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Don't get bitten: ignorance is no longer a valid excuse.

DANGEROUS GOODS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER
2014

Hello,

We are proud to announce that the acceptance of Store-Safe's range of explosive, detonator and pyrotechnic magazines has seen our product quickly become the compliant storage benchmark not only in Australia, but internationally as well. This year we have exported explosives magazines to Thailand, New Guinea, Timor, United Kingdom and the United States of America. It is a very proud moment for Store-Safe: exporting Australian designed and manufactured products, using Australian BlueScope Steel, around the world.



[Explosives magazines](#)

And while we are highlighting explosives even the most compliant can have a bad day: On 23 November a shed of pyrotechnics - containing 4.5 tonnes of prepared fireworks – belonging to Howard & Sons, exploded at about 5pm in the central NSW town of Bogan Gate. Absolutely nothing was left of the building and the impact area was noticeable for several hundred metres with debris and fireworks casings strewn about. Surrounding constructions remained virtually untouched. The fireworks were stored on the site of the former Bogan Gate Army camp on the outskirts of the town. The explosion also caused a grass fire which spread into the hills to the east of the site. “Fortunately there was no one on site at the time, and no one was injured.” “The building which was towards the rear of the area was obliterated, and there was very little damage to any other structures. “The site was cleared by Fire and Rescue at about 10pm and people were allowed to return to their homes.” said a Police spokesperson.



Caption: Photo of Howard & Sons' Bogan Gate facility shortly following the explosion

With 2014 quickly nearing and end, many organisations will close for the Christmas and New Year's break. Leaving your premises for an extended period over Christmas/New Year can be a risky time. Vandals, arsonists and burglars have the luxury of a quiet period and fewer pairs of eyes observing their activities. Add to this the heightened terrorist threat in Australia and the importance of secure storage and facility security is critical. In addition, there is no human observation to monitor any potential situations regarding dangerous goods over the holiday period.

It is a fact that this period also sees extremes in weather: higher predicted temperatures and bush fire risk, storms and flooding. If your organisation or business stores any dangerous goods, here are a few common-sense tips:

- Leave The Site Clean: Combustible wastes should be removed from the building and yard areas.
- Isolate Non-Essential Electric Power: If necessary, alarms, security lighting, fire pumps etc. should be placed on separate circuits.
- Isolate Dangerous Gases, Liquids Fuels: If it can be done, the main gas valves outside the building should be shut off. Otherwise, individual burner valves should be shut. Gas cylinders should be disconnected or shut off at the manifold.
- Remove portable gas cylinders and any large amounts or aerosol cans from the building and store in a cool, ventilated and secure place, preferably a compliant gas or aerosol cage.
- Drain dip tanks of flammable paints or solvents or cover the tanks.
- Remove dangerous and hazardous goods into approved and properly constructed storage facilities (stores, cabinets) and designated areas.



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Safeguard Any Special Work being done during this period. Idle periods are frequently used for maintenance and alterations which cannot be carried out conveniently at other times. Closing down a plant can involve the removal of equipment and machines. Such work can introduce serious fire hazards, particularly if it involves cutting or welding. Alterations sometimes require shutting off a sprinkler system. Feel free to speak with a Store-Safe consultant to discuss any aspects of dangerous goods storage over the holiday period.

Education Victoria has recently updated its School Policy & Advisory Guide – Dangerous Goods & Hazardous Substances. The update ensures that all risks associated with the use of dangerous goods and hazardous substances in government schools are safely controlled and managed.

The update addresses all Victorian School Principals who are responsible for ensuring that (in part):

- all dangerous goods and hazardous substances are identified within the school and included in a chemical register.
- risk assessments and controls are established for dangerous goods and hazardous substance use in consultation with the Health and Safety Representative and employees.
- Safe Work Procedures (SWP) specific to the handling of dangerous goods and hazardous substances stored in the workplace, are developed and implemented.
- safety information, including Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and the Chemical Register is readily available.
- chemicals are not introduced into the school without considering and managing any associated risk.
- restricted substances are not used or stored in the workplace.

