Issue #10

Contribute to Workplace Health and Safety in Australia

Safe Work Australia is currently conducting an investigation into Non-Threshold Genotoxic Carcinogens (NTGCs) in Australian workplaces, and your input can help shape future regulations.

Some carcinogens can cause cancer and birth defects by interfering with normal body processes and mutating (altering) DNA. These are known as genotoxic carcinogens.

There is a subset of genotoxic carcinogens for which no safe exposure threshold or dose can be established based on current scientific knowledge -these are termed non-threshold genotoxic carcinogens (NTGCs). Any exposure to an NTGC, even for a short period, could result in a person developing cancer. As with other carcinogens, the onset of cancer due to exposure to an NTGC may occur years after the person's last exposure.

If you work with NTGCs, Safe Work Australia want to hear from you - please share:

1. NTGC Identification: Which NTGCs are used at The University of Adelaide?
2. Quantity of NTGCs: How much of each NTGC is present?

3. Current Usage and Industries: How are NTGCs used in our company?
4. Control Measures: What measures are in place to minimize NTGC exposure?

To contribute, complete the survey on Safe Work Australia's Engage platform by 11:59 pm (AEST), Friday, September 8, 2023.

Click here for survey

Isolation of Power to Plant

SafeWork SA is urging businesses to be aware of the dangers associated with energised machinery following a recent serious incident at a plastics recycling facility where a worker's leg was amputated below the knee after becoming trapped in a rotating auger while conducting routine cleaning inside a product tank.

This incident serves as a reminder to identify, assess, and control all hazards related to plant and equipment to prevent injuries. Components of energised machinery such as rotating augers, shafts, chains, and sprockets can cause severe harm or even death if not properly isolated during maintenance and cleaning.

Ensure that appropriate control measures are implemented, including stopping the plant if it is unsafe to operate by isolating/locking and tagging it or isolating/separating controls away from the immediate work area.

Angle Grinder Safety

Over 2022/2023, SafeWork SA has dealt with 23 notifiable incident reports involving angle grinders, prompting the issuing of a safety alert. One incident involved serious burns to a worker after airborne sparks caused his shirt to catch fire. The

worker spent 7 days in hospital as a result of burns.

Flying debris from the material being cut can result in severe lacerations. Sparks caused by grinding can ignite fires. Injuries can occur when an angle grinder kicks back onto the operator. Discs can disintegrate, releasing fragments that can damage the operators' eyes or body.

Incidents like this serve as a reminder that implementing and adhering to control measures determined by a good risk assessment is critical in keeping everyone safe.

Do you work with angle grinders?

If so, this is a reminder to review your risk assessment, safe operating procedure and ensure adherence to the controls. Click on the link below for more information on practical controls required when using angle grinders.

Covering all angles to grind safely | SafeWork SA

What's New?

Revised HSW Procedure out for consultation

The Asbestos Management Procedure has been updated and is available for comment. The

procedure outlines responsibilities and actions for the safe management of asbestos and asbestos-containing material on University premises. Updates have been made in line with organisational changes. More information