold Coast Regional Meeting - December 2019
13 December  NSW Branch Christmas Party – Spooky Mini Golf
10 February  SA Ethics & Professional Practice Launch
12 February  NSW North West Safety Group Meeting- February 2020
NSW paint manufacturer fined $75,750 after worker burnt by explosion

An industrial paint mixing and manufacturing company in NSW has been fined a total of $75,750 for two breaches of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and ordered to provide essential safety training to key staff after a worker was seriously burnt during cleaning activities.

Company fined $54,000 after elderly woman injured by water tank

A company in Queensland and one of its officers have been fined $54,000 after a woman was injured when a water tank being delivered to her property struck her.
work safety breaches
A Brisbane builder was fined $24,000 this week over breaches of Queensland work safety laws which posed a serious risk to workers.

convicted and fined $8100
The SA Industrial Court recently convicted and fined a worker a total of $8,100 plus costs for unlicensed asbestos removal.

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