Full details and downloads are available at:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/governance/pages/dangerousgoods.aspx>

Change to Dangerous Substances Laws – ACT: If you or your organisation operates facilities in the ACT, please be aware that the ACT Government has made changes and updates to the legislation, now in force. A copy of the amended legislation is available at: <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/sl/2004-56/current/pdf/2004-56.pdf>

Environmental testing to begin around Botany Industrial Park: The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has appointed independent experts WSP Environmental Pty Ltd (WSP) to test for

potential off-site mercury contamination around the former chlor-alkali plant at Botany Industrial Park (BIP). The environmental testing and analysis, which forms Stage Two of the Orica Mercury Independent Review, will seek to identify any significant presence of mercury within the ambient air or in soil outside the boundary of the site. As part of this work, WSP will also assess the potential for the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and metals, including lead and chromium.

Up to a 100,000 tonnes of waste unlawfully used in Picton: The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has issued a penalty notice to company Earth Civil for failing to comply with a clean-up notice issued for filling a number of eroded gullies with waste material at a property in Picton. Following a number of complaints about large quantities of waste going to the Fairley's Road property, the EPA conducted an investigation into the waste material being used. EPA Manager Regional Waste Compliance, Rob Hogan said that the EPA's investigation found that up to 100,000 tonnes of waste material has been transported and used to fill gullies at the property. The penalty notice of just \$1,500 was issued to Earth Civil on November 24, for failing to act on a previous clean-up notice requiring them to inform the EPA of the extent of the land contamination.

Worksafe Queensland Dangerous Goods Update: 20 November 2014: Notification of hazardous chemicals above manifest quantities. Under section 348 of the WHS Regulation, a person conducting a business or undertaking must submit a notification if hazardous chemicals in excess of manifest quantities prescribed in column 5 of schedule 11 of the WHS Regulation are used, stored or handled at a workplace. A notification must be submitted immediately after it is known that hazardous chemicals are to be used, handled or stored at the workplace in quantities above a manifest quantity, or at least 14 days before that first use (whichever is earlier). A workplace is also required to submit a notification if it no longer uses, stores or handles hazardous chemicals in manifest quantities, using Form 73. Full details can be downloaded at: www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/injury-prevention-safety/hazardous-chemicals/notifications-for-hazardous-chemicals

The **AIDGC Newsletter** ([Click Here](#)) features a host of articles and stories from around Australia and internationally. Here's a quick snapshot from their latest issue:

Explosion Uncovers Drug Laboratory inside Warriewood NSW Chemical Factory: POLICE have discovered an "elaborate" drug lab hidden inside a chemical factory after the building caught fire on Friday, in a scene straight out of Breaking Bad. Officers were called to the Prosperity Pde, Warriewood factory after an explosion sparked a fire inside the building. But they were in for a surprise while examining the scene after the fire was extinguished. With a large-scale clandestine drug laboratory discovered to be taking up much of the building's mezzanine level. Police are still in the process of dismantling the lab, which they say will take "some time" due to its large size. However more than 200kg of chemicals they say are believed to have been used for producing MDMA having already been seized.

How Compliant is Your Emergency Shower and Eyewash? Free White Paper Up to 50,000 eye injuries occur in Australia every year, with a large percentage of these occurring in the industrial and mining sectors. Australian Standards dictate employer responsibilities for providing emergency showers and eye washers to assist in avoiding serious injury to employees, but still many companies are unaware of minimum requirements for compliance. This free white paper examines the WHS requirements, the consequences of non-compliance, and measures that can be taken to ensure a safer working environment.

To download the white paper go to: <http://www.safetowork.com.au/resources/whitepapers/how-compliant-is-your-emergency-shower-and-eyewash>

Store-Safe offers an extensive range of eye wash systems for internal and external installation. Visit our web site: [Shower Eye/Face Wash](#)



[Annual Shower Eye/Face Wash Checklist](#)

[Weekly Shower Eye/Face Wash Checklist](#)

Toll North: Dangerous Goods Breaches: Freight transport company Toll North Pty Ltd has been fined a total of \$9,680 and ordered to pay \$10,000 in costs after pleading guilty to two dangerous goods offences in the Downing Centre Local Court in November. In March 2012, Toll North was engaged to provide transport for a consignment of 21,000L of toluene diisocyanate. Toluene diisocyanate is a toxic chemical which can cause severe injury or death, and is listed as a dangerous good in the Australian Dangerous Goods Code (ADG Code). Toll North subcontracted the transportation to another company, which was not licensed to transport dangerous goods.

