

Hello and Welcome...

This is USSA's second quarterly newsletter, designed to provide you with a summary of the latest health, safety and environmental (HSE) news.

Each quarter, USSA aims to deliver an informative newsletter covering relevant legislative changes and HSE updates which may affect your business.

At USSA, we specialise in developing and implementing simple and sustainable HSE solutions and providing straightforward advice and guidance. Producing this newsletter is testimony to this.

This month also sees the launch of the HSE Safety Package which we believe provides real value to small and medium sized businesses.

Our Consultants are fully qualified and experienced professionals who have experience across a range of high risk industry sectors. This enables us to provide suitable and sufficient HSE advice and support to small, medium, and large businesses across a wide range of industries, including mining and construction.

The USSA team members are passionate and committed HSE professionals who are dedicated to achieving workplace HSE performance improvement.

We really believe in making a difference and hope this newsletter provides businesses, with useful, accurate information.

Anita Slight, USSA Managing Director



New USSA 'Timeline and 5 Whys Training' Programme

USSA are now running a 1 day **Effective Incident Investigation** training session, with a strong emphasis on how to identify root cause, the '5 whys' and 'timeline' methodologies, and effective preventative action development. Dates are now available in May and June, please contact us today as seats are limited **\$499pp** Existing clients get 10% discount

New Safety Support Package Launch

USSA are launching our new industry specific Safety Support Packages in April 2013, available to purchase on our [website](#).

Packages have been designed specifically with small and medium sized businesses in mind, and contain a core **Safety Management system** and access to ongoing advice and support. Platinum packages also provide access to our new **Advice Line**, giving businesses immediate access to advice from a qualified safety professionals when they need it.

USSA believes the Safety Support Packages offer fantastic value for money and are designed to meet your HSE needs.

- Tailored to your industry; packages are available for Manufacturing, Construction, Agriculture, Forestry and General (lower risk industries such as offices, retail etc)
- Packages are available to meet Australian States and New Zealand legal requirements
- Two levels of Safety Support Package; choose either Gold or Platinum depending on support required

| Customised Safety Management Plan: | GOLD | PLATINUM |
|---|------|----------|
| Health, Safety and Environment Policy | ✓ | ✓ |
| Risk Management Procedure | ✓ | ✓ |
| Risk Register Template | - | ✓ |
| Incident Reporting & Investigation Procedure | ✓ | ✓ |
| Crisis Management and Emergency Response Procedure | ✓ | ✓ |
| Contractor Management Procedure | - | ✓ |
| Legal Requirements Register | ✓ | ✓ |
| Training & Competency Procedure | - | ✓ |
| Work Instruction Template (industry specific) | ✓ | ✓ |
| Organisational Chart | - | ✓ |
| One 60 minute HSE Consultation | - | ✓ |
| Access to USSA Health and Safety Advice Line | - | ✓ |
| Regular industry specific legislative HSE updates & access to webinars | ✓ | ✓ |
| Notifications of legislation changes | - | ✓ |
| Members get 10% off all USSA services | ✓ | ✓ |

Working from Height

USSA is currently providing health and safety advice to one of our clients; a major construction company regarding working at heights.

Our client is running a large scale project, and are responsible for replacing all polycarbonate sheeting from a hotel's roof and canopy's. Most work done for this project is carried out between 2m-30m high and requires the development of strict working at height safety systems.

USSA consultants have been working directly with the project manager to devise new and improved ways of ensuring all workers are protected from hazards and that safe work systems are in place to prevent the occurrence of incidents.

Safety precautions and systems we have implemented regarding working at heights so far include:

- Site specific safety procedures and documents
- Inspection Criteria and Schedules
- Fall Prevention System; Scaffolding and Barricading
- Fall Arrest Systems

Our OHS advice and presence ensures that all systems implemented are regularly monitored and improved where necessary.

If you require HSE support and advice regarding working at heights, contact USSA today.

Ultimate Safety Solutions Australia can help...

Isolating Energy

USSA Consultants are currently working with a major mining company up in the Pilbara, to make further improvements to their Safe Systems of Work, namely in developing a site specific **Isolation and Tagging Procedure** and **Isolation Guidelines** for the site's plant and equipment.

