SAFETY action PTY LTD ®

December 2022

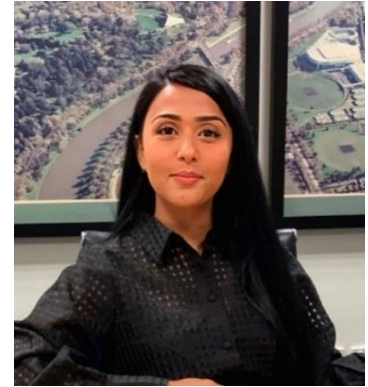# Holiday Safety

Road Safety

Cyber Security

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Safety Update
Webinar
9th December

# What's New in December?

Safety Action is pleased to welcome Sue'Ellen Bennett as our new Safety Administrator. Sue'Ellen has a background in real estate and mental health and comes with a strong passion for workplace safety and wellbeing. We look forward to introducing her to our clients and friends over the next coming weeks.

This month, we share key tips on Holiday Safety and Cyber Security.

We wish you a safe and merry Christmas.

**Sue'Ellen**

## Safety Update Webinar – Friday 9th December 10am

We invite you to join us at **10am on Friday 9th December** 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.

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

Safety Action Office is closed from 23rd December 2022 and reopens 16th January 2023.
Contact your consultant directly for support during the Christmas break.

## SAFETY ACTION TEAM

**Gary**          **Stephen**          **Katie**          **Andrea**

**Glecellie**          **Sarah**          **Jessica**

# Holiday Safety

After a long-wet winter and spring, it is that time of year again when most of us turn our mind to Christmas holidays with family and friends.

We have featured holiday safety in numerous, earlier summer editions of Safety News.
This year we collate our top tips, so you can have fun while applying our practical tips.

## 1) Water Safety

Warmer weather means everyone gravitates to water, whether beach, rivers, lakes, or swimming pools. Obviously, the ocean introduces a wide variety of risks ranging from tides and storms to things that bite.



Top tips:
- Only swim in safe areas with others.
- Watch children and provide floatation aids, particularly if they can't swim or are weak.
- Stay within your limits and have a rescue plan.

## 2) Electrical Safety



Christmas decorations often result in lots of make-shift electrical arrangements and leads around the home.

Top tips:
- Ensure all electrical leads and equipment are protected with a safety switch.
- Check that smoke detectors are working.
- Avoid temptation to do unqualified electrical work.

## 3) Falls from Height

Free time over holidays or desire to place decorations in high places leads many people to climb to areas they normally don't, some result in serious falls.



Top tips:
- Plan how to safely access the roof or place Christmas decorations.
- Use a good quality, stable ladder.
- If you're unwell (e.g. balance problems) or in doubt, stay low.

# 4) Camping Safety

Not everyone likes or can afford a luxury hotel for the holidays, and many families love the rustic experience of camping, but once again this type of holiday can introduce some special risks.

Top tips:
- Select a safe area e.g. with no overhead branches that can fall on a tent or vehicle.
- Brief children on key risks for the area e.g. deep water, snakes, power boats, sun burn etc.
- Be prepared e.g. have a well-stocked first aid kit and basic first aid knowledge.

# 5) Slip Trip Falls

Falls at the same level don't seem as scary, but data shows this is one of the most common causes of hospitalisation, and celebrating with friends over the holiday season often increases this risk.

Top tips:
- Don't leave leads or items in walkways.
- Avoid slippery surfaces and loose mats, which tend to trip people.
- Use handrails on all steps and stairs.

## 6) Insects and Snakes

Warmer holiday season also brings out snakes and more stinging insects to annoy us.



Top tips:
- Use appropriate clothing and insect repellents, particularly for children.
- Brief family on likely areas for snakes, and safety precautions.
- Ensure that your first aid kit includes medication for insect bites.

***Have we missed your top holiday risk or tips? If so, please let us know and we will update readers in our next edition.***

# Road Safety

Holiday periods always increase the volume of families travelling to popular areas at the same time, and therefore, it is no surprise that we often see an increase in road accidents at this time of year.



Top tips:
- Avoid being in a hurry, but don't unnecessarily hold others up.
- Be patient and courteous, even when other road users are not.
- Be well-rested for long trips and take regular breaks.

## Safety Tech Halves Risk & Saves Lives

A landmark study of more than 12 million car crashes by the Partnership for Analytics Research in Traffic Safety in the US, shows modern vehicle safety systems such as autonomous emergency breaking and forward collision warning, reduces the chances of motorists being injured by more than 50 percent.

Whilst emergency breaking and warning systems are intended as a last resort, the study found that they also halved the likelihood (and severity) of being involved in less serious type crashes such as "nose-to-tail" collisions.

Autonomous Emergency Breaking (AEB) is scheduled to be compulsory on all new Australian vehicles from March next year.

## Driver Killed After Ignoring 100 Warnings

A motorist in the US has been killed by a faulty (Takata) airbag when his 2006 Ford Ranger utility (not same model as Australia) deployed in an accident, showering him in metal shards.

The amazing thing about this case is that the driver ignored more than 100 reminders from the vehicle manufacturer.

Apparently, Ford sent more than 100 notices to the owner's home, along with multiple text messages, and even had a messenger visit the home to try and schedule the repair.

Takata airbags have been subject to a world-wide recall since 2013. To date nearly 400 people have been injured by them, including 34 deaths.

