

December 2016 Compliance Activity Report



Government
of South Australia

SafeWork SA

Public administration and safety

This report covers people working in state and local government including:

- police, investigation and security services
- fire protection and emergency services
- correctional and detention services
- regulatory services.

SafeWork SA inspectors ensure work health and safety and public safety standards are met and take appropriate action when breaches are detected.

In December, an incident related to unexpected pressure from a fire hose causing a worker to lose their grip of the hose, which swung back and struck them. There is always a risk of items under pressure being inadvertently released, which can cause injury and/or property damage. Employees need to consider these risks as part of the hazard identification and control measures.

Another incident occurred as the result of a skip bin door being opened and falling on an worker's foot. Employers are reminded to sufficiently identify all foreseeable risks and manage them accordingly. For unexpected incidents, employees must appropriately investigate incidents and implement control measures to eliminate or minimise a potential reoccurrence.

Two incidents involved students. One related to a child

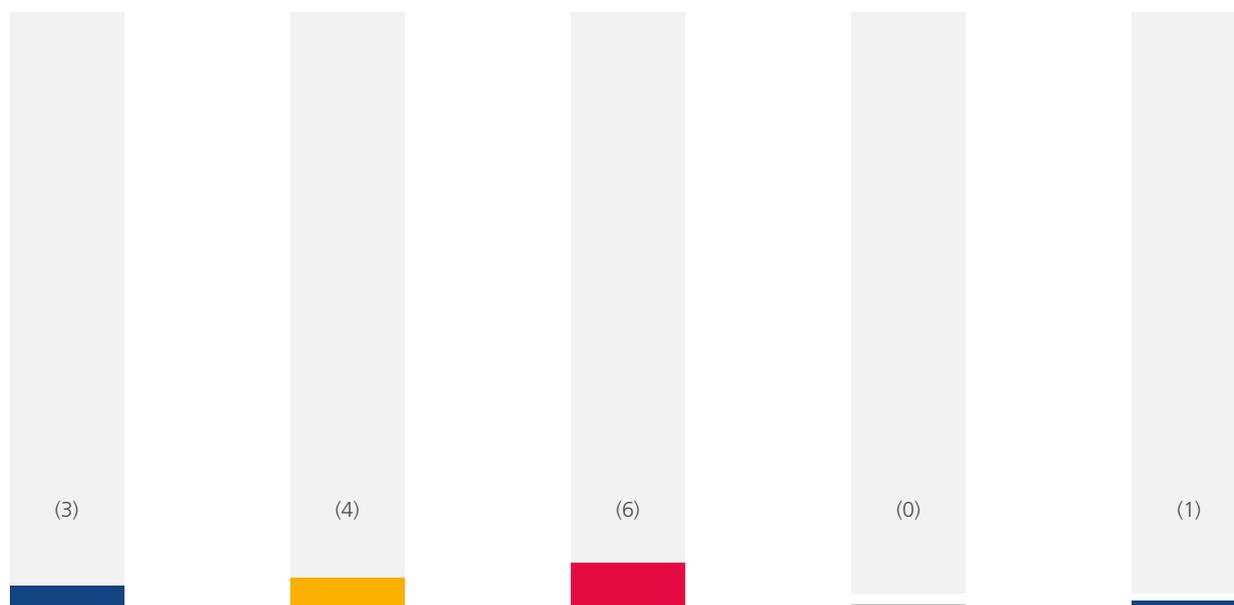
catching their finger in a door. Where practicable, doors should be fitted with a gas strut or pneumatic arrestor arm to reduce the speed of the closing door. In another incident a student suffered an injury to their finger while using a bandsaw. The student had turned off the machine and did not observe that the blade had not come to a complete stop before they moved their hand towards it. Workplaces need to ensure that, where people are using equipment with dangerous moving parts, that there is adequate supervision and users are attentive.

A dangerous incident related to the accidental release of liquid chlorine. It is important to ensure all chlorine products are stored safely, with suitable provisions if there is a spill, and that staff use and handle products in a safe manner and use appropriate personal protection equipment..

Another incident involved the movement of plant which was still connected to a power source. The movement caused damage to the power cord, which posed a risk of electric shock or electrocution.

The final incident related to a piece of plant derailing due to damage to the rails. Employers should ensure that all equipment and plant is inspected regularly for damage, particularly those affected by the weather.

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



Dangerous incident

Serious injury or illness

Interventions

Improvement Notices

Prohibition Notices