



Volunteer Hub

New Work Health and Safety Act 2020

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Take a moment to review the new Work Health and Safety Act 2020 as part of National Work Safe Month - a time to commit to safe and healthy workplaces.

October is National Safe Work Month - a time to commit to safe and healthy workplaces for all emergency services personnel.

Being safe and healthy means being free from physical and psychological harm. No job should be unsafe, and no death or injury is acceptable. There is always more that we can do together to make a difference.

The theme this year is: Think safe. Work safe. Be safe.

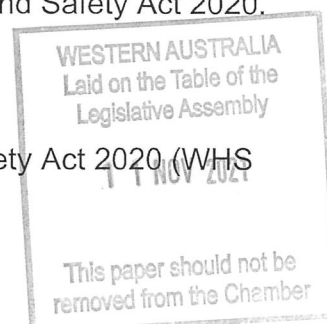
**think
safe.** | **work
safe.** | **be
safe.**

This October think safe. work safe. be safe. at your brigade, group or unit by planning and implementing work health and safety procedures.

You can start this journey by taking a look at the changes to the Work, Health and Safety Act 2020.

Work Health and Safety Act 2020

The Work Health and Safety Bill 2019 was passed as the Work Health and Safety Act 2020 (WHS Act) on 10 November 2020.



But before the Act can take effect, regulations need to be drafted. Work on the WHS regulations will progress throughout 2021.

How does this impact you?

Under the Act, volunteers are defined as a 'worker' which will provide you with the same work health and safety protections as an employee of the Department.

The new legislation and regulations are about making volunteering safer. It means that both career and volunteer personnel will have the same standard of fatigue management and welfare protection when performing their duties.

DFES has been undertaking briefing sessions and training about the new legislation since mid-2020 including at the WAFES Conference and regional forums.

We'll continue to keep you up to date with the WHS Act on the Volunteer Hub and welcome any enquiries.



Next steps

You can stay up to date with what's happening on the WHS website and by signing up for WHS News Alerts.

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the requirements of the new workplace safety laws.

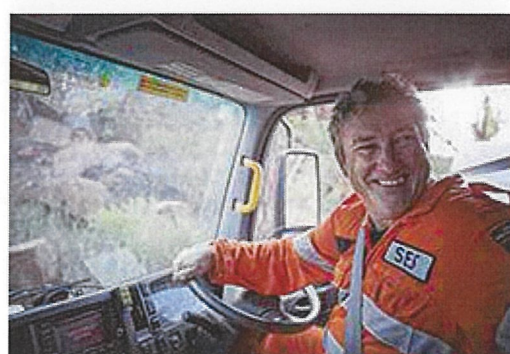
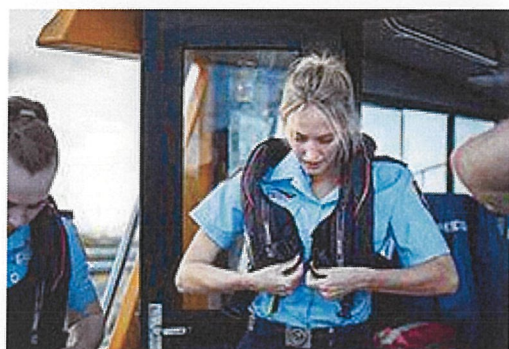
No matter who you are or where you work we all have a role to play in making sure that our workplaces are healthy and safe.

Every person who goes to work deserves to come home safe and healthy.

- The Work Health and Safety Act can be found on the [WA Legislation website](https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/work-health-and-safety-legislation-reform) (<https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/work-health-and-safety-legislation-reform>).
- An overview of the Work Health and Safety Act can be found on the [Department of Mines, Industry Regulations and Safety website](https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/prod/filestore.nsf/FileURL/mrdoc_43434.pdf/$FILE/Work%20Health%20and%20Safety%20Act%202020%20-%20%5B00-00-02%5D.pdf?OpenElement) ([https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/prod/filestore.nsf/FileURL/mrdoc_43434.pdf/\\$FILE/Work%20Health%20and%20Safety%20Act%202020%20-%20%5B00-00-02%5D.pdf?OpenElement](https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/prod/filestore.nsf/FileURL/mrdoc_43434.pdf/$FILE/Work%20Health%20and%20Safety%20Act%202020%20-%20%5B00-00-02%5D.pdf?OpenElement)).

Check out the frequently asked questions for the [Work Health and Safety Act 2020](#) (</home/collaborate/work-health-and-safety-act>) to bring you up to speed.

Take a moment to review them as part of National Work Safe Month.



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