



Safety Newsletter

February 2023

Did you ever think you could start a fire with a bottle of water? Me neither! But apparently you can, so you might want to rethink leaving plastic bottles of water sitting in the sun in your car..and read our fascinating article below to find out more.

This newsletter also brings us information about changes in Jaggaer, some assistance with the transition back to work after the holidays, a Benestar webinar on career satisfaction, a reminder not to make adjustments to fume cupboards unless you've been trained and some suggestions to help you stay safe when working from heights.

Have you seen our wonderful Safety Team members roaming the campus in their fluoro vests? Look out for them every second Wednesday morning. They're keen for a chat so come and say hello!

Switch on for Safety!

Getting back into work after holidays can be challenging. Our minds are often still in 'holiday' or 'home' mode, which means we are less alert to

Shattered Fume cupboard panel

In a recent incident involving a fume cupboard, the glass panel at the rear of the fume cupboard was removed and replaced for cleaning by the service agent. A staff member noticed that the panel may not have been correctly replaced and attempted to fix the issue by adjusting it. This caused the panel to shatter into pieces, resulting in a2.02 2(,)1.T34 753 248.3.3 (i)-0.7

Do you ever need to work at heights?

SafeWork SA reported a worker who was standing on a roof when it gave way. The worker was injured (luckily not killed) when he hit the ground!

- Problem 1: the worker was wearing a harness which wasn't attached to an anchor point
- Problem 2: the roofing material was fragile and broke under his weight

Be aware that materials may fracture without warning! No sheeting roof should be relied on to bear your weight. This includes the roof ridge and purlins.

In another incident, a tethered worker fell over the side, but the tether was too long, resulting in a pendulum-effect swing. The tether length hadn't been considered.

Anyone working at height is at risk. Workers must be trained and be competent in ensuring their anchor point selection and set-up has a minimum rating of 15kN, and that the tether is of an appropriate length.

Falls while performing work on a roof result in the most serious injuries. Workers have been killed or seriously injured from falling through penetrations, unprotected edges or fragile material.

[Watch your step on fragile roofing | SafeWork SA](#)

Plastic water bottles left in the sun start a fire!

SafeWork SA has reported that clear plastic water bottles left on a pallet in the sun ignited the cardboard packing material and the pallet! The probable ignition source is sunlight refracting through transparent bottles containing clear liquids. The heat caused the plastic to melt and partially burnt the combustible materials.

The risk of fire sparked by refracted light is also well documented in WA. Since July 2020, there have been 29 incidents of this nature reported to WorkSafe Mines Safety alone!

What to do? Find undercover, shaded storage areas, where sunlight cannot shine through transparent bottles that contain clear liquids. This includes clear drink bottles left in your car! Make sure they are kept away

Remember, Speak Up for Safety!!

