

MANAGING SAFETY IN UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

**Recording
Vaccination
Status**

**Alfred Occupational
Respiratory Clinic**

**Safety Month
Think Safe. Work
Safe. Be Safe.**

**Is Your Air-Con
system causing
COVID?**

**OHSA Top 10
Violations**

**Online Safety
Leadership
Training Course**



What's New in October?

Welcome to the October Safety News.

This month Ben Olih continues to explore how to manage safety in unprecedented times with networking, modelling self-care and investing in personal professional development.

Free health screening for Victorian workers at risk of silicosis is now available at The Alfred's Occupational Respiratory Clinic.

With COVID-19 vaccine's now mandatory in many workplaces, we share how to record them as well as discuss the use of Air purifiers in the workplace. The Safety Action team are proudly now all fully vaccinated



Ben Olih

Stay Safe!

Safety Webinar – Friday 8th October 10am

We invite you to join us at **10am on Friday 8th October** for our free monthly webinar to keep you up to date on workplace health and safety. Gary and the team present short informal sessions of only 20 to 30 minutes on topical issues and answer your questions. * [Please note our monthly webinars are now on Fridays.](#)

Register [here](#)

Missed our last webinar? View them [here](#)

SAFETY ACTION TEAM



Gary



Andrea



Stephen



Katie



Miriam



Sarah

Managing Safety in Unprecedented Times

- Part 2

In Part 1 we discussed the importance of authenticity, getting specialist advice, building community and having good contingency plans.

In this article we examine 3 additional strategies that safety leaders need to adopt in these challenging times: These strategies are networking, modelling self-care and investing in personal professional development.

Networking

Safety professionals in similar industries face similar challenges when it comes to health and safety in the workplace. Hence, by networking with peers from similar industries we are most likely to gain new insights and ideas on managing safety.

This means we do not have to reinvent the wheel and conduct time consuming original research to solve our problems.

By collaborating with other professionals that are passionate about the same things, we create a forum where we can share ideas, successes, challenges and experiences. Thus, benefiting all participants involved.



Modelling Self-Care

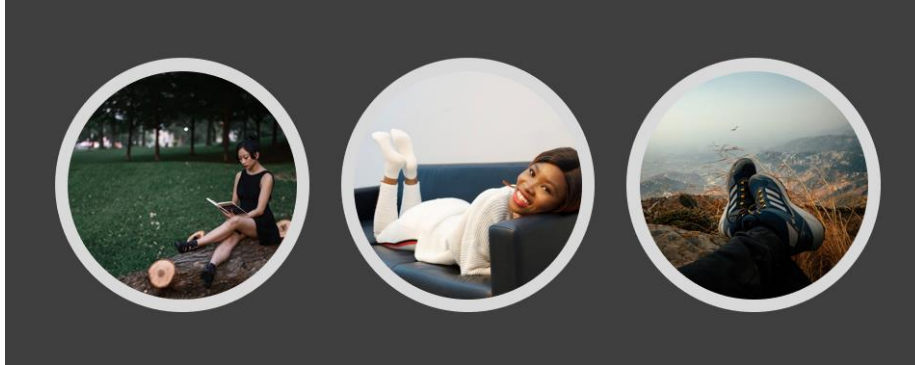


In unprecedented times, it becomes easy for our employees to forget to look after themselves, which in turn impacts on their wellbeing and productivity. During lockdown we can lose essential routines like informal team meetings, regular exercise, good eating healthy and connecting with friends and family.

Some impacts of this on an employee are anxiety, low morale, lack of mental clarity, and feeling stressed. This can affect the business efficiency e.g. increase of sick leave or reduction in productivity. Therefore, as safety champions we need to actively encourage and model self-care. We can start with simple initiatives like encouraging everyone to take breaks during work hours, get involved in physical exercise, and possibly share photos of what they are doing for self-care on the company's social media page.

The focus here should be to provide information and set up initiatives that support your team's overall physical and mental health. This in turn will boost morale, wellbeing and overall business productivity.

Remember to get senior management involved in your initiative to motivate others in the team to participate.



Personal Development

The emergence of new risks and hazards due to lockdowns and restrictions necessitates the importance of upskilling through personal development. Therefore, safety professionals should seek opportunities to improve themselves to deliver on their target safety goals. We must look at how we provide safety and wellbeing in the workplace and adapt to current circumstances and demands.



