

Fuel for Thought

Christmas Safety

As I have often mentioned in this column safety is the number one priority at QER and we do all we can to ensure our safety messages and practices not only keep people out of harm's way at work, but can also be applied outside of working hours.



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It's all about ensuring that people are provided with ways of minimising risk in their daily lives, particularly when we are involved in activities which might involve higher levels of risk, such as when we are frustrated or rushing, or if we are tired or complacent.

Earlier in the year we had all employees undertake a program called SafeStart, which is focused on identifying these times of higher risk and providing us with greater levels of self-awareness so we can minimise those risks.

Of course, at this time of year there is a particular event which can create higher levels of risk.

I'm referring to the office or workplace Christmas party, where it can be especially difficult to maintain levels of self-awareness – after all it is an occasion where people want to 'let their hair down' and celebrate the end of the working year.

At QER we had our Christmas party a bit over a week ago, and I'm pleased to report it was a great night with plenty of fun, and no issues with safety. Most of that can be put down to our staff acting responsibly, but we did do some pre-planning which helped make the night a fun, but safe affair.

We had discussions with the venue to ensure there was responsible serving of alcohol, and a few of us made sure we kept an eye on things in case any colleagues were becoming a little too happy.

And once the fun was over we made sure people were able to get home safely by providing cab docketts where needed, and pre-organised car-pooling for others.

It was a great example of how you can ensure a safe environment, without affecting peoples' ability to have fun.

I wish you all the best for your own celebrations during the festive season.



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