Fuel Tanks Handling And Repair | SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

TASK OR ACTIVITY: Fuel Tanks Handling And Repair

Business Name: [Company Name]	ABN: [ABN]	SWMS#
Business Address: [Company Address]		
Contact Person:	Phone: [Phone]	Email:

THIS SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT IS APPROVED BY THE PCBU OF THE PROJECT

Under the Work Health and Safety Regulation (WHS Regulation), a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) is required to ensure that a safe work method statement (SWMS) is prepared before the proposed work starts.

Full Name:		
Signature:	Title:	Date:

Details of the person(s) responsible for ensuring implementation, monitoring and compliance of the SWMS as well as reviews and modifications of the SWMS.

Full Name:	Title:	Phone:

ALL PERSONNEL PARTICIPATING IN ANY ACTIVITY ON THIS SWMS MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATED	NAME AND DATED SIGNATURE OF ALL RELEVANT PERSONNEL WHO HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND COMMUNICATED TO IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL OF THIS SWMS		
	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Safety meetings or toolbox talks will be scheduled in accordance with legislative requirements to first identify any site hazards, secondly to communicate those hazards and then to further take steps to either eliminate or control each hazard.			
If an incident or a near miss occurs, all work must stop immediately. Depending on the severity of the incident, a meeting will be called with all workers to amend the SWMS if required. The meeting may also be an educational opportunity.			
Any changes made to the SWMS after an incident or a near miss must be approved by the Person Conducting Business or Undertaking and communicated to all relevant personnel.			
The SWMS must be kept and be available for inspection at least until the work is completed. Where a SWMS is revised, all versions should be kept. If a notifiable incident occurs in relation to which the SWMS relates, then the SWMS must be kept for at least two years from the occurrence of the notifiable incident.			

CLIENT OR PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR DETAILS	
Client:	SCOPE OF WORKS
Project Name:	Provide a detailed description of the specific work being carried out (otherwise known as a scope of works).
Project Address:	
Project Manager:	
Contact Phone:	
Project Manager Signature:	
Date SWMS supplied to Project Manager:	

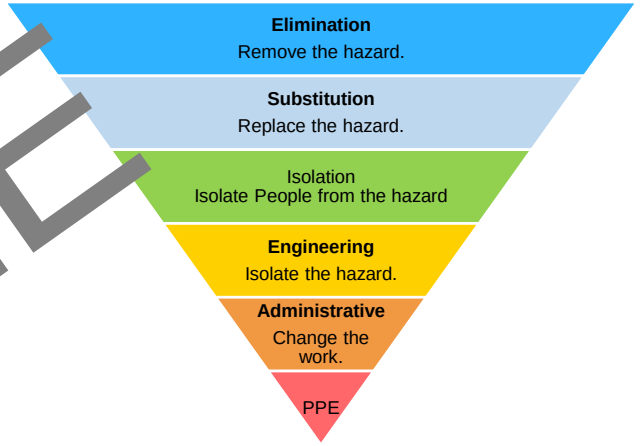
ANY HIGH-RISK CONSTRUCTION WORK BEING CARRIED OUT	
☐ involves a risk of a person falling more than 2 meters.	☐ is carried out on or near pressurised gas mains or piping.
☐ is carried out on a telecommunication tower.	☐ is carried out on or near chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines.
☐ involves demolition of an element of a structure that is load-be	☐ is carried out on or near energised electrical installations or services.
☐ involves demolition of an element related to the physical integrit of a stru	☐ is carried out in an area that may have a contaminated or flammable atmosphere.
☐ involves, or is likely to involve, disturbing as stos.	☐ involves tilt-up or precast concrete.
☐ involves structural alteration or repair that re mporar upp to prevent collapse.	☐ is carried out on, in or adjacent to a road, railway, shipping lane or other traffic corridor.
☐ is carried out in or near a confined space.	☐ is carried out in an area of a workplace where there is any movement of powered mobile plant.
☐ is carried out in/near a shaft or trench deeper than 1.5m or tunnel involving use of explosives.	☐ is carried out in areas with artificial extremes of temperature.
☐ is carried out in or near water or other liquid that involves a risk of drowning.	☐ involves diving work.

