



"Risky Times" by C.A.L.M. Risk Management Section

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VISITOR RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT ISSUED

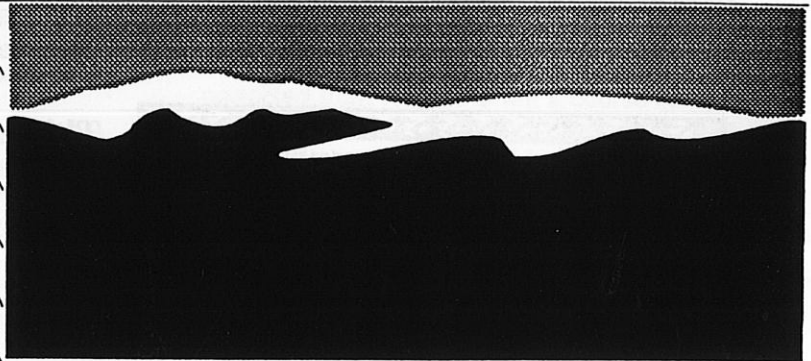
CALM'S Visitor Risk Management Policy Statement has been ratified by Corporate Executive and is currently being distributed. Through high levels of tourism and recreation statewide, CALM has a formidable duty of care and a significant exposure to the potential for personal injury claims under common law.

The reasons for the increased frequency of claims include, but are not restricted to, the following;

- increasing area of the CALM estate, increasing numbers of people participating in tourism as an activity and increasing visitation to areas managed by CALM;
- increased level of awareness by the public of their right to pursue liability claims through the courts;
- stronger expectations by the community that managers of public land will exercise their statutory responsibilities for care, control and management to a high standard;
- expectation by the community for continuing provision of some recreational experiences with elements of risk and challenge and a low level of management control.

The new policy aims to help staff manage the complex visitor risk and public liability issues by establishing directions and priorities. It will also serve as a guide for preparing works schedules and budgets and evaluating performance in the delivery of tourism and recreation services.

Operational guidelines and a training program will be put into effect to provide a source of information and standard



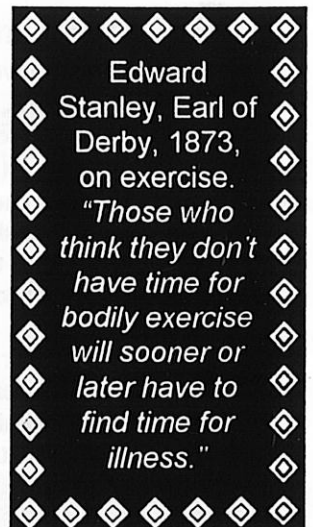
WorkSafe WA Audit Report.

Several months ago CALM was selected by WorkSafe WA to be the subject of a WorkSafe Plan (this is a 134 question safety and health audit). The following groups were selected to participate, Perth, Pemberton, South West Capes, Geraldton, Mundaring, Forest Resources Bunbury and Como. The audit was carried out on a Department wide basis and it is therefore not possible to give individual ratings for the above groups.

The overall result was a credit to CALM with high scores in all areas, eg Management Commitment 76 %, Policy, Plans & Procedures 76 %, Consultation 77%, Hazard Identification 74% and Training 82%. There are a number of areas within the report where the groups results were a little below par. This can be used as a general barometer for the whole Department and the Risk Management Section will be using the data as a guide for future initiatives. Copies of this report will be supplied to all participating groups in the near future.

SAFETY AND HEALTH CO-ORDINATORS TRAINING.

- 2 day training course is offered to Safety and Health Co-ordinators, based on the duty of care in health and safety, recent amendments to the Safety and Health Act, common law and public liability within CALM.
- Will be held at IFAP training centre Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd May 1996. Nominations must be lodged with the Risk Management Section by April 24th.
- Further details are available from Tom Wood or John Ireland of the Risk Management Section, Como.



Edward Stanley, Earl of Derby, 1873, on exercise. "Those who think they don't have time for bodily exercise will sooner or later have to find time for illness."

