

SOUTHERN DISTRICT NEWS

A message from Derek

Thank you for taking the time to review the February Edition of the SafeWork Southern District News.

I am proud of the efforts our Illawarra Shoalhaven South Inspectors and Regulatory Service Officers make to build capacity and help create safer workplaces. We are local people working with local businesses and workers and hope to contribute to the success of the area. For small and micro business's, we are running a "Easy to do WHS" seminar on 19 February with the Shoalhaven Business Chamber. If you are a small business and want to take all the frills out of work safety and get the important protections in place, this one is for you. It comes along with a \$500 State Government rebate to help local businesses with safety purchases. Click on the video link, and look at the service, give Cathy a call (02 4428 6711) to see if the session is right for you. The seminar runs from 5 to 7pm at the Shoalhaven Ex-Servicemens Club. We will make sure there is some light food and refreshments for you.



Such a large proportion of our work is proactive and assistance based. But we do have some non-negotiable expectations. As a reminder, where your work involves asbestos, manage the issue and work to your legal obligations. Should you need any assistance our staff will really help. Where your works leave yourself, workers, and the community at risk, expect our staff to undertake significant compliance activity and to ensure that you, workers, and the public are protected from this harm.

To really-good news – for our larger and medium businesses the Shoalhaven has a well-established and strong Shoalhaven Safety Group (if you are interested, please chat with Cathy 02 4428 6711) and the Far South Safety Group is now in full swing (if you are interested, please chat with Kylie 02 6491 6600). This month the Far South Safety Group had a subject matter expert present on making mentally health work places. All are welcome to be involved



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COVERED IN THIS EDITION

PRESENTATIONS

RTW Program Workshop - Bomaderry, 5 February:

Easy to do WHS – Nowra, 19th February 2019

2019 Silica Symposium – Sydney, 7th May 2019

SAFework UPDATES

Formaldehyde – A Priority Chemical

LPG Cylinders Should Not Be Used or Stored in Commercial Kitchens (Update Revised October 2018)

Steel Wire Ropes in Marine Environments

INCIDENT INFORMATION RELEASES

Fall Through Void 17 November 2018

PRESENTATIONS

MAKING SAFETY EASY – FREE WORKSHOP, NOWRA

SafeWork NSW and the Shoalhaven Business Chamber are running a FREE safety workshop in Nowra for small business.

We know that managing health and safety in a small business may seem challenging.

The NSW Government is committed to making it easier for NSW businesses to manage health and safety in the workplace. The [Easy to do WHS program](#) provides practical advice and support to help achieve this.

This FREE workshop, delivered by [SafeWork NSW](#) and supported by Shoalhaven Business Chamber is targeted to help small business owners (less than 20 full time workers or equivalent part time/casual), including sole traders, understand what good practice work health and safety looks like, and how to create a safer, healthier and more successful business.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

- - Work through your own business needs to identify your health and safety actions and solutions.
- - **Qualify for a \$500 small business rebate for eligible small business** who install safety solutions to improve in their workplace. Click [here](#) to view program terms and conditions.
- - Have your questions relating to work, health & safety, workers compensation and return to work answered by a specialist.
- - Receive a certificate of attendance
- - Network with like-minded people in your area
- - Light meal and refreshments

Join us at the **Shoalhaven Ex-Serviceman's Club, Nowra from 5:15pm to 7.30pm Tuesday 19 February 2019.**

REGISTER NOW: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/easy-to-do-work-health-safety-workshop-nowra-nsw-registration-53572077526>

QUESTIONS: Phone Cathy at SafeWork NSW Nowra 44286700

Examples of how local businesses have used the \$500 Safety Rebate:

- A window and gutter cleaning business from Nowra received \$480 for a ladder and fall arrest system to work safely at height.
- A refrigeration and aircon sales business in Wollongong received \$500 for racking, safety barriers, signage and a trolley to help prevent falls on the same level.
- A café in Wollongong received \$252 for ergonomic office furniture to prevent muscular stress.
- An electrical business in Kiama received \$500 (out of pocket \$320) for double sided ladders to work safely at height.