ANY HIGH-RISK MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT NEARBY							
☐ Forklift	☐ Crane/s	☐ Hoist/s	☐ Excavator	☐ Backhoe/Loader	☐ Boom Lift	☐ EWP	☐ Genie Lift
☐ Trencher	☐ Drilling Rig	☐ Trucks	☐ Formwork	☐ Bobcat	☐ Flammable Gas	☐ Fuel	☐ Dozer
☐ High Voltage	☐ Mulcher	☐ Tilt-up Panels	☐ Roller	☐ Scissor Lift	☐ Tractor	☐ Other -	

RISK MATRIX

LIKELIHOOD	INSIGNIFICANT	MINOR	MODERATE	MAJOR	CATASTROPHIC	SCORE	ACTION
ALMOST CERTAIN	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE		
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCEE
POSSIBLE	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	3H HIGH	Review befo work starts.
UNLIKELY	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	2M MODERATE	Ensure control measures in place.
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	1L LOW	nitor and k records

HEIRARCHY OF CONTROLS



Notes on Hierarchy of Controls: Elimination methods are the most effective and preferre en co lli d hazard. Substitution is the second most effective method of controlling a hazard. Engineering by isolation is the ost e ve, while Administrative Controls by changing the work is the fourth most effective method. PPE (Personal Protective Eq ment) he least effective method.

PERS NAL TECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

FOOT PROTECTION	HAND PROTECTION	HEAD PROTECTION	HEARING PROTECTION	E PROTE	SPIRATORY PROTECTION	FACE PROTECTION	HIGH-VIS CLOTHING	PROTECTIVE CLOTHING	FALL PROTECTION	SUN PROTECTION	HAIR/JEWELLERY SECURED
											
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Select the appropriate PPE above suitable for the equipment used or the job task being performed (if applicable).

Note: A SWMS must be reviewed regularly to make sure it remains effective. A SWMS must be reviewed (and revised if necessary) if relevant control measures are revised. The review process should be carried out in consultation with workers (including contractors and subcontractors) who may be affected by the operation of the SWMS and their health and safety representatives who represented that work group at the workplace.

When a SWMS has been revised, the person conducting a business or undertaking must ensure all:

1. persons involved in the work are advised that a revision has been made and how they can access the revised SWMS;
2. persons who will need to change a work procedure or system as a result of the review are advised of the changes in a way that will enable them to implement their duties consistently with the revised SWMS; and,
3. workers that will be involved in the work are provided with the relevant information and instruction that will assist them to understand and implement the revised SWMS.

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK	NAME OF PERSON
1. Preparation	Slips, trips, and falls, exposure to hazardous substances	3H	- Ensure the work area is clean, clear, and well lit to minimise the potential for slips, trips, and falls. - Identify any potential hazards in the work area and address them accordingly (e.g., loose cords, uneven ground) prior to starting work. - Mark out designated walking areas and install temporary barriers around the workspace to prevent accidental access by unauthorised personnel. - Provide proper personal protective equipment (PPE) such as non-slip safety shoes or boots, gloves, eye protection, and appropriate clothing to minimise exposure to hazardous substances. - Confirm all employees and contractors have received training and are competent in the safe handling of fuel tanks and associated risks. - Establish a clear system for labeling hazardous substances and ensure that all workers are familiar with this labeling system. - Store any hazardous materials following established guidelines, ensuring appropriate ventilation, containment, and segregation requirements are met. - Implement and enforce a spill response plan for dealing with any unintentional releases or spills of hazardous substances. - Have Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) available onsite for all hazardous substances used during the project, including fuel and cleaning agents. - Regularly monitor and maintain equipment such as ladders, scaffolding, and tools to ensure they are in good working condition and can be safely used. - Encourage employees to take regular breaks, especially when working at heights or in confined spaces, to reduce fatigue and the likelihood of accidents. - Develop and implement emergency and evacuation procedures specific to the fuel tank handling and repair work, ensuring staff are familiar with these procedures and know the location of emergency exits and meeting points. - Conduct regular inspections and audits, ensuring compliance with company policies and relevant legislation, and making necessary adjustments to improve the overall safety of the workplace.	2M	
2. Emptying the tank	Spills, fume inhalation	3H	- Always wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE) like safety gloves, long-sleeve shirts, goggles, and respiratory masks to minimise the risk of fume inhalation or direct contact with harmful substances. - Display appropriate warning signs and isolation barriers around the work area to alert and protect bystanders from potential hazards such as spills. - Conduct regular toolbox talks and training on safe tank handling practices to ensure employees understand and follow the correct procedures related to this work step.	2M	

