

Wednesday 14 Sept
2016

SafeWork SA warns repeat offenders about their work health and safety obligations as business leaders after recent conviction

This last week the Industrial Court has handed down a sixth conviction to a local packaging business for a crush injury to a worker's hand.

The Industrial Court convicted Pope Packaging, a South Australian owned business, and imposed a penalty of \$51 000 plus court costs in recognition of an early guilty plea.

On 15 January 2015, a full-time printer operator was working a printer when he noticed a fault and on inspection of the problem had his right thumb crushed between the print plate and a roller.

Following investigation by SafeWork SA, Pope Packaging was charged with failing its health and safety duty to provide adequate safe operating procedures, maintain adequate supervision, have adequate guarding installed, and a safe work system.

"It is concerning that this is the sixth time Pope Packaging has been prosecuted for a breach of work health and safety laws and repeat offending does raise questions about the safety culture and leadership of a business," said SafeWork SA Executive Director, Marie Boland.

SafeWork SA's Chief Inspector Chris McKie has indicated that the regulator will be undertaking a compliance program dealing with repeat offenders looking particularly at how leaders in those businesses are meeting their work health and safety due diligence obligations.

SafeWork SA provides a free WHS advisory service to help people set up practical safe work systems.

"Our WHS advisors have extensive industry experience without the inspector powers so people can feel comfortable asking us for help," Ms Boland said.

To book a free advisory service, please contact SafeWork SA on 1300 365 255 or email help@safework.sa.gov.au.

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