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# Why do we slip, trip and fall?

Slips, trips and falls undoubtable represent a significant proportion of work place accidents. Southern Public Health Unit, Injury Prevention Program have done a lot of work to determine why people fall (in particular older people). This information may be useful to consider as part of your injury prevention programs - especially for the frequent fallers.



You may say, as many people do, that a fall results from carelessness, that people need to watch what they are doing and where they are going. While it's true that vigilance can help, it can't be the whole answer since nobody can be all-seeing and all knowing. So what can you do to make yourself safer from falling? There are eight major causes of falling and these are things that you can work on.

**The major causes of falling:**

- ❖ unsafe / impractical footwear
- ❖ changes in eyesight or vision
- ❖ poor balance and walking patterns
- ❖ lack of physical activity
- ❖ chronic health conditions
- ❖ medication / drugs
- ❖ hazards in the workplace
- ❖ hazards in public places
- ❖ Falls as a result of risky behavior are also common, and often cause more serious injury.

## Things you can do:

- ⊙ **Take good care of yourself**
  - ◆ Physical, mental and social well-being.
- ⊙ **Wear safer footwear**
  - ◆ a good fit
  - ◆ flat shoes with a low broad heel gives good stability
  - ◆ a sole that grips
  - ◆ firm, laced footwear
  - ◆ footwear to suit the activities
- ⊙ **Eye sight and vision**
  - ◆ have eyes tested regularly, lenses may need changing
  - ◆ ensure there is sufficient lighting
  - ◆ spectacles suitable for environment and activities
  - ◆ monitor eye disorder, for temporary and lasting effects
- ⊙ **Maintain your posture, balance and walking pattern**

- ⊙ **Be physically active**, this will help maintain good muscle strength and condition, assist joint mobility and stability, maintain bone strength and combat osteoporosis, assist in weight control (combined with a well balanced diet) and increase stamina.
- ⊙ **Know and understand the effects of any medication or drugs you are taking.** Ask your doctor or the pharmacist about the side effects of medication. Don't mix drugs (including alcohol).
- ⊙ **Be aware of the effects of injury of illness** that you may be suffering or recovering from
- ⊙ **Make your environment safer** - using the Health and Safety hazard reporting system and common sense.

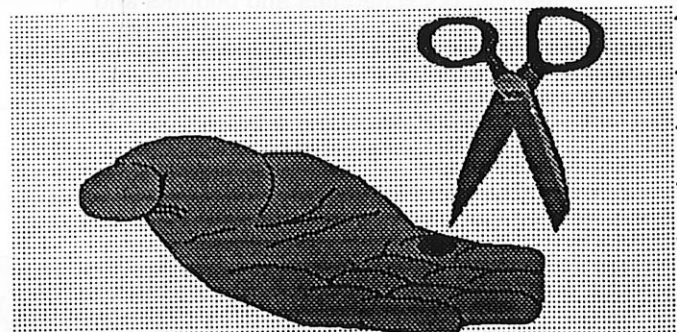


**Ticks** Ticks feed on the blood of humans and other mammals, and while they usually drop off when full, they should be removed as soon as you spot them. Usually drab in colour, ticks are oval and flat. The Kangaroo tick, common in WA, is reddish-brown with white rings on its leg. Engorged, they become globular and can grow up to 25 mm's in diameter. They may hide in body crevices, and often go unnoticed for many days, until they become engorged.

Ticks usually cause intense irritation at the site of attachment to humans. They should be lifted out by the shoulders using a pair of sharp pointed tweezers or scissors to ensure the whole tick is removed. Do not squeeze the tick's body or use kerosene to irritate it, the aim is to lift the whole tick out, including the mouth and head which if not removed carefully can become detached on removal, introducing the risk of infection..

- If in the ear, seek medical aid.
- Search carefully for other ticks, particularly in the hair, behind the ears and other body crevices
- If the irritation remains long after the tick has been removed, you may require medical aid.

Before venturing into tick country, it is a worthwhile precaution to treat clothes and exposed skin with a suitable repellent.

