

Suburban Land Agency Contractor Safety Update

Construction Safety Newsletter – May 2018

Introduction

The Suburban Land Agency (SLA) is pleased to provide the first WHS Newsletter for 2018.

These Safety Updates are provided to assist in creating a culture and awareness of safety in our industry and addressing safety trends across SLA construction sites. This Newsletter will help inform discussion relating to work health and safety in general and promote awareness about any emerging work health and safety trends or risks.

Summary

During the last two months, SLA managed 16 civil/landscaping construction contracts with a value of more than \$220 million. Suburban Land undertook seven audits within the reporting period in accordance with the ACT Government's Active Certification Policy. There were no Non-Conformances identified during the reporting period with 10 observations.

Since the start of the year there has been six minor injuries with a number caused by in proper handling of materials. There were eight notifiable incidents with four of these relating to strikes on existing streetlight services

Incidents reported since January 2018:

Incident Reporting

Year to Date	Mar/April
<u>Personal Injury incidents:</u> 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 x back strain • 1 x muscle strain • 1 x electrical burn • 1 x bruising to elbow following fall from water tank. 	<u>Personal Injury incidents:</u> 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x Back Strain – whilst pulling water hose. • 1 x Muscle Strain – slipped and fell whilst walking on steep gradient.
<u>Notifiable incidents / near miss:</u> 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 x unexpected find • 3 x striking live streetlight cable • 1 x striking streetlight conduit • 1 x plant rollover 	<u>Notifiable incidents / near miss:</u> 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x Unexpected find • 1 x Plant rollover when turning and striking an earth bund. • 1 x near miss risk of fall • 1 x Stuck Streetlight Cable
<u>Property Damage:</u> 0	<u>Property Damage:</u> 0
<u>Other incidents:</u> 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x exposure to vehicle fumes. 	<u>Other incidents:</u> 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x exposure to vehicle fumes.

"Tomorrow is your reward for working safely today"

Several service strikes during excavation have occurred this year. Ensuring sufficient due diligence is undertaken prior to commencing excavation works should assist in reducing the number of incidents.

WHS Audits – Key outcomes & findings from recent audits

Recent observations regarding trenching from Active Certification Audit findings are provided below to help provide feedback to our Industry in further developing WHS systems and learn from neighbouring project audits which are being undertaken across all Suburban Land's sites.

- Drainage Pit and Trench was Benched at approx. 2 M. Trenches over 1.5m in depth to be either benched or battered.
- Consideration be given to reviewing "Project Responsibilities" (especially Project Foreman and workers) in relation to supervision of trenching and spotter responsibilities.
- SWMS for Trenching & Excavation did not accurately identify the way that this activity was being undertaken. Consideration would be given to reviewing and amending the SWMS and then for all workers to be re-inducted.

WHS Construction Industry Workshop

The Suburban Land Agency (SLA) and the Civil Contractors Federation (CCF) of the ACT are embarking on an initiative to improve practice in regard to the safe management of all construction work in the ACT.

An initial workshop was held on Wednesday 30th May 2018 to discuss current industry WHS audit and reporting processes.

Group discussion was held with regards to what current systems work well along with what changes may be beneficial to create a more effective reporting systems and defining lead and lag indicators on site safety performance. Ideas from the workshop will be collated and incorporated into the next stages of discussion.

Thank you to all who made themselves available to attend. If you were unable to attend or have any further thoughts upon reflection from the workshop, please feel free to reach out to SLA and CCF to discuss.

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Suburban Land Agency
www.suburbanland.act.gov.au