



Workplace Health & Safety

February 2019

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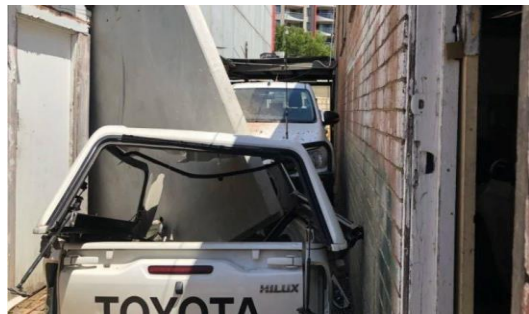
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State news

ACT: Precast panel falls 17 metres at Braddon building site

A 3.7 tonne precast panel fell approximately 17 metres from a Braddon building site, crushing vehicles below and the toilet block of a nearby business. Investigations on how the panel dislodged from its temporary support are continuing.

[Read more](#)





**OPAL TOWER INVESTIGATION
INTERIM REPORT**

NSW: Opal Tower investigation reveals structural and design issues

An interim report on Sydney's Opal Tower incident has been released by the NSW Government and indicates that the 'materials used in construction' are unlikely to have contributed to the damage of the structure.

Note that there will be presentations on Opal Tower at the April Members' Meeting.

[Read more](#)

NSW: Improved safety thanks to construction blitz

A 12-month construction industry blitz aimed at reducing falls from heights has resulted in improved working at heights safety and compliance.

[Read more](#)



NSW: New State Government strategy to create more mentally healthy workplaces

New South Wales workers will have better mental health support thanks to the State Government's Mentally Healthy Workplaces strategy.

[Read more](#)

QLD: Worker struck by reversing forklift

A worker sustained minor injuries when he was struck by a reversing forklift in a factory packing room. [Read more](#)





QLD: Fatal forklift incident prompts safety warning

WorkSafe Queensland has released a forklift safety alert, after a worker was killed when the forklift he was operating tipped over and killed him.

[Read more](#)

QLD: Power shut off as tower crane strikes powerlines

Lifting equipment attached to a tower crane servicing a construction project struck live overhead powerlines adjacent to the site. There were no injuries and it appears the crane unintentionally rotated over the powerlines under its own power. Investigations are continuing.

[Read more](#)



QLD: Audit of respirable crystalline silica (RCS) risk continues

A state-wide audit of engineered stone benchtop fabricators continues, with a focus on minimising exposure to RCS. Exposure can lead to a range of respiratory diseases, including silicosis and lung cancer.

[Read more](#)



QLD: Are your workers using the right tools?

In the construction industry, 15% of workers who sustain a musculoskeletal injury never return to work. Prevent injury and make sure your workers are using the right tools for the job with these hazardous manual task resources.

[Read more](#)

UNDERSTANDING HAZARDOUS MANUAL TASKS





QLD: WHS duties aren't only for PCBU's

Workers must take reasonable care for their own safety and ensure they don't adversely affect the health and safety of other workers. These two cases highlight the complexity of duties under WHS laws.

[Read more](#)

SA: What to do when reporting a workplace incident notification

South Australia's WHS laws require a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) to notify SafeWork SA of certain serious injuries or illnesses, dangerous incidents or deaths that occur at work immediately after becoming aware that it has occurred.

[Read more](#)



Incident



VIC: Preventing falls from heights in building and construction

Falls from heights are the leading cause of death and serious injury in the construction industry. This WorkSafe Victoria document outlines how to control risks associated with working at heights.

[Read more](#)

VIC: Construction company fined after fall fatality

A Melbourne construction company has been fined \$275,000 following the death of a painter who fell 3.5 metres through a stair void at a Mornington Peninsula building site.

[Read more](#)





VIC: Civil construction company charged over trench collapse deaths

Ballarat company Pipecon Pty Ltd has been charged with two breaches of section 21 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

[Read more](#)

WA: Jaxon Construction site manager cleared of fatalities on work site

A former Jaxon Construction site manager – who was criminally charged over the deaths of two tradesmen crushed to death by a concrete panel – has been cleared by a magistrate. [Read more](#)



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



WA: Crane operator fined over 2015 incident

A crane operator has recently been fined \$4400 (and ordered to pay \$4700 in costs) after he overloaded a crane and injured another worker when the crane collapsed.

[Read more](#)

National news

National Precast supports safety initiative

With a dedicated approach to workplace safety, National Precast has banded with Australian First Aid Awards (AFA) as an Industry Partner for 2019.

[Read more](#)





New guidance material for small business owners and operators

SafeWork Australia has released officer duty guidance material, which details information to help small businesses comply with WHS laws.

[Read more](#)

International news

Worker killed at Lancaster concrete plant (US)

The worker became pinned between two concrete forms and died in hospital.

[Read more](#)



Incident

Construction worker trapped after concrete wall collapses (US)

The man was working adjacent to a house in Pittsburgh when the 1.2 metre wall panel became unstable and collapsed.

[Read more](#)

Precast safety video series (US)

Train your employees on the safety essentials with this precast safety video series.

[Read more](#)



Have we missed anything?

To help deliver a safer industry, it is important that members share information about incidents and near misses. Please submit incident reports to [Sean](#), where they will be anonymised and then issued to members as incident alerts.

Thank you for your co-operation with this, as it will help us all to improve safety.



BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE AUSTRALIA

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