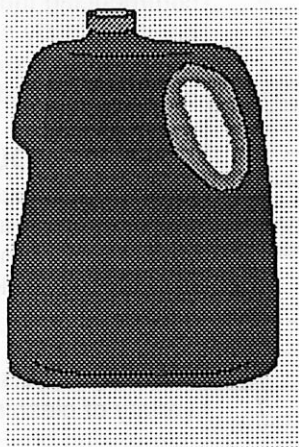


## NEEDLES AND SYRINGES IN THE BUSH

Reserves workers are reporting the incidence of discarded needles and syringes in reserves and national parks. This creates a potential safety hazard to CALM employees and the public using the area. Safe and effective disposal is essential to ensure that there are no disease risks to those collecting the needles and to those in further stages of the rubbish disposal. The following guidelines will reduce the risk to all.

### SAFE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF DISCARDED NEEDLES AND SYRINGES

- ☛ There is no need to be alarmed
- ☛ Avoid touching the needle with your fingers or hands
- ☛ Pick up the needle or syringe by the blunt end, away from the point. When doing this it is preferable to wear gardening gloves or to use a brush and pan or tongs.
- ☛ Never attempt to replace the protective cover of the needle if the needle is exposed
- ☛ Put the needle and syringe in a container with a well secured lid.
  - Rigid plastic containers with lids are the best (eg plastic bottle with a screw top lid). Do not use glass which may shatter or aluminium cans which may be squashed.
- ☛ Make sure the container is tightly sealed
- ☛ Put the sealed container in a rubbish bin



### NEEDLESTICK INJURIES - THE RISKS

A person who is pricked or scratched with a discarded needle has only a very remote chance of being infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) from blood in the needle. There is, however, a possibility of Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C infection. Like HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and Hepatitis C can both be caused by any blood borne viruses.

Tetanus spores which live in the soil may also cause infections if they are transported into the body through broken skin caused from a discarded needle.

**More information; contact Risk Management Section or Health Dept's Communicable Disease Control Unit**

### WHAT IF YOU GET NEEDLESTICK INJURY?

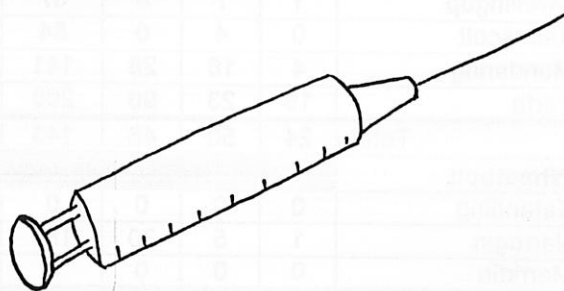
- ☛ Wash the area gently with soap and running tap water as soon as possible
- ☛ Apply antiseptic and sterile dressing
- ☛ Contact your doctor or hospital emergency department as soon as possible
  - Tests may be done to see if you are already protected from Hep B. If not a course of vaccinations may be given. This will be most effective if begun within 24 hours following the injury.
- ☛ If you are not vaccinated against tetanus this should be done immediately
- ☛ Antibiotics may be given as a protection against other infections
- ☛ Needle and syringe should be disposed of safely.

### WHAT ELSE CAN MINIMISE THE RISK?

CALM employees who are encountering needles and syringes regularly should :

- ☛ be made aware of the correct disposal procedures
- ☛ be supplied with gloves, tongs and suitable containers when cleaning an area known to have needles. (Sharps containers are available from Surgical Supplies, or you may begin a collection of suitable containers to be kept in recreation vehicles)
- ☛ be vaccinated for Hepatitis B

Should a location be known as a syringe users or needle dumping ground, there may be an option of providing a suitable disposable unit, which although does not condone drug use, may help in reducing the risks to employees and the public.



**CALM Employee Assistance Program PACE WA 1800 622 386 or (09) 472 1243**

A confidential place to turn for help when you have concerns that may be affecting you at work or at home. When you encounter a situation (or a string of incidents) that is difficult to resolve, it's helpful to have someone to talk to - someone who can discuss your situation and look objectively at what options are available to you. PACE WA is available to provide confidential care and guidance for any concern you may have. Since PACE is a service provided by an independent organisation, no-one need know of your decision to seek help.

