



# What's News?

Occupational Health & Safety

25 June 2009

## Latest News

- Construction contractor fined \$47,500 over seven metre fall
- Federal Safety Commissioner targets mobile plant and equipment in audits
- Companies and director charged for fatal swing bridge scaffolding falls
- Australia fails swine flu test, workplace awareness needed

## Latest News

### **Vic: WorkCover overhaul announced**

17 June 2009

A \$90 million reform package has been announced for Victoria's WorkCover scheme. The reforms include: 10 per cent increase in no-fault lump sum benefits for workers with spinal impairments; almost doubling of lump sum death benefits and access to pensions for dependants and less red tape for employers and more support and advice on the calculation of premiums. Legislation will be introduced later this year and the majority of the changes will come into effect for injuries notified after commencement in early 2010. [More...](#)

### **Safe Work Australia's statistical publications provide insight**

18 June 2009

Safe Work Australia has put up two new statistical publications, one on mesothelioma incidence and deaths, and another on notified fatalities. 'Mesothelioma in Australia - Incidence 1982 to 2005 Deaths 1997 to 2006' shows in 2005, there were 597 new cases of mesothelioma diagnosed in Australia. This is a reduction from the 645 new cases reported in 2003. 'Notified Fatalities Statistical Report July 2008 - December 2008' found there were 88 notified work-related fatalities in the period from 1 July to 31 December 2008. [More...](#)

### **Construction contractor fined \$47,500 over seven metre fall**

16 June 2009

Adelaide-based Candetti Constructions has been convicted and fined \$47,500 over a seven metre fall which left an employee with ongoing medical problems. Candetti Constructions had been earlier found guilty of breaching section 19(1) of the Occupational Health Safety and Welfare Act 1986 in failing to ensure as far as reasonably practicable, the safety of an employee. The case is related to an incident in April 2005, during a cool room panel installation operation. [More...](#)

### **Sanitarium cereal factory fire a reminder of dangers of combustible dust**

15 June 2009

John Astad, Director of the Combustible Dust Policy Institute, has pointed to the Sanitarium cereal factory fire as an example of the dangers of combustible cereal dust. The Sanitarium cereal factory at Lake Macquarie was shut down after a fire occurred in a dust exhaust unit of the facility. [More...](#)

### **Surfing on a sick day is fine, Australian court rules**

19 June 2009

An Australian surfer who took part in a competition when he was on sick leave from work has had an appeal against his sacking upheld. Mr Bevan injured his back while working for Oceania Aviation Services. The Industrial Relations Commission initially upheld his sacking, but on appeal ruled that terminating his employment was too harsh and ordered the company to pay compensation. [More...](#)

### **Federal Safety Commissioner targets mobile plant and equipment in audits**

17 June 2009

The Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner (OFSC) is targeting mobile plant and equipment as the hazard to be reviewed during re-accreditation audits. The OFSC says data from biannual reports submitted by accredited companies showed mobile plant and equipment accounted for the highest number of dangerous incidents on building and construction sites in the January to June 2008 period. [More...](#)



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### Companies and director charged for fatal swing bridge scaffolding falls

9 June 2009

Allscaff Systems, its company director, Karimbla Construction Services and Pryme Constructions are being charged with safety breaches for a fatal scaffolding accident. In June 2008, construction workers The workers were killed when they fell 26 storeys from swing bridge scaffolding in Broadbeach, Queensland. [More...](#)

### Australia fails swine flu test, workplace awareness needed

11 June 2009

James Schluter, lawyer, microbiologist and biochemist, says Australia has failed the swine flu test, and better performance is needed next time to avert disaster. He says occupational health and safety professionals must take a leading role in preparing for a serious flu outbreak. [More...](#)

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