Three Carcinogen Reports Released: Safe Work Australia has released three reports which examine exposures to the carcinogens:

- lead and lead compounds.
- Formaldehyde.
- polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

The reports are designed to help inform future work health and safety policy development for workplace chemicals. They do not specifically focus on high risk industries or industries where high levels of exposures might occur.

There are common findings in the three reports. For example, many of the AWES respondents who had probable exposures to these carcinogens:

1. were male
2. worked in technical occupations, and
3. worked in the construction industry.

However, a high proportion of AWES respondents probably exposed to PAHs were farmers burning wastes, repairing farm equipment or clearing fire sites. Copies of the reports and their findings are available as downloads from <http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au>

Victims Claim Poisoning: High Iodine Levels: Hundreds of people who claim they were poisoned by

toxic soy milk are set to share in a \$25 million compensation payout. The proposed settlement is the biggest in Australian food safety class action history, lawyers say. Almost 500 victims claim they got sick after drinking Bonsoy: which allegedly contained dangerously high iodine levels. "Some people have had to have their thyroid surgically removed and will be on hormone replacement therapy for the rest of their lives," Maurice Blackburn principal Jacob Varghese said. "A couple of women had miscarriages, and people with underlying thyroid disease suffered exacerbated symptoms such as extruded eyeballs and heart palpitations. "Others experienced lethargy and anxiety. While most have made substantial recoveries, some have long-lasting problems." A single glass of the milk, which was enriched with a seaweed extract, allegedly contained 50 times the recommended daily dose of iodine. It is alleged this interfered with function of the thyroid, the gland responsible for hormones that control body metabolism. Under a negotiated deal, Australian distributor and brand owner Spiral Foods, and Japanese companies Muso and Marusan-Ai Co, will pay compensation without admitting liability.

Ammonium Nitrate Stockpile Insecure: The operator of a Hunter Region ammonium nitrate transporter has promised to tighten security after a member of the public showed how easy it was to gain entry. Two Newcastle Herald staff accompanied the person, who told the gatekeeper he was "there to check the fence". His credentials were not checked and nothing was asked about the two people in the car with him. The back of the utility carried a 200-litre plastic drum, which the man said "could have been full of diesel". Ammonium nitrate is mixed with diesel as the explosive in open-cut mining and the same materials are favoured by terrorists making bombs. Australia's terrorism public alert level was raised to "high" on September 12, meaning security agencies believe a "terrorist attack is likely". The company insisted it had the proper security measures in place but acknowledged the gatekeeper had failed in his duty. "I wrote the procedure myself," the manager said. **Chemical Spill on Monash Freeway:** Traffic banked up for kilometres after a section of the Monash Freeway was closed as emergency crews cleaned up a chemical leak in November. The CFA said chemical containers ruptured when a truck carrying them crashed on the freeway under the Heatherton Road overpass at Endeavour Hills. A drum of flammable aviation fuel was left leaking onto the freeway. Authorities said there was no threat to the community but people in the area were asked to turn off air-conditioning.

Fire at Cootamundra Fertilizer Factory: Fire and Rescue NSW and Hazmat crews were on the scene at a factory in Cootamundra. A dozen people in Cootamundra had to be evacuated from their homes following a chemical fire in a factory. The fire took hold on a small pallet carrying the chemical Zinc Chloride inside the factory, with the small blaze causing a chemical reaction which emitted a gas. As a result, a 200-metre exclusion zone was set up around the factory, on the corner of Berthong and Wills streets, with six homes in the area evacuated.

And from around the world

Chemical Leak at DuPont Plant: Four workers died and a fifth was hospitalized after a chemical leak at a DuPont facility near Houston, the company said. The workers were performing routine maintenance tasks at the company's manufacturing facility in La Porte, Texas, when the chemical, methyl mercaptan, began to leak.