PRESENTATIONS

RETURN TO WORK PROGRAM WORKSHOP

We are running a free return to work program workshop, this is a good opportunity to get the latest information and make sure your Return to Work program complies with the legislation by May 2019.

RTW Program Workshop - Bomaderry, 5 February: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/return-to-work-program-workshop-nowra-tickets-53570461693?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

The target audience is Category 1 Employers who need to understand how to comply with the SIRA Workplace Return to Work Program Guidelines. I recommend you book your place asap.

2019 SILICA SYMPOSIUM

SafeWork is hosting a one-day conference covering all things silica dust in Sydney on 7 May and is an opportunity for businesses to learn how industry leaders are tackling the issue.

The event is tailored to business owners, managers, workplace health and safety (WHS) representatives and workers from all industries that deal with potentially deadly silica dust found in manufactured and natural stone, concrete, brick, tile and clay.

The symposium is an opportunity to network and learn how leading businesses are tackling the issue as well as hearing from experts across health, occupational hygiene and WHS.

They will also receive information on the government services available to support them to protect the health of their workers.

Eligible businesses will qualify for a \$500 small business rebate to put towards safety solutions in their workplace.

To register your interest to attend email chemicals@safework.nsw.gov.au.



SAFework UPDATES

FORMALDEHYDE – A PRIORITY CHEMICAL

Formaldehyde is a colourless, irritating and unpleasant smelling flammable gas. It is soluble in water and often used as water based solution known as formalin.

The NSW Work health and safety roadmap has a target of a 30 per cent reduction in serious injuries and illnesses by 2022, which comprises a reduction in exposures to hazardous chemicals and materials. A priority list of 100 chemicals, based on national and international research was developed, in which ranked formaldehyde first.

[READ MORE](#)

LPG CYLINDERS SHOULD NOT BE STORED OR USED INSIDE COMMERCIAL KITCHENS (REVISED OCTOBER 2018)

This safety alert advises NSW workplaces not to store or use portable LPG gas cylinders inside commercial kitchens. It is dangerous and illegal to use LPG gas appliances designed for 'outdoor use only', indoors. It puts workers and others at risk of fire, explosion and asphyxia, especially in commercial kitchens. Work carried out on any gas installations by a person without the appropriate licence, training and experience also puts workers and others at risk of serious injury from fire and explosion.

BACKGROUND

SafeWork NSW has responded to several serious incidents at the workplace involving gas, which ignited and led to serious burn injuries. Whilst SafeWork NSW has focused its compliance programs on the inappropriate use of gas appliances connected to portable LPG cylinders indoors the latest incidents relate to **work being carried out on fixed gas installations by unlicensed persons.**

[READ MORE](#)

STEEL WIRE ROPES IN MARINE ENVIRONMENTS

This safety alert reminds people of the risks associated with working with wire ropes and chains in marine environments, and the actions requires to ensure those risks are eliminated or minimised.

BACKGROUND

In 2017 an incident occurred when a luffing rope failed on a 210 tonne barge mounted crane failed causing the crane jib to collapse into Sydney harbour.

In January 2018, a main hoist rope failed on a boat hoist at a marina at Newport.

In February 2018, an incident occurred when a trolley rope failed on a portainer crane at Port Botany

In 2018 a further two trolley steel wire ropes and a hoist rope have failed on portainer cranes at Port Botany.

These incidents demonstrate the hazards associated with steel wire ropes in maritime and other adverse environments

[READ MORE](#)

INCIDENT INFORMATION RELEASES

FALL THROUGH VOID 17 NOVEMBER 2018

A worker has fallen from the first floor of a residential construction site through a stair void and suffered fatal injuries.

Location - Green Valley

INCIDENT OVERVIEW

A 29-year-old male air conditioning mechanic fell from the first floor of a residential construction site through a stair void. The worker suffered fatal head and neck injuries.

THE INVESTIGATION

SafeWork NSW Inspectors responded to the incident.

SafeWork NSW has commenced an investigation to determine the cause and circumstances of the incident.



[READ MORE](#)