The purpose of the Isolation and Tagging Procedure was to establish accountabilities for all steps of the planning and execution phases of shutdown, breakdown and production gap work and to establish further mechanisms to control and minimise hazardous energy exposures to workers.

The associated Isolation Guidelines have been written with the purpose of assisting shutdown planners in the identification of:

- Isolation points for plant/ equipment;
- Hazardous energy types associated with the plant/equipment; and
- Types of isolation required.

Required legislative requirements, standards and approved isolation guidelines have been consulted to ensure requirements have been met and all site specific hazardous energy sources have been identified. As part of this project, USSA Consultants have implemented the following work practices to make the system safer and minimise risk:

- Isolation lists and task specific isolation requirements (TSIR's) have been developed and implemented, in line with approved Isolation guidelines.
- Introduced pre-isolation checks on lock boxes to ensure they have the full complement of blue/green locks and the correct amount of locks have been removed prior to verification.
- Ensured that 'downstream try steps' are conducted when an Air Circuit Breaker (ACB) or an incomer has been used to isolate energy.
- Improved the Work permits system for all shut down work.
- Ensured that 'pre lock on check' is conducted (verifying document accuracy and sign off, correct amount of locks missing, black locks and tags are on the box).
- Introduced Lock and Sign On/Off Procedures for shut down supervisors
- Introduced a De - isolation/ re- isolation process for testing and machine positioning.

If your business needs assistance in improving Isolation and Tagging Procedures, or needs a documented system putting in place, our experienced HSE Consultants can help.



HSE Update

WorkSafe Latest News

Safety Alert issued after 2 overhead travelling cranes collided and pushed over a scissor hoist containing a crane service technician who sustained serious injuries after falling 6 metres

Media statement (28th Mar 2013) regarding investigation into death of a 56 yr male worker near Harvey, killed when a vehicle door/ramp fell on him

Safe Work Australia Latest News

Report estimates Mental stress costing Australian business >\$10 billion year

Stats show 1 in 6 workers that are killed in Australia are Farm workers; despite only 3% of all Australian workers being employed in agriculture

Cutting Compensation Costs

USSA can help your business improve it's health and safety performance and lower Workers Compensation Premiums, saving you money.



Did you know, insurance companies calculate Workers Compensation premium using a number of factors including:

- *Estimated wages for the upcoming financial year*
- *Industry Code (known as a ANZSIC Rate)*
- *Accident statistics*
- *Previous claims and how these were handled*
- *The company's current OHS status*

Improving your internal Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) systems can result in significant reductions to insurance premiums as insurance companies take OHS systems and Lost time frequency rates (LTIFR) into consideration when determining premiums. This is because these factors are a powerful indication as to whether accidents resulting in injury will occur (and therefore possible workers compensation payments).

OHS Policy and Systems

One of the ways you can reduce premiums is to show a highly visible commitment to OSH. This includes having an up-to-date OHS policy, a robust OHS management system and adequate resources.

This can be demonstrated by having done a risk assessment and having an accurate risk register in place, clear procedures which document how risks are managed, as well as undertaking regular hazard identification and workplace inspections. These proactive measures provide good indications to an insurance company that an organisation is committed to continually improving OSH within the workplace.

USSA can help your organisation develop and implement an OHS policy and an OHS management system which are applicable to the size of your organisation and the risks that you face.

Lost Time Injuries and Other Statistics

Accidents cost money, not only in direct costs such as property and equipment damage but also in terms of hidden costs such as lost time, production costs and additional labour hire. To avoid these immediate costs as well as higher premiums in the future, another way you can reduce premiums is to reduce your claims, by preventing people from getting injured in the first place.

USSA can help your organisation develop and implement a robust reporting and investigation system to prevent reoccurrences. USSA can help you to lower your LTIFR's beneath the performance benchmark for your industry. Additionally, USSA can help to analyse trends and help implement risk treatment plans to help lower the likelihood of a catastrophic incident/event from occurring.

USSA can help your organisation to demonstrate a firm commitment to OHS in the workplace with a well-documented and supported approach to OHS. In doing this, your organisation will reduce workers compensation premiums. For help in lowering your workers compensation premiums, call USSA today.