**STATISTICS FOR CALM 1 March 1995 - 29 February 1996**

	NUMBER		FREQUENCY RATE		AV DAYS	HOURS	NO DAYS
	LTI	MTI	LTI	MTI + LTI	LOST	WORKED	LOST
<b>Central Forest</b>							
Bunbury	0	0	0	0	0	99,086	0
Busselton	4	7	34	93	29	118,155	114
Mornington	6	12	32	97	5	184,921	32
Blackwood	2	8	14	71	8	140,494	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>542,656</b>	<b>161</b>
<b>Goldfields</b>							
Kalgoorlie	0	0	0	0	0	36,178	0
<b>Kimberley</b>							
Kununurra	0	0	0	0	0	27,290	0
Broome	0	0	0	0	0	18,164	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45,454</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Midwest</b>							
Geraldton	0	1	0	33	0	30,458	0
Moora	1	1	54	109	1	18,424	1
Shark Bay	0	0	0	0	0	15,188	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6,4070</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Pilbra</b>							
Exmouth	0	1	0	71	0	14,120	0
Karratha	1	1	31	62	2	32,453	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4,6573</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>South Coast</b>							
Albany	2	5	19	67	26	104,162	51
Esperance	1	0	50	50	9	19,965	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>124,427</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Southern Forest</b>							
Manjimup	1	12	8	109	5	118,984	5
Manjimup Region	0	0	0	0	0	6,0943	0
Pemberton	0	6	0	58	0	102,935	0
Walpole	1	10	12	128	2	85,768	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>368,630</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Swan Region</b>							
Dwellingup	1	7	8	67	8	118,527	8
Kelmscott	0	4	0	84	0	47,766	0
Mundaring	4	16	28	141	29	142,313	114
Perth	19	23	90	200	44	210,369	840
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>518,965</b>	<b>962</b>
<b>Wheatbelt</b>							
Katanning	0	0	0	0	0	9,708	0
Narrogin	1	5	30	180	1	33,328	1
Merridin	0	0	0	0	0	9,859	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>52,895</b>	<b>1</b>
SOHQ Admin	6	6	6	24	3	499,450	19
Forest Resources	6	9	35	89	24	169,477	144
Science and Info.	2	6	8	31	1	254,347	2
<b>Total for Dept.</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2,722,822</b>	<b>1,359</b>

LTI = LOST TIME INJURY      MTI = MEDICAL TREATMENT INJURY  
 FREQUENCY RATE = No. OCCURRENCES IN PERIOD x 1,000,000 / TOTAL HRS  
 AVERAGE DAYS LOST = No. OF DAYS LOST / No. OF LTI's

**For further information on any of the issues discussed in the Risk Times please contact the Risk Management Section. If you have any issues you would like to be included in future editions of Risky Times please forward them to the section.**

**HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE**

**LOOK UP AND LIVE**

An employee was working alone operating a mobile crane. After placing the load in its designated place the operator reversed the crane with the boom in its fully raised position. The boom contacted a low overhead powerline causing a power cut out switch in a nearby building to activate.

Fortunately only the operators pride was injured The District is to be congratulated on the quality and promptness of its investigation report.

However this incident highlights the necessity to ensure that work areas are checked before commencing the task and the need to supply an assistant when working near powerlines or other overhead hazards.

**SAFE PRODUCTS.**

The Risk Management Section are often approached to look at a wide variety of new products that lay claim to being the best available.

Recent products seen include a variety of cleaning and degreasing products that do not require listing under any poison schedules and appear suitable to replace the present sterilants used at our recreation sites and the petroleum based products in workshops.

These products are at present under going field trials in the Yanchep National Park.

The Risk Management Section have available a complete set of Material Safety Data Sheets from Healthsafe Solutions (the supplier) for these products and are willing to send them out to interested groups.