



New Zealand Safety Council

Kia Ora,

Our October newsletter includes an update on:

Our regular NZSC Update

A Foam Filled-Furniture feature interview from our CEO Karyn Beattie

Unlocking Occupational Hygiene: Empowering H&S Professionals to Navigate Health Risks - [Webinar recording link](#)

Medicinal Cannabis information from the NZ Drug Foundation

How to speak with the New Zealand Safety Council

NZSC Update

Kia ora Members!

Great to get warmer weather as summer gets closer.

Awesome to see The NZ Mountain Safety Council's advice, *"if in doubt stay out"* during River Safety Month 2025.

In recent months, here at NZSC, Karyn continued Andy Loader's work by continuing to lobby for fire resistant furniture foam, we contributed to MBIE engagement with industry as they seek to simplify regulation, we continue to represent our members at HASANZ and offer Generalist advice, and our Webinar series continues.

...which we too have seen recent media stories regarding alleged, at work, proposed regulatory change, and follow with interest the ongoing defamation case of Talley's vs. TVNZ; our focus has been to continue to influence where we can, improve ourselves and build our membership.

Thanks again to everyone behind the scenes and your contribution – it matters!

For the next few updates we will include a short member bio, to raise awareness of the support network available to members. NZSC strives to help and support where we can, many members have a wealth of knowledge and are available as professional consultants.

This month, may I introduce to you:

David McBride (MB, BCh, PhD).

David is an occupational physician with 30 years in clinical practice, 26 years of experience in applied statistics, and epidemiology, and some 93 peer reviewed publications. He has worked as a regulatory medical practitioner since 1997, a Professor at the University of Otago (Department of Preventive and Social Medicine), a Territorial Force Officer, and Occupational Health and Safety Consultant.

Like all our members, David's membership of NZSC is appreciated and supported – great to have you on board!

Peter Bullock (NZSC Board Chair).

Foam Filled Furniture- An Interview

Following a news segment regarding the death of a teenager due to inhalation of smoke from a foam-filled furniture fire, our CEO took an interview with The Platform regarding the issue.

Andy Loader, a former long term NZSC Board Member, has been sounding the alarm regarding the fire risks of foam-filled furniture for many years, writing to countless members of Parliament and

Listen to Karyn's interview [here](#).

LATEST EPISODES



Karyn Beattie On The Fire Dangers Of Foam Furniture

Leah Panapa Rewind

Medicinal cannabis: A Guide for Employers and Employees

This guide was released early this year and provides guidance for employers and employees on how medicinal cannabis interacts with workplace safety. It provides an overview of medicinal cannabis and why it's prescribed, sets out employers' and employees' rights and responsibilities, and suggests practical changes to workplace policies and procedures to manage disclosure of medicinal cannabis use and workplace impairment.

The guide was developed by NZ Drug Foundation in collaboration with Construction Health and Safety New Zealand (CHASNZ), Dentons and Māori and Pasifika Trades Training, with expert input from Rothbury

The guide is available as a free PDF download with an optional donation. Click here (link - <https://resources.drugfoundation.org.nz/products/medicinal-cannabis-a-guide-for-employers-and-employees-download>) to download the guide.

There is also a webinar recording available that was hosted by CHASNZ' and a panel of three guest-speakers which are: Sarah Helm - Executive Director, NZ Drug Foundation, Michelle Judge, Policy Advisor, NZ Drug Foundation and Renee Butler, Partner Dentons.

In this webinar they talked about the broad issues surrounding medicinal cannabis use and workplace safety, and talked through the contents of The Drug Foundation's new guide, Medicinal Cannabis – A guide for employers and employees, being launched on 20 February.

Webinar link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjBJPKz1HQQ>

Unlocking Occupational Hygiene: Empowering H&S

[Find the link to the webinar recording here!](#)



By Miriska Gerber

Certified Occupational Hygienist

M.Sc. Occupational Hygiene (COH®, ROH®)

MInstD, MAIOH, MNZOHS, MSAIOH, HASANZ Registered

Health and Safety (H&S) professionals play a crucial role in safeguarding workplace environments, yet navigating the complexities of occupational hygiene can be challenging.

With the WorkSafe data showing that in New Zealand a worker is 15 times more likely to die from a work-related disease or illness than from a

This talk seeks to address this challenge by offering a high-level session tailored to all H&S professionals aiming to enhance their understanding of Occupational Hygiene.

Through practical examples, attendees will gain insights into identifying potential health hazards and making informed decisions. The talk will highlight important aspects to look out for when performing a risk assessment, alongside actionable recommendations to mitigate health risks.

Furthermore, the talk will address the common challenge faced by H&S professionals -not knowing when to call on an Occupational Hygienist. Using real-life examples, attendees will learn when it's crucial to work with Occupational Hygiene experts to manage risks effectively and when not.

How to speak with the New Zealand Safety Council

The New Zealand Safety Council Trust (AK1225133) is a Registered Charitable Trust and was established in 2002 to promote Best Practice in Health & Safety Management and Environmental Protection in all aspects of New Zealand life.

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