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SAFETY CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT FALLS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

South Australia is joining workplace health and safety regulators across Australia to ensure that workplaces have appropriate measures in place to prevent falls in the construction industry.

SafeWork SA will focus on the housing and small-scale commercial building sectors, sending inspectors to about 80 sites in February and March this year.

Acting Industrial Relations Minister Jane Lomax-Smith says this is a priority area for SafeWork SA and its counterparts.

“Falls are the single-biggest cause of workplace injury and deaths in the construction industry,” she said.

“In the past three years there have been three deaths and 450 compensated injuries due to falls from height in South Australia’s construction sector.

“You don’t have to fall from a great height to be seriously, permanently or fatally injured.

“For the sake of those doing the job, their families and workmates, as well as your business, we urge employers and their staff to identify and control fall risks as soon as possible.

“All building trades which involve work at height should review their work procedures and if necessary, introduce safer systems before SafeWork inspectors visit.

“Builders, plasterers, plumbers, electricians, roof tilers and workers in similar trades are all at risk of serious injury if fall prevention measures are not taken.

“Don’t assume that because you’ve never had an injury that you’re working safely.

“Safety is a full time job and everyone needs to be constantly vigilant.”

SafeWork SA produces publications and guidance material, which is available in printed form or can be downloaded from its website at www.safework.sa.gov.au.

Help is also available from the Telephone Help Centre on 1300 365 255.