

Building and Construction WHS Blueprint to 2026 Snapshot



SafeWork NSW is committed to proactive education, awareness, research and compliance targeting key harms in the building and construction sector. This snapshot showcases our 2023 initiatives and outcomes.

Falls is our number one regulatory priority

Work at Heights Safety
\$920,880 in fines 1167 sites **2505 notices**

Areas for improvement include:

- Use higher order controls e.g., edge protection, scaffolds, void covers
- Ensure scaffolds are complete; altered by licensed workers
- Ensure the SWMS is adequate and followed

➔ **65%** of industry is using the highest form of control in the hierarchy i.e., fall prevention devices (scaffold or roof edge protection) over fall arrest systems (harnesses).

Falls in Manufacturing and Warehousing
\$14,400 in fines 450 sites **520 notices**

Areas for improvement include:

- Provide fall protection e.g., platform ladders to access racks/shelving; adequate handrails on mezzanine levels
- Prevent falling objects e.g., racking is secured; stored items do not exceed load limits
- Provide safe access/egress to mezzanines; safety gates are fitted at loading points

Falls from Heights in Transport
 64 sites **25 notices**

Areas for improvement include:

- Check workers have the appropriate licences
- Ensure fatigue is managed and a fatigue management policy and/or procedure is in place
- Worker supervision and orientation of new workers
- Traffic control and ensuring safe zones for drivers

Raising awareness and campaigns

600% increase in visits to working at heights web page

10.4 million impressions from social media campaigns

260% increase in downloads of our working at heights resources

695k impressions from CALD ads which outperformed expectations

193 downloads of safe solar installation SafetyCast

1.5k views of, and 396 attendees at the falls in construction webinar



The Building and Construction Work Health and Safety Blueprint to 2026

- Compliance programs focused on upholding industry standards
- Build communities of safe work practice through collaboration with industry
- Equip PCBUs and workers with knowledge and skills to maintain a safe and healthy work environment



Safety Around Earthmoving Plant (2022 -23)

\$14,400 in fines 191 sites **83 notices**

Areas for improvement include:

- Prevent falls into trenches from the edges, by backfilling the excavation or using fall protection such as barriers
- Regularly assess ground conditions
- Check competency of plant operators



Safety Around Moving Plant and Vehicles

\$22,320 in fines 212 sites **111 notices**

Areas for improvement include:

- Implement higher order controls to manage vehicles/traffic e.g., automated barriers or traffic signals



Electrical Safety

\$41,472 in fines 269 sites **401 notices**

Areas for improvement include:

- Ensure safe working distance from underground and overhead power
- Use adequate safety signage on distribution boards
- Supervise apprentices



Silica Safety

Nil fines 94 sites **96 notices**

Areas for improvement include:

- Develop adequate and site-specific use of SWMS
- Fit test workers for respirators
- Ensure tilers and labourers stop dust at the source, e.g., wet cut, dust extraction



Working with industry to improve health and safety outcomes

Construction inspectors handled 14,260 safety matters, including requests for service, incident responses and proactive site visits

Requests for service increased by **20%**

Awareness and education

Communicating and engaging with stakeholders

Over **160** events and presentations delivered (including sponsored events with NECA, HIA and MBA)

11 industry e-newsletters to over **2000** subscribers

4293 downloads of the Pocket Guide to Construction Safety



2310

SafetyCasts downloads

529 downloads of the Women in Construction SafetyCast



4.2m

Safety compliance social media reach



Site supervisor workshops

93% of attendees rated the site supervisor workshops as 4.5 out of 5 stars.



Focus on silica

over 430 attendees to the silica industry webinar and published the new silica toolbox talk

Strategic approach

To identify high-risk PCBUs, SafeWork created a watchlist of over 100 potential high-risk PCBUs from Class 1 and Class 2 building sectors.

SafeWork prioritised the highest risk harms outlined in the Construction Blueprint, which was launched in July 2023.

Released the High Risk Workplace Strategy 2023 to target workplaces that continually do the wrong things with greater scrutiny

Workers compensation compliance

227 referrals from construction inspector to the State Insurance Regulatory Authority, resulting in:

\$116 million in additional wages declared

\$3.3 million in additional premiums calculated

** some matters still under investigation and figures may increase*

Educating young workers through collaboration with TAFE NSW and Universities

53%

increase in referrals

