

MORGAN

Human Resource Management

Working With Trees (NSW SafeWork Newsletter)

In the tree working industry between 2013 & 2016 the cost of claims in the industry has been \$19- M in NSW alone.

In the last 4 years there have been 600 injury and illness claims, with an average cost of \$30- K per claim.

The major causes include working at heights, near power lines and unsafe use of high risk machinery e.g. wood chippers and chainsaws.

As with any significant risk related work planning is the key.

Work Colleagues with Psychological Issues e.g. Depression

Most of us (in the majority of workplaces) are not Doctors. However at times we can sense that a colleague is not acting the way they usually do. They may be taking more personal leave than normal, they become withdrawn or their work performance may be slipping. I see no harm in asking a work colleague if there is anything wrong with them. Maybe state that they are not acting in a way they usually do, or similar. It is important though to display empathy in your approach. If you do not feel comfortable to approach the person, advise their Supervisor/Manager that you are concerned for their welfare. In some circumstances not taking some form of action could result in that person and or others being injured in the workplace.

Think of these situations also from a moral perspective. Imagine if you knew a work colleague was not themselves and you did not take any action and subsequently e.g. they injured themselves and/or others!

Use your intuition, if you think something is not right, chances are it is not.

Don't delay, take action today.

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) (formally Material Safety Data Sheets)

What are they?

They are documents containing information about hazardous substances. They are obtainable from suppliers/manufacturers or their websites.

It is a requirement to have a copy (must not be dated more than 5 yrs) for each hazardous substance within reason.

They must be made readily available to anyone using or exposed to the substance.

What form does a hazardous substance take? Gases, liquids and some solids e.g. photo copy toner.

As a minimum those exposed or using should be aware of first aid and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements.



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