SafeSupervisor October 2026 Newsletter



The October 2026 edition of *SafeSupervisor* challenges OHS leaders to look beyond traditional frontline training and ask a bigger question: **What is the organization learning from its losses, its people, and the decisions that create work in the first place?**

The lead article, *Claims as Curriculum*, explores how workers' compensation and insurance claims can become a valuable source of prevention intelligence. A claim code may tell you that someone suffered a back strain, a collision, or a struck-by injury, but the real learning often sits deeper in the narrative. Staffing, equipment availability, production pressure, contractor coordination, unfamiliar work and poorly designed procedures can all contribute to the conditions that made an incident possible.

Mental health is another major focus this month. Effective training shouldn't turn supervisors into amateur clinicians. It should help them recognize meaningful changes in behaviour or performance, understand how psychological strain can interact with physical safety, start respectful conversations, address immediate work concerns and connect employees with appropriate support.

The issue also argues that safety training cannot stop with frontline workers. Procurement, scheduling, project management, HR, sales, engineering and senior leadership all make decisions that can increase or reduce risk long before a worker reaches the hazard. Training people to make safer upstream decisions can eliminate or reduce hazards instead of continually relying on workers to manage them.

October's ready-to-use Safety Talks address compressed air and pneumatics, housekeeping, visual fatigue and lighting, and the additional risks faced by temporary workers and employees moving between different worksites.

Key takeaways

- **Treat claims as prevention intelligence.** Look past injury classifications and ask what conditions, decisions and weak controls allowed the event to develop.
- **Look for patterns outside your own organization.** Insurers and brokers may see recurring losses across similar employers that haven't yet appeared in

your own data.

- **Measure action, not just training completion.** A lesson should lead to changed controls, inspections, supervisor conversations or documented field follow-through.
- **Mental health training should build practical supervisor capability, not diagnostic skill.** Teach observation, conversation, response, referral and privacy.
- **Control the hazard before asking people to cope with it.** Resilience strategies can help, but they shouldn’t substitute for addressing excessive workload, poor scheduling, conflict or unsafe conditions.
- **Train the people who create the work.** Procurement, project management, scheduling, HR and leadership decisions can materially change the level of exposure faced downstream.
- **Reinforce the fundamentals.** Compressed air, cluttered aisles, poor lighting and unfamiliar worksites may look routine, but familiarity is often what makes these hazards easy to underestimate.
- **Give temporary and mobile workers site-specific orientation.** Previous experience doesn’t replace knowing the emergency arrangements, procedures, hazards and contacts at a new location.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS MONTH

https://ilt.safetynow.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Colman-11255286.mp3

THIS MONTH’S CONTENT IN FULL

- **Claims as Curriculum: What Workplace Leaders Can Learn From Insurance Losses**
- **What Mental Health Training Should Actually Teach**
- **Compressed Air & Pneumatics: Hidden Blast and Impact Hazards Meeting Kit**
- **Housekeeping Matters: Clean Floors, Clear Aisles, Safer Workplace Meeting Kit**
- **Visual Fatigue: Lighting, Glare and Worker Performance Meeting Kit**
- **Worker Mobility: Temporary Staff, Multi-Site Work and Consistent Safety Meeting Kit**
- **Train the People Who Create the Work: Why Safety Training Cannot Stop With Frontline Employees**