

Construction Priority Harms

This document provides the Construction industry with information about WorkSafe's Priority Harms program to reduce workplace harm in construction and directs industry to detailed WorkSafe guidance.

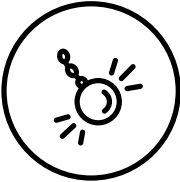
Our Focus

This year we will target workplaces and focus on the most prevalent causes of fatalities and serious injuries and where they are most likely to occur in the building and construction industry. The Priority Harms Program aligns with WorkSafe Victoria's Strategy 2023 to drive down fatality, injury and illness rates.

Sub sectors identified below have common and individual drivers, challenges, risks and resources when it comes to health and safety. Informed by data analysis and in collaboration with partners and key stakeholders, we have developed tailored initiatives specific to each sub sector below.

WorkSafe Inspectors will be visiting workplaces taking a strong compliance and enforcement approach targeting Priority Harms. In addition to compliance and enforcement activity, we will influence change through partnerships with Industry including education and awareness-raising, developing media campaigns and by encouraging research into new solutions.

It's every employer's responsibility to make sure their employees stay safe at work and return home every day. Learn more at <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/>

Civil	Commercial	Housing	Demolition
			
Priority Harms			
Falls from height - Mobile plant Electricity - Isolation of power - Overhead/Underground powerlines Falling objects - Lifting loads Moving Plant - Traffic management - Plant/Plant – People/Plant Interaction - Maintenance Trenching - Engulfment/Ground conditions - Falls & Falling objects	Falls from height - Ladders - Formwork - Scaffold Electricity - Isolation of power - Overhead powerlines Falling objects - Tools - Materials Moving Plant - Plant/Plant – People/Plant Interaction - Maintenance	Falls from height - Steps, stairs & voids - Roofs - Ladders Electricity - Isolation of power - Overhead/Underground powerlines Structural collapse - Flooring - Trusses - Walls, vertical and steel structures	Falls from height - Mobile plant - Scaffold Electricity - Isolation of power - Overhead/Underground powerlines Falling/flying objects - Materials Structural collapse - Internal floor - Overall structure
Crystalline Silica exposure	Crystalline Silica exposure	Crystalline Silica exposure	Crystalline Silica exposure Asbestos

*While the above list of hazards outlines the areas of the focus for the Priority Harms Program, it does not discharge your duty to control all hazards which may be present at your workplace, so far as is reasonably practicable.



**For Further information
contact WorkSafe Advisory
Service on 1800 136 089
or go to [worksafe.vic.gov.au](https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au)**

Resources	
Safe work Method Statement: Safe work method statements (SWMS) Plant: Compliance code: Plant Industry Standard: Elevating work platforms Traffic Management: Construction safety focus: Construction site traffic management safety Falls: Falls prevention checklist Compliance code: Prevention of falls in housing construction Compliance code: Prevention of falls in general construction Structural Collapse: Preventing masonry structures from collapsing: A health and safety solution Structural collapse targeted blitz Electrical: Electrical Guidebook: Using powered mobile plant near overhead assets Guide for undertaking work near underground assets Damaging underground electrical cables: A health and safety solution Industry standard: Electrical installations on construction sites	Demolition: Compliance code: Demolition Falling Objects: Construction safety focus: Falling objects Silica: High risk crystalline silica work - Identification and management Changes to protect Victorians working with crystalline silica Be silica smart and get tested at new clinic Construction: Preventing exposure to crystalline silica dust Asbestos: Compliance code: Removing asbestos in workplaces Compliance code: Managing asbestos in workplaces Managing asbestos in workplaces: A step-by-step guide Trenching: Trenching Trenching safety: Things to know Excavating Compliance code: Excavation Industry Standard: Civil construction: A guide to managing safety



WorkSafe inspectors will be visiting construction sites to ensure that priority harms and priority health harms are adequately controlled. We will focus on sub sectors that undertake high risk activities. Workplaces that disregard workers safety can expect greater scrutiny from WorkSafe Victoria with increased visits by inspectors and, where necessary, an increase in compliance actions including penalties until compliance is achieved.