



February 2021

Summer has flown by and here we are with only a week or so to go until Autumn! There has been a lot of Safety activity, with milestones being checked off in Project Salus and many more to follow.

This month, we have several reminders about how to safely dispose of lab waste or clean up chemical spills. We also have articles about a new Accommodation Guide from SafeWork NSW and a Personal Injury Commission to be established by the State Government from 1 March.

Have you tried Uprise yet? This fantastic personal mood trainer is available free for all staff. Check out the article for the link on how to get it. We have a free webinar coming up from SuperFriend - 'Preparing for the new normal' - a useful one to attend as we all begin to transition to a blend of campus and remote working. And for those interested in reviewing their health insurance, there are dates available for personal consultations with Medibank.



Project Salus Update

Back to work since early in January, the project team has progressed on configuration of WHS Monitor, data migration and testing.

Configuration of Hazard Management is complete, Incident Management and Inspections will be peer reviewed to ensure our business process impacts are understood.

Migration of data from Archives to capture locations in WHS Monitor has been completed and is being tested. Migration of data from PiMs and SiMs for user profiles in WHS Monitor is in progress. The project team has also commenced system testing.

Stakeholder engagement activities including showcase of Release 1 functionalities are being planned with the focus on ensuring we have adequate representation from faculties, schools and divisions.

Training needs are being identified and will be completed when the final configured solution is available.

For updates and more information about Project Salus, visit the [Project Salus website](#). You can also contact the project directly on salus@unsw.edu.au or alternatively, feel free to reach out to your local [WHS contact](#).



Uprise

Have you tried Uprise yet? Uprise is a personal trainer for your mood that can help you reduce stress and decrease your risk of burnout. It is available free to all UNSW staff!

Uprise has both a web portal and an app, and includes a library of mental health training modules which you can work through according to your interests. Modules include Stress Management, Sleep and Relaxation, Focus, Productivity and Procrastination, and Manager Training. Lessons range in duration from one to five minutes - so you don't need to have a lot of time to benefit.

[Click here](#) for detailed instructions on how to get Uprise. Free staff subscriptions last for one year, so don't miss your chance to get one!



Reminder - Dispose of Waste Correctly in Labs

Recently, staff of our UNSW cleaning contractor found a needle and syringe inside a domestic waste bin in a lab. The contractor placed a caution sign in front of the bin and advised the lab manager that they would not service the bin until the sharps had been removed.

All users of labs are reminded to dispose of laboratory waste appropriately. For information on how to dispose of sharps and other lab waste, please review UNSW's [Laboratory Hazardous Waste Disposal Guideline](#). For a quick overview, consult the [Hazardous Waste Disposal Guide](#) pictogram. If you have any further questions, please get in touch with your local [WHS contact](#).



SafeWork NSW Accommodation Guide

Do you ever go away for work and need to have accommodation arranged?

SafeWork NSW has released an [Accommodation Guide](#) to help PCBU's (Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking) obligations when choosing accommodation for workers when they are working away from home. At UNSW our activities vary. There are many factors that need to be considered, and supervisors need to make sure that the accommodation selected meets the various Acts, Regulations and Codes of Practice (CoP) for staff travelling nationally or globally (though there is less global travel at present). The guide runs through permanent versus temporary accommodation, inclusions, location choice, maintenance and rural workers.

We also need to make sure we have considered the various state and national Health Directives regarding Covid-19 restrictions. If you need guidance on WHS matters, refer to our website located [here](#) or contact your local WHS person via our [Contacts](#) page. In addition, you can reference the [CoP Managing the work environment and facilities](#) (August 2019).



Preparing for the new normal

Managing the ups and downs of the Covid-19 pandemic while preparing for a future that's still wrapped in a lingering uncertainty is not without its challenges.

It's never been more important to be able to reflect on, and recognise our emotional state to help us avoid burning out or becoming overwhelmed.

This webinar looks at ways to:

- cope in the present and plan for the future
- focus on consistency rather than relying on motivation
- find purpose to move forward and;
- find a new routine, rather than going back to what you had.

'Preparing for the new normal' is a webinar presented by SuperFriend and UniSuper and is free for all members.

Date: Wednesday, 10 March

Time: 12pm-1pm

Click here to [register](#).



Personal Injury Commission

The NSW Government has introduced a Bill to establish a one-stop shop Personal Injury Commission (PIC) to simplify the dispute resolution system for injured road users and workers who make a compensation claim.

