

Safety Alert

Being Mindful - Easter Long Weekend

Issue Date: 26 March 2018

Context:

Easter weekend is fast approaching! Make sure that your holiday plans become a reality. Please continue to look after the safety of yourself and co-workers continue to be alert.

If you find yourself working this week and your thoughts are not on the job, but are instead on your plans and activities for the long weekend:

1. STOP
2. Take time to look around and come back to the present moment
3. Take time to think about the activity you are doing
4. Look for a hazard that may not be controlled; are you in an awkward position or about to trip on something lying on the floor? Hazards do not go away, only our awareness of the hazards goes away, and when we ignore hazards, we get injured.

Construction sites that are closing down for the long weekend should conduct a site-specific risk assessment and ensure that sites are effectively secured and hazards eliminated while unattended. Items that should be considered include:

- Has electrical power been turned off?
- Are plant/equipment, tools, chemicals and dangerous goods securely stored?
- Are electrical power tools disconnected from power source?
- Are penetrations such as risers, floor penetrations and trenches, securely covered or back filled?
- Are building materials e.g. fence panels, roof sheeting, general loose building materials firmly secured to prevent incidents during strong winds and storms?
- Is appropriate signage erected with emergency contact telephone numbers?

If you are going away for the weekend, please consider the following;

1. Keep calm on the road, only drive when you are sufficiently rested, and never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs. If you're planning to take a long drive over the Easter break, you should get your car serviced before you set off
2. Avoid accidents on holiday by ensuring that you follow rules when visiting parks or beaches in Australia, such as sticking to designated walking paths and swimming between the red and yellow flags at beaches
3. If you are going away and have pets, make sure you've thought about their living arrangements over the weekend, whether they are being left with a trusted friend or family member or boarding at a kennel, it is important to know they will be well looked after!

It is important that we continue to be mindful of the safety of ourselves and others, including preventing or reporting any hazards immediately so that action can be taken to keep our workplaces safe. Let's all keep our minds on safety so we can enjoy the Easter break!

