

Primary industry

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Health and safety alerts

Current Northern Territory and national Health and [Safety Alerts](#).

Information bulletins

The following are the latest new or reviewed Information Bulletins available for the primary industry:

[12.01.02](#) [Tractor and rural machinery safety](#)

[12.01.03](#) [Chainsaw safety](#)

[09.01.04](#) [Notification of incidents and accidents](#)

[Series 15](#) Work Environment: 15.04 Rural safety and 15.05 Horticulture

Safe Work Australia

Safe Work Australia and the Safe Work Australia Council have been established as a replacement to the Australian Safety and Compensation Council (ASCC).

The fifteen member council was formed on Tuesday 31 March and comprises of an independent Chair, representatives from each State, Territory and the Australian Government. The council also includes two members who represent the interests of workers, two members who represent employers and a chief executive. Mr Tom Phillips was appointed Chair of the council on Wednesday 27 May 2009. Ms Laurene Hull, Executive Director of NT WorkSafe represents the Northern Territory on the council.

Safe Work Australia has been established as an executive agency to support the council and is an independent body. Further information on Safe Work Australia and the key functions of the council can be found on the Safe Work Australia [website](#).

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National Standards and Codes of Practice

A function of Safe Work Australia and previously the Australian Safety and Compensation Council is to develop national standards and codes of practice relating to occupational health and safety.

The standards and codes of practice are produced as a model for laws in the States and Territories, with the aim of achieving nationally consistent regulations. These standards and codes of practice are not legally enforceable until the States or Territories formally adopt them as regulations or as a code of practice under the main occupational health and safety regulation.

The National Standard for Manual Tasks was created in August 2007 and the following code of practice has been developed in support for the standards and is applicable to the primary industry.

[Code of Practice for the Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders Caused From Performing Manual Tasks](#)

The Northern Territory Government has adopted the code.

The codes of practice are useful guidance materials in assisting employers meet their occupational health and safety requirements and are available on the [Safe Work Australia](#) site.

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Changes to NT Workplace Health and Safety Legislation

The Northern Territory along with other jurisdictions is currently working with Safe Work Australia to harmonise occupation health and safety (OHS) legislation across Australia.

The Council of Australia Governments formally committed to the harmonisation of OHS legislation in July 2008, by signing an Intergovernmental Agreement for Regulatory and Operational Reform in OHS.

The agreement requires each state and territory to pass their own laws that mirror the model OHS laws and adopt them by December 2011.

The model OHS laws have been drafted and will soon be released in late September for public comment.

NT WorkSafe will hold a number of information sessions across the Territory to provide information on the changes to current OHS laws and the implementation. Information sessions will be held in the following regions.

Alice Springs

Thursday 1 October – 12.30pm to 1.30pm – Crowne Plaza
Wednesday 28 October – 5.30pm to 6.30pm – Diplomat Motel

Darwin

Thursday 8 October – 3.30pm to 4.30pm – Holiday Inn Esplanade

Katherine

Thursday 1 October – 1.00pm to 2.00pm – Knotts Crossing Resort
Thursday 22 October – 5.30pm to 6.30pm – Knotts Crossing Resort

Nhulunbuy

Tuesday 13 October – 12.30pm to 1.30pm – The Arnhem Club
– 3.30pm to 4.30pm – The Arnhem Club
– 5.30pm to 6.30pm – The Arnhem Club

Tennant Creek

Thursday 8 October – 5.00pm to 6.00pm – Blue Stone Motor Inn

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Injury hotspot Quad Bikes

As a result of the exceptionally high number of injuries and fatalities involving quad bikes across Australia, the Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities (HWSA) and Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) are exploring strategies that include education/advisory initiatives to mandated regulations to address quad bike fatalities and serious injuries in the workplace.

Recent data shows that there is an average of 15 fatalities a year associated with the use of quad bikes in the rural operations in Australia.

NT WorkSafe and other jurisdictions will assist HWSA and WHSQ on the initiative.

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National review on chemical use and storage

NT WorkSafe is involved in a national project to improve the security aspects of the supply and use of industrial chemicals.

As the result of a Council of Australian Governments (COAG) review, an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) on Australia's national arrangements for the management of security risks associated with chemicals was made on 2 October 2008. Amongst other things, the IGA outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Commonwealth and the States and Territories regarding the risk assessment process.

The initial priority is to conduct risk assessments on twelve explosive precursors, commencing with hydrogen peroxide and nitric acid. The draft risk assessments for hydrogen peroxide and nitric acid are due by the end of 2009.

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Regional Visits

Workplace Safety Officers will continue the schedule of visits to regional and remote workplace in the third quarter of 2009. The visits, which were focused on mining operations, have now expanded to include other non mining regional and remote workplaces.

A schedule for regional and remote visits will be developed annually as part of priorities identified in the NT WorkSafe [2009-2012 Strategic Plan](#).

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7th National Farm Health and Safety Conference

NT WorkSafe will attend the 7th National Farm Health and Safety Conference being held on 13 – 15 October 2009. The conference, hosted by FarmSafe Australia, consists of a number of information sessions and workshops on occupational health and safety.

The conference will provide an opportunity to gain information on the best practice used in other jurisdiction and on any current issues facing the industry.

More information on the conference can be found at [Farmsafe Australia](#).

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Approved Health and Safety Representative (HSR) Training Providers

The following two Registered Training Organisations are now approved to provide HSR training to elected HSR's in the Northern Territory.

- Chamber of Commerce NT
- Electro Jobs Training P/L

HSR's are able to be included on the NT WorkSafe email list in order to receive updates on legislation and other information relevant to their role as a HSR and if they wish they can also join the HSR network to share their experiences.

For further information, please contact the HSR Advisor at NT WorkSafe on 1800 019 115 or ntworksafe@nt.gov.au

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Safe Work Australia Week

25 to 31 October 2009 is [Safe Work Australia](#) Week.

In 2008/09 there were over 3300 claims for workplace injuries and six work-related fatalities in the Northern Territory.

All Territorians, whether you're an employer or a worker, are encouraged to get involved and focus on health and safety in the workplace.

Workplace safety is everyone's business.

NT WorkSafe has created a Safe Work Australia Week navigation button on the Home Page of the website www.worksafe.nt.gov.au to keep you informed of activities during the campaign.

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Statistical data

A range of statistical data has been collated by Safe Work Australia and NT WorkSafe in order to identify poor performing industries and high risk activities to assist in developing targeted industry programs.

Data is also collected and reviewed by NT WorkSafe to improve programs that facilitate Territory workers being covered by equitable and practical workers compensation scheme allowing them to return to suitable work as soon as possible.

To access the data, follow the **Statistics** link on the NT WorkSafe website.

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