For example, if we look at the medium of delivering safety training as a subject, we see a transition from face-to-face delivery to an online mode of delivery. A challenge might arise when we do not get the level of engagement as more, often achieved in face-to-face delivery, compared to the online delivery method.

We must be proactive in availing ourselves of the latest training techniques and information to deliver on crucial safety deliverables, even if it means adopting a different approach.

The drive to ensure that we keep our team members safe should become the catalyst in enrolling in relevant safety training and related personal development courses. After all, the key to continued growth as a safety leader is the willingness to continually look for opportunities to educate ourselves on best health and safety practices.

By Ben Olih, Safety Action

Recording Vaccination Status

In workplaces that have a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination requirement, the employer must collect and be able to produce a record of their workers' vaccination status. In some cases, this also includes records of contractors and visitors. A record should include the name of the worker, their vaccination status, who sighted evidence of compliance, the date the evidence was sighted, and/or the nature of that evidence (for example, AIR or medical exemption).

Example COVID-19 vaccination register

Name	COVID-19 vaccine dose 1	COVID-19 vaccine dose 2	Evidence sighted	Date sighted	By who
Jane Person	Pfizer 28 May 2021	Pfizer 2 July 2021	COVID-19 Digital Certificate	20-Sep-21	Gary Checker

There are currently two ways for a worker to prove their vaccination status:

- If they have had both doses of a vaccine, the COVID-19 digital certificate is available from Services Australia.
- If they have had one dose of a vaccine, they can show their Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) record which includes record of COVID-19 vaccine received.
- If a worker has a booking for a COVID-19 vaccine, they can show confirmation of the booking.

More information on how to prove vaccination status is available from [Services Australia](#).

Note: You do not need to retain the evidence you sighted. Obey privacy laws when storing workers' personal information.



COVID-19 Digital Certificate displayed on mobile phone

Digital COVID-19 Vaccine Management



DAVID ERCZMANN
GENERAL MANAGER
 LinkSafe
 T: 1300 558 102 • I: +61 3 9894 2999

We asked our friends at LinkSafe how their digital contractor management system can capture this information to ensure all persons entering site are vaccinated. David Erczmann explains:

"LinkSafe has the ability to capture vaccines as a credential requirement. It can be made mandatory for particular trade roles, or for clients operating in certain industries where this has now been mandated. It allows us to formulate this as a site compliance item, meaning if it hasn't been uploaded or hasn't been approved by the client, it will flag a non-compliance alert when signing in on-site stipulating the reasons why non-compliance has been reached – in this case, a message will display saying that the vaccination certification is missing."

For More details visit [LinkSafe](#).

Is Your Air-Con System Causing Covid?

Whilst guidance on prevention of Covid is changing rapidly, what has become clear is the link between poor building ventilation and spreading events.

Recent research suggests a simple tool you can use to measure the “health” of your building ventilation system is a carbon dioxide (CO2) meter.



Selection CO2 meters readily available

The CO2 level in fresh air (eg outdoors) is about 400ppm, and building standards specify indoor CO2 levels should not exceed 1,000ppm, or 800ppm averaged over 8 hours. However, spot readings with a portable meter can help identify a lack of fresh air intake on your ventilation / air-con system.

Note: High CO2 levels is not evidence of Covid aerosols in the air-con system, but it does indicate a higher risk of spreading viruses if present eg if one or more people with Covid in the building.

The meters are cheap and easy to use, with prices starting at about \$300.

For more information on this topic call +61 3 8544 4300 or [email](#) us for a Fact Sheet.

Last Chance for Benchmarking Survey

If your business has not participated in our 2021 Benchmarking Survey, this is the last chance, as we close off the data for analysis shortly.

The survey is confidential and quick and easy to complete, so there is no excuse for not participating.

Just click on the link to the survey on front page of our website www.safetyaction.com.au, or call us if you have any questions.

Now Open: The Alfred Occupational Respiratory Clinic

Victorian workers at risk of silicosis can now access free health screening at Australia's only dedicated public hospital occupational respiratory clinic, making care more available for people at risk of developing the deadly lung disease.



The Alfred Occupational Respiratory Clinic is a partnership between the Alfred Hospital and WorkSafe Victoria and offers a centralised, comprehensive, and multidisciplinary approach to diagnosis and management of occupational respiratory diseases, including silicosis.

The clinic builds on WorkSafe's free silica health screening program which is part of the Victorian Government's *Silica Action Plan* to prevent unsafe silica exposure. The plan also includes the development of permanent regulations to introduce a state-wide ban on the uncontrolled dry-cutting of engineered stone, a revised silica compliance code and developing Australia's first licencing scheme.

