

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING E-UPDATE

How did that happen? – it is the beginning of December 2022 and the last E-update for the year

As we move seamlessly, scramble, or – in some cases – limp, stagger and crawl towards the end of the year, we all try to clear our desks (or at least the important stuff) before we take that well-earned and deserved break. Some of us will still have many major deliverables incomplete and will be panicking at the thought. So now is the time to revisit that to-do list and be ruthless!



It is also worth reflecting on another challenging COVID year when we locked down before the first semester, didn't commence teaching until after Easter and didn't return to campus fully until mid-winter! Business continuity planning, RAT testing, mask-wearing, vaccine passes and – for many – illness and depleted teams were a reality for most of the year.

So, prioritise the top 4 or 5 achievable goals you have left and leave on a high: reflect on all you have achieved despite the challenges and don't beat yourself up if there are a few things to carry over – come back refreshed and with a clear conscience!

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Winding down

This is the time of year when the university quiets down and many people take a break. If you are on campus we encourage you to keep looking out for hazards and maintaining health and safety protocols.

If the evacuation siren is activated, take it seriously, sweep the floor (visually to ensure nobody is left – not with a brush!), put on a high viz fire warden vest, take the nearest, safest route out of the building and assemble in the agreed assembly area. We have all had to step up and assume a fire warden role as the university encourages a hybrid work patterns and there can be fewer people on campus.

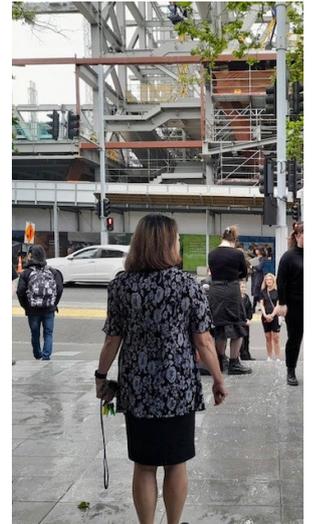
Stay Safe, Stay Vigilant

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In the field with Engineering *Christine McGonigal*

During the Engineering Part 4 Projects event in the Engineering building (700 students & staff)... to organisers surprise, CAI students carry out an "interpretive washing" performance at the entranceway. This involved several students on their hands and knees scrubbing away at the tiling in the middle of entranceway with old toothbrushes.

A couple of staff members were right on the job, identifying the hazard and keeping everyone safe 😊



Modified machine created a risk that killed a worker

Worksafe investigated the installation of a replica piece of machinery at a Manawatu factory. A risk assessment for the new machinery was not carried out and there were a number of modifications made to the machinery which were overlooked by the business.

Dwayne Summers died after being trapped and crushed. Paul West of Worksafe commented "Any business installing a new piece of equipment must identify the risks. It sounds simple but is so often missed". Kakariki Proteins Limited where the fatality occurred was sentenced this month.

At home or at work this summer, evaluate the machinery you are using. Never modify equipment or remove safety features.

[Modified machine created risk that killed worker | WorkSafe](#)

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Be safe BBQing

- Remember to grill outside away from your house with a 1 metre clearance
- Designate someone to stay with the grill while it is on
- Keeping the grill clean and remove grease build up
- Watch the kids
- Avoid nasties like E-coli and Salmonella by cooking food thoroughly, and avoid cross contamination by separating out the meats, poultry and seafood from the rest of your food.
- Chill leftovers
- Keep utensils and surfaces clean

If you are looking to host a end of year summer BBQ at the university – whilst that’s a great idea, the university has some guidelines to follow [here](#).



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Preventative maintenance of your work environment

Summer = Maintenance

It is a good chance to make sure that equipment, furniture and electrical gear is cleaned, dated, documented and ready for the new year. A safety walkaround with a colleague is a good way to do this and discuss the ins and outs of your workplace and equipment. Has anything changed? Broken or just needs replacing? Any comments you have heard from others in the team?

Think about replacing, sharpening, updating & tagging equipment.

A preventative maintenance programme is a good way to ensure equipment keeps running properly and preventing any downtime and reducing cost and waste. For some hazardous equipment it is essential. It can also mean big savings for the university.

Need some help? Start [here](#) with a number of ideas Property Services can help with.

The HS&W team are also organising an audit of the Civil Defence Cabinets through January 2023. We will be making sure there is a key in the clear window of the cabinet and a full list of items inside.



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Carols at the clock tower

Save the date: 8 December 2022

Go to one session or follow the singers all afternoon, if you don't know the words - humming and enjoying the live performance is perfect!

12-12.30pm Grafton Campus (foyer of B505)

1-1.30pm Faculty of Science (foyer B302)

1.45-2.15pm Faculty of Engineering (B405)

2.30-3pm Owen G Glenn Building (foyer of B260)

3.30pm-4pm Old Government House

Finally, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Angus Clark

Associate Director – HSW