

A brief update of what is happening around Australia – remember you have an obligation to provide a safe workplace whether that is an office, car, on a site or working from home.

## Topics in this update

- Responding to COVID-19
- Crush incidents when loading/unloading – Qld
- Two dead in separate incidents – Victoria
- Solar company charged over fatal fall – Victoria
- WorkSafe investigates death of worker near Esperance – WA
- COVID-19 Poster

Links to National State and Territories Health Departments.

### National

[NSW](#)

[Victoria](#)

[South Australia](#)

[Queensland](#)

[ACT](#)

[Tasmania](#)

[Western Australia](#)

[Northern Territory](#)

## **Responding to COVID-19**

- Are you monitoring the COVID-19 updates from the Federal and State Governments Health Departments to ensure you are complying with their directives?
- Have you communicated your internal COVID-19 response to your staff?
- Have you commenced your business continuity plan (work from home, virtual meetings, keeping customers informed of your current and expected capacity)?
- Have you informed your contractor of your expectations to minimise exposure to your teams and them?
- Have you informed your contractor of any limitations you have with resources (people / equipment / finances)?

I recommend you;

- Maintain current with developments via the websites above.
- Review the Provided guidance on increased personal hygiene practices through reminders and signage.
- Educate the team on social distancing (lunchrooms/carpooling/lunch vans).
- Cease all non-essential face to face internal and external meetings.
- Stop all non-essential business travel.
- Ensure staff have access to video and phone conferencing capacity.
- Staff wellbeing is proactively and regularly reviewed.

With the current COVID-19 Pandemic you may need some specialist accounting support for strategies and advice.

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- 🔍 Do you have an implemented toolbox talk program?
- 🔍 Does the training you provide confirmation of understanding?
- 🔍 Are your Policies, Procedures and Safe Work Method Statements referencing the current legislation?
- 🔍 **Do you avoid reviewing your safety management system?**

Now is an opportunity to review your internal processes for updating and legal compliance.

Design Safety Solutions Pty Ltd can provide this support.

### **Crush incidents when loading/unloading – Qld**

In January, an interstate truck driver suffered multiple leg fractures when a stone slab fell off the back of a truck. It appears the stone was secured to an 'A' frame with straps. Early investigations indicate that when the driver removed the straps, the stone slabs toppled and struck him.

In February, a truck driver suffered severe crush injuries when a pack of timber boards being delivered to a timber yard fell onto him. Early investigations indicate the pack of timber caught onto an adjacent one when being unloaded. It caused the strapping to snap and the timber fell onto the driver.

Remember – Identify, Assess and implement Controls whilst considering the Hierarchy of controls - Elimination, Isolation, Engineering controls, Administrative controls, Personal protective equipment (PPE).

[More Information click here.](#)

### **Two dead in separate incidents – Victoria**

Two workers have died in separate incidents in another shocking day for Victorian workplaces – Mar20.

A 52-year-old man died in hospital following an incident in which a circular saw cut into his leg during landscaping works at a Cobblebank property. It is believed the labourer was using the saw to cut timber posts when the incident occurred.

A 55-year-old man also died while weed spraying at Yea after his vehicle rolled about 40 metres down a steep hill. It is believed the man was thrown from the vehicle during the rollover.

WorkSafe is investigating both incidents.

The fatalities bring the number of workplace deaths this year to 13, which is seven more than at the same time last year.

[More Information click here.](#)

### **Solar company charged over fatal fall – Victoria**

WorkSafe has charged a solar panel installation company with failing to control the risk of a fall from height at a residential property in Bendigo – Mar20.

Solar 2.0 Pty Ltd has been charged with two breaches of section 21(1) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act for failing to maintain a working environment that was safe and without risks to health.

The charges relate to an incident on 30 November 2018, in which a 21-year-old male employee died after falling from a ladder while installing solar panels in the suburb of Kennington.

WorkSafe will also allege that the company failed to implement a Safe Work Method Statement for the high risk construction work.

[More Information click here.](#)

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### **WorkSafe investigates death of worker near Esperance – WA**

WorkSafe is investigating the work-related death of a 25-year-old worker at Condingup (east of Esperance) – Mar20.






The man was believed to have been working on the roof of a shed when he and another worker fell. The other worker was injured in the fall.

Inspectors travelled to the site morning and will interview witnesses and investigate the circumstances.

WorkSafe thoroughly investigates serious work-related injuries and deaths in WA with a view to preventing future incidents of a similar nature.

[More Information click here.](#)

### **Design Safety Solutions Pty Ltd can provide you support with:**

-  Toolbox talks (monthly) –presentation, questions and answers to your agreed requirements.
-  Site contractor compliance verification audits, providing report and corrective action follow-up.
-  Safety in Design presentation and process facilitation.
-  Site Safety Supervision with end of shift electronic reporting.
-  SWMS review – content and compliance with SWMS audits.

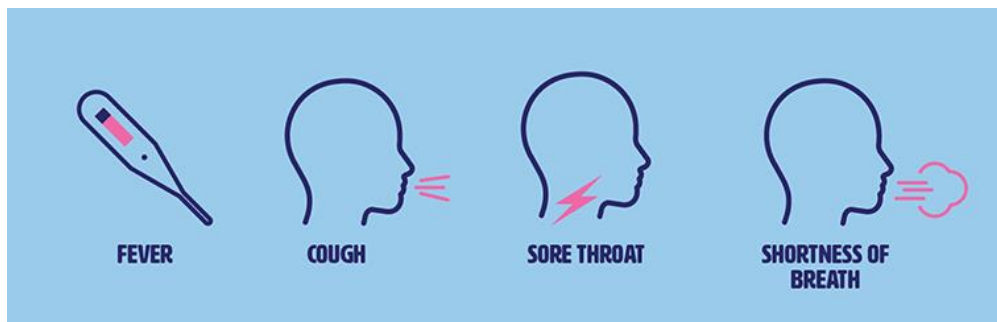
**Stay safe, look after  
your workmates.**

**To seek medical help from a doctor or hospital, call ahead of time to book an appointment.**



## Symptoms

Symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild illness to pneumonia. Some people will recover easily, and others may get very sick very quickly.



## People with coronavirus may experience:

- fever
- flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat and fatigue
- shortness of breath

If you are concerned you may have COVID-19, [use the symptom checker on healthdirect](#).

## National Coronavirus Helpline

Call this line if you are seeking information on coronavirus (COVID-19). The line operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. 1800 020 080

**To seek medical help from a doctor or hospital, call ahead of time to book an appointment.**