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Dear subscriber,

Welcome to the new online newsletter from the Office of the ACT OHS Commissioner. We hope you will find this a useful source of regular updates and information about what is happening in the field of health and safety here in the ACT. Feedback about the newsletter or suggestions for future content will always be gratefully received.

OHS Awards close 30 June 2009 - get your entry in!

Entries for this year's Safe Work ACT Awards close on Tuesday, 30 June 2009. To enter you simply have to have done something significant in the field of health and safety over the past year - something you think is worthy of recognition.



There are seven categories in this year's awards:

- Best Workplace Health and Safety Management System - a) Public Sector; b) Private Sector
- Best Solution to an Identified Workplace Health and Safety Issue
- Best Workplace Health and Safety Practices in Small Business
- Best Individual Contribution to Workplace Health and Safety
- Most Successful Promotion of OHS in Workplaces
- Best Workplace Health and Wellbeing Program
- Best Health and Safety Training Program.

The winners of this year's awards will be announced at a luncheon at the National Convention Centre on Thursday 22 October 2009. The awards presentation by Minister Simon Corbell MLA will be a highlight of this year's Safe Work ACT Month (October is Safe Work ACT Month).

Winners of Categories 1 to 4 automatically qualify as entrants in the national Safe Work Australia awards, the winners of which will be announced in April 2010.

To find out how to enter the awards and access further details

Contact Us

Level 3, Building B, Callam
Offices, Easty Street, Woden.

P 61 02 6205 0333

F 61 02 6205 0168

E worksafety@act.gov.au

W www.worksafety.act.gov.au



*A place where you can share health and safety ideas,
resources and information with like minded people.*



about the 7 categories, the judging criteria, past winners and more, logon to the awards website at www.safeworkactawards.com.au.

Online Safety Forum for the ACT

A new Work Safety Forum has been developed for the ACT's health and safety community.



Sponsored by the Work Safety Commissioner, the forum provides an online venue for the local health and safety community, a place where they can share ideas and comments on topical issues, start off a new discussion, upload videos or photos they would like to share with their colleagues, view or add to a list of upcoming events, start a blog, access quick links to key health and safety sites or create a group of like-minded colleagues.

Groups are a particularly powerful part of the Forum. Groups can choose to share their membership list, discussion points and other information with the rest of the Forum's members - or it can choose to operate privately, where only other Group members can see what the Group is discussing.

Membership of the Forum is free. Once you Sign Up and agree to abide by the Forum's rules you're off and running.

Come on board and start making your contribution to the ACT's health and safety community. You might just find this one of the most useful resources around.

To find the Forum, either visit the Commissioner's website at www.worksafety.act.gov.au, or just go directly to www.safetyforum.org.au.

Information sessions on the new Work Safety Act

With the start date for the new Work Safety Act just around the corner now (1 October 2009), the Office of the ACT OHS Commissioner has been running free public information sessions to explain the primary provisions of the new Act, how it differs from the old, who has what responsibilities under the new legislation and where to go for more information. The sessions are also an opportunity for people to ask questions or seek clarification about particular aspects they are not sure about.



Given the strong demand for this information, further dates have now been allocated. At this stage, further public information sessions will be run on:

- 24 August 2009, and

- 13 October 2009.

Although the venue is yet to be decided, if you would like to register for one of these sessions, please contact us on 02 6205 0333 or email worksafety@act.gov.au.

Draft new Regulations released for public comment.

On 5 June 2009 the ACT Government released an Exposure Draft of the new Work Safety Regulation 2009 for six weeks of public consultation.



The Regulation will underpin the Work Safety Act 2008, which is due to commence on 1 October 2009.

Whether you chose to comment on the exposure draft of the Work Safety Act 2008 last year or not, you may wish to make a submission on this occasion.

The Regulation provides additional detail on specific work safety issues, such as workplace arrangements, amenities, licensing of high risk work and manual tasks at work. A discussion paper and a workplace arrangements guide providing information about the proposed Regulation can be downloaded from www.legislation.act.gov.au/ed/default.asp.

All comments and submissions must be received by COB on Monday 20 July 2009.

For further information, please email worksafetypolicy@act.gov.au, or call Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.

Planning for the 2009 ACT Health and Safety Show well progressed

This year's ACT Health and Safety Show to be held at the National Convention Centre again on Thursday 22 October is expected to be even bigger and better than last year's inaugural show.



Attendance is free to the public so put the date in your calendar now. This is an event not to be missed.

To find out how to exhibit at the show, or simply to find out more about who will be exhibiting and what other events will be associated with this year's show, simply go to the Safety Show website - www.actsafetyshow.com.au.

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