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Work Safety News

Issue 03 - August 2009



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Dear Mark McCabe,

Welcome to the third edition of Work Safety News. Click on an item to the left to go straight to an item that interests you.

October is Safe Work ACT Month

October is Safe Work ACT Month here in Canberra.

As usual, the month will be packed with health and safety events, culminating in national Safe Work Australia Week from 25 to 31 October.

Important events this October will include:

- launch of Safe Work ACT Month and the commencement of the new Work Safety Act on 1 October
- [Safety Seminar 2 - OHS Harmonisation: Where to From Here?](#) at the National Museum on 6 October
- a [free public information seminar on the new legislation](#) on 8 October in Civic
- [Global Handwashing Day](#) on 15 October



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- [Safe Work ACT Awards](#) ceremony on 22 October
- the [ACT Safety Show](#), also on 22 October at the National Convention Centre
- national [Safe Work Australia week](#) from 25 to 31 October
- a [free public information seminar on the new legislation on 27 October](#) at Woden.

Go to the [Safe Work ACT Month webpage](#) for a full listing of this year's events.

More free seminars on the new legislation - 'The Work Safety Act 2008 Explained'

Following on from the strong demand for our free public information seminars on the new OHS legislation - the *Work Safety Act 2008* - we have scheduled a further 3 dates for these seminars.



The seminars scheduled for 21 August and 8 October are now completely full. Apologies to those who missed out on those dates but we were overwhelmed with requests to attend.

More dates will be scheduled in the future should the strong demand for these events continue.

In addition to this, you can now **register online** for these and other future events - entering your details and receiving confirmation by email that your registration has been accepted, rather than emailing us and then waiting for confirmation that you have secured a place.

Click on the link for the date of your choice below for details of that event and access to our online registration system.

- [Friday 18 September](#), 10.00am to 11.30 am at the Hellenic Club at Woden
- [Tuesday 27 October](#), 10.00 am to 11.30 am at the Hellenic Club at Woden
- [Tuesday 17 November](#), 10.00am to 11.30 am at the Waldorf Hotel in Civic, Canberra.

Book in early to secure a place at one of these events.

ACT Health and Safety Show - register now for free seminars / workshops

The ACT Safety Show will be held in October this year.

Once again, the Safety Show will





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be held at the same venue and on the same day as the Safe Work Awards - that is, at the National Convention Centre on Thursday 22 October 2009.



If you are interested in exhibiting at this year's show, why not have a look at the [Prospectus for Exhibitors](#), or simply go to the [Show's website](#) and book a booth before they are all taken.

If you know someone who may be interested in exhibiting, why not forward this Newsletter to them?

A feature of this year's show will be a series of free seminars and workshops, in addition to the exhibitor's booths.

Registration for these seminars/workshops will open in the next few weeks.

New Guide to Promoting Physical Health and Wellbeing in the Workplace

New guidance material on Promoting Physical Health and Wellbeing in the Workplace is now available on the ACT OHS Commissioner's website.



The Guide contains the following useful material:

- info. regarding the impact of physical health and wellbeing on an organisation's bottom line
- a Simple Guide to promoting physical health and wellbeing
- a Detailed Guide
- links to additional Resources
- Case Studies and Examples
- References.

Check it out. It may be just the thing you need to get a physical health and wellbeing program up and running in your organisation.

[Click here to view the guide.](#)

New Legislation 'In Focus': Prevention of Falls

Continuing our regular focus on an aspect of the ACT's health and safety laws, this issue we will be examining Prevention of Falls.

Division 7.3 of the draft *Work Safety Regulation 2009* contains detailed requirements for



employers [specifically, a person conducting a business or undertaking at the workplace] in respect of Prevention of Falls.

The Regulation stipulates that if, because of the nature of the work, a worker must work in a workplace from which they could fall and, if they fell, it is likely they would be injured, then the employer must provide adequate protection against the worker falling.

Adequate protection includes providing a safe means of exit and entry to the work and either a protective barrier, if that is reasonably practicable, or if it is not practicable, a safe systems of work.

In this context, a safe systems of work includes, training in relation to the relevant risks, supervision or assistance, using a fall-arresting device if practicable, a safe working platform if that can reasonably be provided, if a safe working platform cannot be reasonably provided then a safety harness or pole safety static-line system if practicable.

Where maintenance work is involved, the employer must ensure the worker uses:

- a properly installed building maintenance unit, or
- scaffolding or a work platform, or
- if neither of those are reasonably practicable, a safety harness attached to a safety line attached to an appropriate anchorage.

If a safety harness, safety line or anchorage is used the employer must ensure they are regularly inspected [at least every 6 months] and kept in efficient working order. They must also be suitable for the use in question, undamaged and effective and maintained in a suitable condition for use.

The load-bearing capacity of an anchorage must not be impaired.

Ladders must be of sound construction and kept in a safe condition. They must not be used in a way that creates a risk to the safety of anyone.

Portable single ladders or extension ladders must NOT be used if the horizontal distance between the ladder's top support point and its foot is more than one quarter of its supported length, if the ladder is not placed on a firm footing or if its not secured to prevent slipping and sideways movement.

A ladder may not be used to support planks for a working platform.

Trestle ladders may not be used to support a working platform if the platform is used for work other than light duty work.

Upcoming Events

The following events are scheduled for the coming months:

- a [workshop on Organisational Stress and Psychological injury](#) on 8 September

- a [Business in Focus Month](#) event - [Spotlight on the new Work Safety Act 2008](#) on 10 September
- a [free public information seminar on the new legislation on 18 September](#)
- launch of [Safe Work ACT Month](#) on 1 October
- commencement of the new Work Safety Act 2008 on 1 October
- [Safety Seminar 2 - OHS Harmonisation: Where To From Here?](#) on 6 October at the National Museum of Australia
- a [free public information session on the new legislation](#) on 8 October
- [Global Handwashing Day](#) on 15 October
- the [Safe Work ACT Awards](#) ceremony on 22 October
- the [ACT Health and Safety Show](#) on 22 October
- [Safe Work Australia Week](#) from 25 to 31 October
- a [free public seminar on the new legislation on 27 October](#)
- a [free public information session on the new legislation on 17 November](#).

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