Report: Plant Spill's Toxic Chemicals Downplayed in 911 Call: Four workers killed by poisonous gas during a recent chemical leak were trapped inside the Texas pesticide plant for an hour before anyone called 911, and no one told dispatchers what substances were inside. The DuPont plant in La Porte typically housed as much as 250 tons of highly flammable methyl mercaptan. But it also contained at least some methyl isocyanate. That's the same chemical that escaped a Bhopal, India, pesticide plant in 1984, killing more than 2,200 people in the world's worst industrial accident.

Warnings about Hazardous Material from Spaceship Explosion in US: There are concerns that hazardous material from a rocket which exploded after takeoff could be dangerous to the public. The unmanned spaceship was carrying food and supplies for the International Space Station when it blew up in Virginia in the US. The public are being warned not to collect souvenirs from the debris.

Chemical Leak at Alloy Plant in U.K.: Two men have been taken to hospital following a chemical leak at a metal plant in South Lanarkshire. Fire crews were called to reports of a leaking valve and vapour cloud at Ireland Alloys, on Whistleberry Road, near Blantyre. Firefighters in breathing apparatus and gas tight chemical suits sealed the valve and dispersed the cloud.

Blast at Chemical Plant in Argentina: An explosion at a chemical plant in Cordoba left 65 people injured and caused extensive damage to nearby buildings, officials said. Officials said the injured were neighbours of the plant, which was closed at the time of the explosion. The province's health ministry said 65 people were injured, many of them from debris and glass from windows shattered in the blast. Two people were hospitalised, including a 70-year-old woman with a heart condition and a youth with head trauma.

Canada: One person Dead in Veolia Blast: Five people have been injured, one critically, in an explosion at a tank car maintenance facility in the Canadian city of Sarnia, Ontario. Police in the city, home to several oil refineries and petrochemical plants, said on Twitter the fire at the Veolia Environmental Services site had been quickly brought under control. It said one of the five injured was being transferred to a hospital in London, Ontario. Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley said the cause of the blast was unclear. **Marine Workers Die after Inhaling Toxic Gas:** Seven people working in Peru's Marine Industrial Services (SIMA) died on a floating dock in Iquitos yesterday after allegedly inhaling toxic gases. The workers were waiting for a vessel to dock when they detected a fault in a tank. On entering the tank to try to fix the problem they inhaled the toxic gases that killed them. Only three survived and were taken to the Naval Clinic and the Regional Hospital of Iquitos for treatment.

Russia's Environmental Watchdog Blames Moscow Refinery for Air Pollution: Russia's environmental watchdog has noticed an increase in air pollutants to above permitted levels in Moscow coming from the area of the local region's oil refinery. It alleged that the air near the plant was contaminated with cumene, or isopropyl benzene, a colourless liquid used mainly to produce phenol and acetone. However, Gazprom Neft, the oil producer which controls the refinery on the south of Moscow, denied the allegations. "Isopropyl benzene is not used in the Moscow refinery production ... The Moscow refinery cannot be the source of the air pollution by these substances," the company said in a statement. An unpleasant smell was noticed in some parts of the city and an official with Moscow's Emergency Ministry was also quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying that a malfunction at a Moscow refinery was to blame.

This is our last newsletter for 2014 – may I take the opportunity to thank our many clients, readers of our newsletters and our suppliers for their support during 2014. Should you require any assistance or support for the storage and management of dangerous goods in the workplace, feel free to contact any of our offices or visit our web site for product information and specifications.

Wishing you and your families all the best for the festive season and we look forward to working with you in 2015.

Kind regards,

Grant Breeze
Managing Director.

Store-Safe Office Locations

NSW

P: 02 9569-2122
F: 02 9568-3313
Unit 4, 71-73 Lords Rd
LEICHHARDT NSW 2040

VIC

P: 03 9314-0444
F: 03 9314-0433
Unit 23, 640-680
Geelong Road
BROOKLYN VIC 3025

QLD

P: 07 3245 3733
F: 07 3245 3655
Unit 4 73-75 Steel Street
(cnr India St)
CAPALABA QLD 4157

WA

P: 08 9330 9561
F: 08 9330 9561

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