The Occupational Health and Safety Amendment (Crystalline Silica) Regulations 2021 are due to be made before the end of 2021.

For more information on the Victorian Government's announcement click [here](#) and further information on health assessments click [here](#).

To confirm eligibility and to book an appointment at The Alfred Occupational Respiratory Clinic, call WorkSafe's Silica Advisors on 1800 136 089 (option 1 then option 3) for a referral.



Teach your kids about taxes
Eat 30% of their ice cream

In response to demand Safety Action is presenting
Safety Leadership Training ONLINE
 17th and 24th November 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon
 2-Half Days - Course Content

Half Day 1: Promoting & Sustaining Safety Leadership and Culture Change

1. Legal Obligations for Workplace Safety
2. Introduction to Safety Culture
3. Effective Safety Communication
4. Motivating Safe Practices
5. Personality Types & Leadership Tips

Half Day 2: Leadership Skills for Frontline Supervisors

Practical Leadership Skills for:

6. Safety Inspections
7. Safety Investigations
8. Risk Assessments
9. SWMS & JSA Process
10. Personal Action Plans

Cost : \$390.00 + GST per session
 (includes pdf notes and competency requirements)

If you would prefer a hard copy Safety Leadership Training Manual, this can be provided to you by mail prior to the training session for an additional charge of \$100 inc. postage.

For further information contact Safety Action enquiries@safetyaction.com.au
 Or call the office on +61 3 8544 4300

Numbers are limited so register promptly at:

[ONLINE : Safety Leadership Training 17 & 24 November \(ivvy.com.au\)](http://ivvy.com.au)

XXII World Congress On Safety and Health at Work Review

The theme for the very first fully digital XXII World Congress was "Prevention in the connected age: global solutions to achieve safe and healthy work for all."

The week-long congress held in September brought together participants from 120 countries in four languages. Presenters shared how new technologies are used to improved health and safety, which is more relevant than ever during the pandemic.

Andrea Rowe shared how future scenarios of robots working side by side with human beings are no longer a utopia but already exist and how risk assessment methods must consider new risks. Andrea joined other experts from Germany and the USA to discuss the impact of digital technology on cyber security and monitoring OHS performance.



Andrea presenting at the virtual congress

Andrea explains more in our next Safety Action webinar on Friday 8th October 2021. Register [here](#).

OSHA's Top 10 Violations

The US safety regulator, OSHA, recently published their top 10 list of violations.

The legal system in the US is different from Australia, but safety violations typically include fines or prosecutions for breaches of safety policies created by an individual workplace and violations of the regulatory standards that are enforced within the jurisdiction.

The top US violations include:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Fall protection | 6,000 |
| 2. Hazard communication | 3,700 |
| 3. Scaffolding | 3,000 |
| 4. Lockout / Tagout | 2,600 |
| 5. Respiratory protection | 2,500 |
| 6. Ladders | 2,400 |
| 7. Power industrial trucks | 2,100 |
| 8. Fall protection training | 1,800 |
| 9. Machine guarding | 1,700 |
| 10. PPE eye & face protection | 1,400 |

Falls Represent Half of All Violations

Grouping the fall related breaches (eg items 1, 3, 6 & 8) tells us that fall risks represent nearly half of all US violations.

US data show costs can exceed \$13,000 per violation, and per day not fixed, or 10 times as much for wilful violations.



Next month we will update the Australian statistics for workplace safety prosecutions.

October Safety Month

Think Safe – Work Safe - Be Safe

October is National Safe Work Month - a time to commit to building a safe and healthy workplace. Being healthy and safe means being free from physical and psychological harm. No job should be unsafe, and no death or injury is acceptable. A safe and healthy workplace benefits everyone.

This year's theme is "Think Safe. Work Safe. Be Safe."

To get involved you can customise and share the resources from Work Safe Australia's campaign kit which has a range of digital resources.

To participate:

1. Go to the [National Safe Work Month website](#) and download resources from the campaign kit
2. Customise and share the resources with your workplace.
3. Follow [Safe Work Australia on social media](#) to keep up to date on new campaign materials and to share National Safe Work Month updates.
4. Use the hashtags **#safeworkmonth** and **#ThinkWorkBeSafe** when promoting National Safe Work Month on social media.

How will you be taking part in National Safe Work Month? [Email us](#) to share your plans and ideas.