Effective 1 March 2021, the Bill Act transfers the functions of the Workers Compensation Commission (WCC), the State Insurance Regulatory Authority's (SIRA) Dispute Resolution Service (DRS), the Motor Accidents Claims Assessment and Resolution Service (CARS), and the Motor Accidents Medical Assessment Service (MAS) to the PIC. The PIC will consolidate the dispute resolution of the Workers Compensation Commission (WCC) and the State Insurance Regulatory Authority's (SIRA) dedicated dispute resolution services into a single, independent tribunal.

The reforms do not change the compensation, benefits and entitlements in the original workers compensation and CTP schemes, ensuring minimal impact to insurance premiums and to offer certainty with business continuity.



Flammable Liquid Spill

A recent incident involved a researcher dropping a Coplin jar containing xylene on the floor while transporting the jar. The spill was cleaned up with paper towels and the waste was disposed of in the PC2 waste stream. On identification, the waste was retrieved, contained and disposed of in the chemical waste stream.

Key Findings

- The Coplin jar was not double contained during transportation
- A chemical spill kit was available nearby and the researcher was aware of its location

Key Lessons

- The relevant SWP is being revised to minimise carrying substances outside a fume hood and to double contain them
 - When using chemicals, ensure the appropriate spill kit is available for the type and volume of chemical being used and staff are trained in its use
 - UNSW's [Laboratory Hazardous Waste Guideline](#) should be followed for disposal of laboratory waste
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New Diesel and Dust Thresholds

The NSW Resources Regulator has reminded employers that new workplace exposure standards for diesel particulate matter and respirable coal dust commenced on 1 February.

The State Government introduced an exposure limit (for mines and petroleum workplaces) of 0.1 milligrams per cubic metre of air for diesel particulate matter (measured as sub-micron elemental carbon) early last year, with a 12-month transition period, along with a requirement for underground mine operators to ensure ventilation systems provide sufficient air quality to satisfy the standard (see related article).

Several months later, the Government announced plans to slash the workplace exposure standard for respirable coal dust from 2.5mg per cubic metre of air to 1.5mg per cubic metre.

See the regulator's [airborne contaminants webpage](#) for more information.

Medibank One-on-One Consultations

Medibank consultants will be available for one-on-one appointments for staff interested in reviewing their health insurance on the following dates in February:

23 Feb – 9.30am – 3.45pm – Phone or Medibank on-campus outlet
24 Feb – 9.30am – 12.30pm – Phone or Medibank on-campus outlet
24 Feb – 1pm – 4pm – Penny Lane
25 Feb – 9.30am – 3.45pm – Phone or Medibank on-campus outlet

Medibank is currently offering a \$400 Adidas e-gift card for couples and families or a \$200 Adidas e-gift card for singles and single parents to new members who join by 28 Feb.

Any staff who are interested in discussing their health insurance needs or reviewing the policy they already have are invited to make an appointment. UNSW employees are entitled to a 9% discount on the Medibank Corporate Inc product suite.

[Click here](#) to make an appointment for a one-on-one consultation.

Lesson Learned

A staff member was observed filling liquid nitrogen from a bulk tank into a portable liquid vessel with a young child in attendance. The area was barricaded off with bollards creating an exclusion zone. The staff member and child were wearing hearing protection and safety glasses but both the child and staff member were wearing t-shirts and therefore had exposed arms.

An internal investigation was carried out which revealed that:

- A current Work Instruction is in place in relation to the task - Liquid Nitrogen Fill. The Work Instruction documented 'appropriate protective clothing' but there was no detail of the specific protective clothing required in line with the associated



SDS for Liquid Nitrogen - for the body, wear coveralls (fully covered clothing)

- The staff member was not aware of the [Children on Campus Policy](#)

Liquid nitrogen is a hazardous substance and contact with the skin may cause cryogenic burns or injury. The Work Instruction is being reviewed and updated to include the specifics of the required PPE to be worn and that only fully trained persons should be in the inclusion zone. Relevant staff are to be retrained in the updated Work Instruction.

All staff from the Unit have also reviewed and are now aware of the Human Resources '[Children on Campus Policy](#)' which documents that children are not to access high-risk work areas and that permission from their Supervisor should be sought prior to bringing a child to work.
