

July 2016 Compliance Activity Report



Government
of South Australia

SafeWork SA

Construction

This report covers incidents encountered in the state's residential and commercial housing sector as well as civil and engineering projects. It captures blasting, test drilling, earthmoving, excavating and land drainage workers.

SafeWork SA inspectors ensure work health and safety and public safety standards are met and that appropriate action is taken when breaches of state laws are detected.

During July, inspector attention focussed on the disconnection of SA Power Networks wiring to housing and commercial dwellings during demolition. In one case a live power line was unlawfully removed from a building and left in a vacant allotment near a footpath, creating a serious hazard for workers and pedestrians.

Electrical assets belonging to SA Power Networks (including main service lines) can only be disconnected after a supply abolishment request has been processed.

Concerning trends detected during July include:

- working at heights with no fall/edge protection
Reminder: PCBUs must ensure they have a safe system of work and/or edge protection before work starts.

- unsafe scaffolding.
Reminder: PCBUs must have a system in place for checking that scaffolding is not modified by workers and that it is maintained and inspected by a competent person every 30 days.

Asbestos removalists are also reminded to notify neighbours within 10 square metres of all asbestos removal works.

July's windy weather conditions led to a number of airborne objects posing unnecessary risk to workers on construction sites and members of the public because they were not adequately secured.

Builders and sub-contractors must ensure worksites are safe and secure with any partially completed structures well supported and adequately braced.

Roofing sheets, scaffold planks and other loose material must also be secured to prevent it being blown around and off-site.

Report work health and safety issues to SafeWork SA on 1300 365 255 or help.safework@sa.gov.au.

