

Safety Bulletin

December 2022

Safety is the key to a happy festive season

This safety bulletin provides safety advice for the NSW mining industry.

Background

As we approach the festive season and the many emotions and activities that accompany it, workers must remain focused on keeping safe. Don't allow a workplace incident to take away the joy of Christmas and summer holidays with your family and friends.

Considerations

During December and January there are many external factors that may impact our health and safety at work and home. With social activities and holidays, everyone should be aware of their fitness-for-work obligations that are detailed in your mine's health and safety management system. Factors that may affect fitness for work include alcohol consumption, lack of sleep, varied routines and distractions.

Workers and supervisors are also reminded that while Christmas is a period of joy and happiness for some people, for others it is not. This period may trigger feelings of loss, separation, and loneliness. These feelings may impact a worker's mental health and work performance.

Workers are reminded to stay safe while travelling over the Christmas period and throughout the school holidays. Risk management principles should be applied outside of work to remain safe.

Recommendations

Workers

- Consider your fitness for work beforehand as well as when you are at work.
- Remain focused on tasks and aware of hazards in your work areas.
- Meet your legal obligation to take care of your own health and safety, comply with procedures and instructions and not place other workers at risk by your acts or omissions. Refer to Section 28 of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.
- Stay safe while travelling.

Mine operators

- Educate workers and supervisors of the fitness-for-work obligations detailed in the mine's health control plan
- Consider the workload impacts of absences and leave coverage on workers, supervisors and staff. This should be factored into task planning.

Safety Bulletin SB22-15

- Ensure when backfilling supervisory positions and operator positions that the person filling the position is trained and competent to undertake the role
- Remind workers of the availability of employee assistance programs (EAP) and other relevant resources and communicate to workers on how to access these services
- Ensure that all resources are made available to complete work safely and as planned.

Note: Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this safety alert and are informed of its content and recommendations. This safety alert should be processed in a systematic manner through the mine's information and communication process. It should also be placed on the mine's common area, such as your notice board where appropriate.

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