



Workplace Health & Safety

May 2018

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State news

WA: Precast concrete slab falls construction site

A two-tonne precast concrete slab fell from the ceiling of the Northbridge construction site, metres away from workers.

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QLD: Preventing falls through formwork voids

A worker has sustained serious spinal injuries as a result of falling through a void in formwork. WorkSafe QLD has released a safety alert detailing how to prevent a similar incident.

[Read more](#)

QLD: Worker impaled by starter bar

In February a worker was impaled by a starter bar after falling into a 1.8-metre deep excavation. The incident highlights the fall risks associated with excavation and trench work.

[Read more](#)



QLD: Targeting respirable crystalline silica (RCS) risks

WorkSafe QLD inspectors are conducting workplace audits targeting the risks associated with RCS. Exposure can lead to a range of respiratory diseases, including silicosis and lung cancer.

[Read more](#)

VIC: Concrete pumping company fined \$500,000 after worker crushed

The incident occurred when a forklift driver was directed to lift a section of a concrete pumping component, which slid off the forklift and struck a worker on the ground and trapped him against a wall.

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VIC: Company fined after a pit collapse

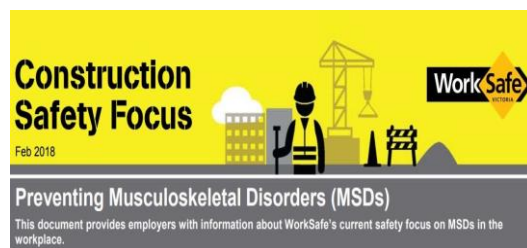
A structural engineering firm, which drew up the plans for excavation works at a Mt Waverley construction site, has been convicted and fined \$380,000 for breaching the Occupational Health and Safety Act. The company failed to ensure people other than their employees were not exposed to health and safety risks.

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VIC: Preventing Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs)

MSDs are the most common injury sustained by Victorian construction workers. WorkSafe VIC has released a document detailing information on their safety focus on MSDs in the workplace.

[Read more](#)



NSW: Worker hospitalised after trench collapse

The worker was initially trapped but construction workers were able to extract him before emergency services arrived at the site.

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NSW: Grindr disc explodes and lacerates worker's head

A worker was hospitalised after an angle grinder blade he was working with exploded and caused lacerations to his forehead.

Caution: story contains graphic image

[Read more](#)



NT WorkSafe

NT: Companies facing fines for workplace fall

Charges have recently been laid for a 2016 incident, where a worker fell almost 3-metres through a void and broke his left femur. The construction companies are facing a penalty of \$1.5 million each.

[Read more](#)

National news

AS3850: A new part 3 for civil construction

A gap in safety standards (when precast concrete is used in civil construction) became evident after a worker was killed on a Western Australia civil construction site. This has driven a national call to see the gap closed, and change is imminent with a new Part 3 to AS3850.

[Read more](#)



Review of the model WHS laws

The review is examining how the model WHS laws are operating in practice to ensure they are functioning effectively. While public consultation is now closed, you can stay up-to-date with the review through Safe Work Australia.

[Read more](#)

The future of workplace health and safety

A new report explores the impact of emerging trends on workers' compensation and workplace health and safety.

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Workplace Safety Futures

International news

Tragic bridge collapse (US)

The 53-metre, 950-tonne concrete span fell onto six lanes of traffic, killing six people and injuring several others.

[Read more](#)





Worker dies after being crushed on worksite (UK)

The worker was crushed by site equipment when operating a material hoist on an apartment building project in Liverpool.

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Tower crane drops pallet of bricks on pedestrian (UK)

A woman was passing a London construction site when she was struck by debris falling from a building site tower crane.

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