## Too Fast or Too Slow is Dangerous

We all know speeding increases the risk of road accidents, particularly when significantly over the limit, and even more so when combined with drugs, alcohol, or other illegal activities such as stolen or highjacked cars.



However, I found it interesting to read a US study that reported driving too slow is more likely to cause an accident than speeding by a similar amount.

Whilst not encouraging speeding, they explained that driving 5 mph (8 kph) slower than the surrounding traffic causes more emergency braking and swerving incidents and increased accidents.

If you have ever come across a very slow vehicle on a bend on a highway you will understand what the study is alluding to.

# Cyber Security

Businesses in Australia have experienced over 76,000 digital attacks over the last 12 months, with each reported cybercrime costing an average of $39,000 for small businesses, $88,000 for medium businesses and $62,000 for large businesses.

## Common types of cybersecurity threats

Malware, short for malicious software, is software used to gain unauthorized control of a victim's computer systems, to then steal personal information, encrypt important files, or cause (sometimes irreparable) damage. There are many types of malwares, including:

- **Virus** – a self-replicating program attaches to a clean file which then spreads throughout the whole computer system while infecting files with a malicious code.
- **Trojans** – malware disguised as legitimate software, that can cause damage or collect data once uploaded by the victim.
- **Spyware** – malware that secretly records what the victim is doing, cybercriminals can steal personal information such as credit card details through this.
- **Ransomware** – malware that encrypts a victim's files, blocking access to them, until a ransom is paid. Cybercriminals can threaten to erase the victim's files if the ransom is not paid.
- **Adware** – malware that displays advertisements, these can be used to collect data to deliver more personalized ads or spread malware. WorkSafe point out that all trees pose a risk of falling over or dropping branches.



Phishing is fraudulent activity that aims to steal a victim's money or identity, by getting them to reveal personal information, such as credit card information or login details. This is usually done by electronic communication, such as emails, from seemingly reputable sources.

Romance scams are when cybercriminals adopt a false identity to gain a victim's affection and trust. The criminal can then use these misguided feelings to manipulate or steal from the victim.

# Cybersecurity Software

End-user protection is software that secures the end or entry-points of user devices, such as laptops, computers, and mobile phones. These devices can be exploited by cybercriminals for entry into the corporate network.

Therefore, securing each device prior to its entry into the corporate network by using encryption and application control allows for greater security control on entry points and detection and blocking of risky behaviours.

End-user security software also scans devices for malicious codes. If identified, the malicious codes are quarantined then removed from the device. Cybersecurity software can also encrypt information while it is in transit, protecting it from loss or theft.



# Cyber Safety Tips

Due to the volume and variety of cyber-attacks, it is important that individuals learn how to protect themselves. Here are some tips to keep yourself safe from cyberattacks:

- Use two-/multi-factor authentication, this is where websites or applications require a second verification method after inputting your login details.
- Use a password manager. This ensures that your passwords are not easy to guess.
- Be wary of unfamiliar links. Think before you click on websites that you do not recognize or links that are sent by someone you are not familiar with.
- Keep your software and operating systems up to date. This ensures that you have the latest security updates from the manufacturer.
- Use anti-virus software. These will identify and remove malware from your device. Ensure that this software is updated for the best level of protection.
- Do not open email attachments from unknown senders. These files may be infected with malware.
- Avoid using unsecure Wi-Fi networks in public spaces. These make your device vulnerable to man-in-the-middle attacks, where a cybercriminal may be eavesdropping or manipulating the information you are sending to another person.

***For more information on how to be cyber safe, check with your IT specialist.***

# Manslaughter Charge

A 45-year-old director of stone masonry business has been charged with workplace manslaughter under section 39G (1) of Victoria's OHS Act.

The charge arose out of a fatal accident at a (Vic) Somerton factory in October 2021. A 25-year-old sub-contractor died after a loaded forklift tipped over on a sloping driveway crushing him.

The director charged was operating the forklift at the time of the accident. We will update this story after the legal proceedings are completed.

# Dangerous Goods Manifest Quantities

Victoria and some other jurisdictions have amended their Dangerous Goods (DG) Regulations in relation to placarding and reporting of manifest quantities.

We issued a Fact Sheet last month to our retainer clients on DG manifest quantities for Australia by state. If you would like a copy of our succinct table, call, or email us.

# Uniprint Pre-start Checklist Books

A working environment that prioritises employee's safety, is one that cultivates a productive and thriving business operation.
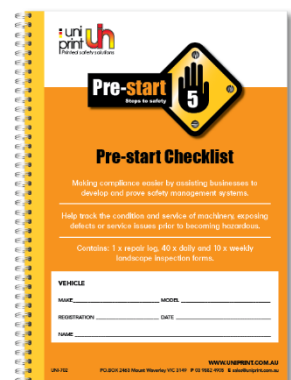
Using pre-start checklists help demonstrate your commitment to safety procedures which can help earn the trust, confidence, and loyalty of your employees and clients.

Industrial and manufacturing companies that use machinery, vehicles and equipment must perform regular inspections and maintenance check-ups before and after operations.

Our friends at Uniprint say their Pre-start checklist book helps to track the condition and service of machinery, exposing defects or service issues prior to becoming hazardous.

They are versatile allowing you to use it for a variety of machinery. An added feature of Pre-start checklist books is having both daily and weekly inspection forms allowing you to use it daily, weekly, or even monthly.

The Uniprint checklists are quick and simple to use and guides you through a series of checks to ensure you're safe before you start.

For more information, visit: www.uniprint.com.au/pages/pre-start-checklist