

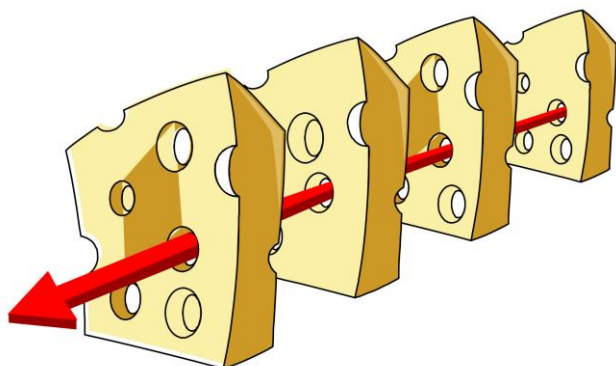
Greetings All,

Historically this time of the year is the most dangerous period to be involved in the construction industry. Year after year, incidents occur with a far higher frequency in November and December. That is a sad fact.



For what reasons does our high risk work all of a sudden get riskier is perhaps something for others to speculate on, but there is no doubt that the increase in workplace accidents in the lead up to the Christmas break is statistically related to deadlines needing to be met, scheduling of works being increased, preparing workplaces for periods of inactivity and also the simple truth that at this time of year, our minds start to wander.

Accidents in the workplace only happen when the combination of a number of events creates a gap in normal procedures. The Swiss Cheese safety model perfectly describes how incidents occur – and unfortunately this alignment of events can lead to injury and death.



Near Miss reporting is so important in preventing the alignment of those gaps in our normal workplace procedures that can result in an incident. Is there a process in your workplace that makes near misses easily identifiable and recognises that raising concerns over potential events should be a blameless positive action in preventing further incidents? ***There should be!***

WorkSafe Victoria are promoting this coming Friday the 4th of December as “**Jobs at Home Day**” which is a campaign designed to remind everyone of some of things that are most important to them.



This worthwhile and positive safety initiative is designed to encourage conversations about workplace safety, with particular emphasis placed on some of the things we do in our personal lives that we feel we can do better than anyone else. If you are the best taco maker in your household, dog walker extraordinaire or even Chief Executive Officer of the lawn mowing – that’s the reason why you should be returning home at the end of the day – to enjoy those parts of your life that have special meaning to you and your loved ones.

Take some time to look at this safety initiative at www.jobsatthomeday.com.au and discuss amongst your work mates what is special in your life and why you will be giving special attention to those aspects of your work that may be risky if standard procedures are not followed. Every aspect of crane related work is deemed as being High Risk and therefore there should always be a SWMS in place.

Risk/Fatality Matrix	Very Likely	Likely	Unlikely	Very Unlikely
Death or serious injury	4	3	2	1
Minor injury or illness	2	3	4	5
Property damage	3	4	5	6
Reputation damage	3	4	5	6

If the SWMS needs addressing – please speak up and make the changes that are needed so we all get to see the fat guy try and fit down the chimney.

Cheers for now and have a safe week!

Brent Stacey www.cica.com.au