

Brief:

Work in the classroom in small groups or by yourself, under the supervision of your teacher.

Resources:

Information Sheet which contains a full Safety Alert, or look for others on WorkSafe's website at www.worksafe.wa.gov.au

Note: Safety Alerts are real incidents that actually happened in Western Australian workplaces. The incidents have been investigated and a report written by WorkSafe inspectors.

Information from the General WorkSafe Smart Move module on duties of employers and care for employees.

Task:**STEP ONE:**

Pretend you are a WorkSafe inspector. Choose one of the Safety Alerts on **Worksheet 1 or Worksheet 2.**

STEP TWO:

Work out what you believe were the factors that contributed to each incident.

STEP THREE:

Make some recommendations that you believe would prevent similar incidents occurring.

As a guide check the **Information Sheet.**

You can check your answers later with the inspector's findings on WorkSafe's website.

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Information Sheet

Safety and health alert 02/07 Safe movement of vehicles

Incident

A fatal injury occurred at a workplace when a truck collided with a pedestrian. The incident involved a situation in which trucks move frequently from place to place in the vehicle yard and often travel in close proximity to pedestrian traffic. The situation was made worse by blind spots, where access to and egress from the buildings opens into a vehicle laneway.

Factors to consider

Frequent vehicle movements through laneways and into and across parking areas throughout the vehicle yard at the workplace;

Pedestrian traffic in the close proximity of vehicle traffic;

Blind corners in areas where pedestrian access/egress opens into a vehicle laneway.

Recommendations

1. Identify hazards and conduct risk assessments in workplaces where people work with or near vehicles and mobile plant.

2. Traffic and pedestrian movement at workplaces should be designed, planned and controlled so traffic can circulate safely.
3. Where practicable, pedestrians should be separated from vehicles and plant through clearly marked walkways and pedestrian barriers at building entrances and exits.
4. Where practicable, provide clearly marked pedestrian crossings.
5. Provide adequate signage at the workplace, for instance in relation to speed limits, pedestrian crossings, blind corners, etc.
6. Ensure adequate personal protective equipment is in place, such as high visibility clothing.
7. Provide information, instruction, training and supervision to employees to enable them to perform their work in such a manner that they are not exposed to a hazard.

Further information

'Safe Movement of Vehicles at Workplaces' is a Guidance Note published by the Commission for Occupational Safety and Health. It provides information and assistance on the safe movement of vehicles and mobile plant in workplaces.

Worksheet One

Safety Alert 16/1999 – Skylarking burns down factory

Incident

A fire that started in the spray booth of a furniture factory completely destroyed the building, valuable stock and the office containing the company records. The fire took place on the 15 February 1999.

The fire was caused by two young workers skylarking (playing around) in the spray booth after they had finished work. A cigarette lighter was used to ignite a stream of highly flammable lacquer from a spray gun, producing a jet of burning liquid.

The spray booth caught fire when burning vapours were drawn into the extraction system and ignited the filters. The fire spread rapidly through the building despite the efforts of workers to control it. The entire building was destroyed in about 25 minutes.

The two young workers were aware of the highly flammable nature of lacquers. There were strict rules in place regarding ignition sources in the spray booth. In spite of this they decided to have "a bit of fun".

There was no intent to do any harm. They just did not consider the possible consequences. Although no one was injured in the blaze the fire could have resulted in serious injury or death. The financial cost to the company and workers has been enormous

Contributing factors

Recommendations

Worksheet Two

Safety Alert 07/08 - Bench top deep fryers

Incident

A young worker, untrained in working with fryers, was cleaning next to a bench top fryer when the fryer slipped off the bench, causing burns to various areas of the worker's body.

While not actively involved in cleaning the fryer, the employee was in the vicinity wiping down the bench.

The employee started to wipe the outside of the fryer as part of wiping down the bench, then (due to a combination of a build up of an oil film and not being secured) the fryer moved and fell. As the fryer fell, the hot oil was splashed over the employee and the floor. The employee then slipped and fell into the oil on the floor, causing further burn injuries.

Cardboard had been placed under the fryer in an attempt to stop it moving but, this had become soaked in oil, which tended to exacerbate the movement of the fryer.

Contributing factors

Recommendations
