

PROVIDING A SAFE PLACE TO WORK, EVERY EMPLOYER'S RESPONSIBILITY

Why is it that we teach our children to wear helmets when they ride their bikes, to have someone watching if they want to climb a tree or ladder, and to look both ways before crossing the road, yet we don't always keep such a close eye on our work staff?

According to Work Safe Australia, in 2011–12, 228 workers died due to an injury incurred at work. This equates to 1.99 deaths per 100 000 workers. Furthermore this study revealed that work related injury and illness was estimated to cost \$60.6 billion in the 2008–09 financial year, representing 4.8% of the Australian GDP.

The Work Safe Australia survey identified that Transport, Postal and Warehousing while performing their job were the second most likely industries for workers to suffer from serious injury. Manufacturing and Construction were also included in the top five industries to experience serious workplace injuries. Further to this, Labourers were the occupation to experience the highest incidence rate per number of employees while Machinery Operators and Drivers, Technicians and Trade

Workers all featured in the top five most dangerous roles.

These statistics should provide enough evidence that if work safety is not currently a priority to you and your business, then it should be, and it's easier to implement than you think.

When you consider your fieldworkers are not just valuable assets to your business; they are fathers/mothers, sons/daughters, brothers/sisters, uncles/aunts, and husbands/wives, as well as your employees. You have a responsibility to them and their health and safety should be important to you at all times. Although you can't always protect your staff from all dangers and risks, you can ensure they are prepared and implement safety strategies and contingency plans to cover the most common mishaps that occur during the working day and minimise risk.

For more information call us on:
1800 835 117

 **Fleetmatics**
Intelligence at work

Here are some helpful tips to ensure your staff is prepared should they find themselves in a potentially dangerous situation:

Work together as a team to identify the safety risks in the workplace

Workers in the field are often better placed to identify the common safety issues they might face every day. Work together and take advantage of their experience to develop an incident contingency plan. Try to cover as many situations as possible that could occur in real life and develop scenarios of how to overcome each situation.

By involving your workers in this process they will feel encouraged to think about their own safety on an ongoing basis.

Educate your employees of the safety policies and procedures

Once you have your employees' input and developed contingency plans, it is crucial that all staff no matter their title are trained on the potential safety issues and the appropriate procedures. This should be an ongoing process where staff are not just educated once, but are provided with refresher sessions at regular intervals. Before a new starter sets foot on the job they should receive this detailed training. In addition, not only should new employees to the business undergo training, but also those who are new to a particular function or role where they may not be familiar with the expected hazards.

Implement appropriate technology tools to enable a safer work force

Workforce management solutions can both mandate and as well as ease the burden of running and managing an effective safety program. The key to safety is being able to spot potential dangers such as dangling branches, hazardous materials such as chlorine or acid, faulty switches or uneven grounding. With an effective work management solution you can help ensure OH&S compliance, remain safe and

collaborate with head office at all times. For instance, the location based services on your phone can highlight where you are at relevant times, you can capture photos of the work environment to then attach to the job record, pull up a job history to review for potential existing issues with the site as well as flag and highlight safety concerns for fellow employees who may visit the site at a later date.



The list of potential dangers to field service employees is never ending. It is critical to make sure your employees know how important safety is by bringing them into the discussion and planning stages, by educating and refreshing their training, and by implementing the appropriate tools to keep everyone safe. A 30 minute safety rules and procedure session can save a lot of time and struggle, and can even save a life.

Don't just say you're committed to safety, do it! Prove to your employees that you care about them and how they impact your success as a business. Remember an injured staff member is a cost to the business in lost revenue and insurance claims. Will you be able to cope with work demands when you're a person down? Use a workforce management software solution tool to spot and record safety concerns; keep your people safe and in the know so they can get the job done. Communicate your plans to the workforce as a whole and keep safe.