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			- Properly isolate the fuel tank from ignition sources by disconnecting power sources, turning off devices, and implementing a lockout/tagout system. - Ensure an adequate ventilation system is in place to reduce the buildup of toxic fumes, especially in confined spaces. - Utilise suitable pumping equipment and properly maintained hoses for transferring fuels to minimise leaks and spills during the emptying process. - Set up spill containment kits, absorbent materials and emergency response processes nearby to enable quick response in case of accidental spills or leaks. - Place drip trays strategically beneath connectors, hoses or fittings to catch any residual fuel that may leak during disconnection or transfer. - Only permit trained personnel who are familiar with the specific fuel being handled and the associated risks, to carry out the task of emptying the tank. - Conduct regular inspections and maintenance checks on all equipment used in the emptying process, such as pumps and hoses, to ensure they are in optimal condition and minimise the potential for failure. - Establish clear communication protocols between employees during the emptying process to promote awareness of potential hazards and enable prompt responses in case of incidents. - Keep MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) readily accessible onsite detailing the composition and hazards of the specific fuel being handled, and emergency response actions in case of exposure or spillage. - Implement strict adherence to work breaks and rotation systems to minimise exposure time and prevent fatigue, which could lead to accidents. - In the case of observed leaks or potential hazards, immediately halt the emptying process and escalate the issue to a supervisor so that appropriate corrective actions can be taken in a timely manner.		
3. Tank isolation	Inadequate lockout/tagout, residual hazards in confined space entry	3H	- Implement a comprehensive lockout/tagout procedure that ensures all energy sources, including mechanical, electrical, hydraulic, and pneumatic, are de-energised before beginning work on the fuel tank. - Provide training to all personnel involved in the handling and repair of fuel tanks on the proper lockout/tagout procedures and the hazards associated with inadequate isolation. - Establish clear protocols for confined space entry, requiring workers to undergo specific training before engaging in such tasks and ensuring they understand potential residual hazards. - Develop and enforce standard operating procedures for accessing and working on fuel tanks, emphasising the importance of following all safety guidelines and protocols.	1L	

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			- Conduct regular inspections and audits of the work site to ensure that all safeguards are in place, including lockout/tagout devices and appropriate confined space entry equipment. - Use engineering controls, such as ventilation systems or exhaust fans, to minimise the buildup of hazardous fumes or gases within the fuel tanks during handling and repair processes. - Ensure all workers utilise appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) while engaging in fuel tank handling and repair tasks, including safety goggles, gloves, and appropriate footwear. - Establish routine maintenance schedules for all equipment and machinery involved in fuel tank handling and repair work to minimise the risk of malfunctions or failures that could lead to hazardous situations. - Require a designated safety monitor, who is knowledgeable about both the task itself and applicable safety precautions, to watch over each worker engaged in confined space entry and fuel tank repairs. - Erect barriers or warning signs around the worksite to alert other personnel of the ongoing fuel tank handling and repair activities, minimising the risk of unauthorised or untrained individuals accessing hazardous areas. - Have an emergency response plan in place, outlining the steps to take in case of accidents or incidents related to fuel tank handling and repair work, including evacuation routes and procedures for addressing chemical or gas exposure. - Encourage a safety-conscious work culture through regular safety meetings, where workers can share experiences and best practices, identify potential hazards, and discuss possible solutions. - Perform ongoing risk assessments and hazard identification processes, reviewing and updating safety protocols as needed to ensure they continue to provide the highest level of protection for workers involved in fuel tank handling and repair tasks.		
4. Cleaning the tank	Exposure to cleaning agents/chemicals, manual handling injuries	2M	[redacted]	1L	

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[redacted]					
5. Visual inspection	Working at height, dropped objects	2M	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
6. Pressure testing	Pressurised equipment failure, injury from high-pressure gases/fluids	4A	[redacted]	2M	

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			[redacted]		
7. Repair works	Confined space hazards, use of cutting/welding equipment	3H	[redacted]	2M	

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			[redacted]		
8. Refilling the tank	Overfilled tanks, spills	3H	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
9. Reconnecting lines	hazards when lifting/re-positioning heavy items, pinch points	2M	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
10. Leak detection	Exposure to fuels, fire risks	3H	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
11. Testing & commissioning	Electrical faults, HVAC system issues	2M	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK	NAME OF PERSON
			[redacted]		
12. Final documentation & sign-off	Incorrect records, communication issues	1L	[redacted]	1L	

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK	NAME OF PERSON

EMERGENCY RESPONSE – CALL 000 FOR EMERGENCIES

Ensure to have an Emergency Management Plan in place as well as adequate numbers of trained first aid staff with easy access to fully stocked first aid kits, rescue equipment, material safety data sheets, adequate access to emergency communication equipment and fire-fighting equipment suitable for all classes of fire and ignition sources.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND CODES OF PRACTICE. DELETE THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES FOR ANY STATE THAT ARE NOT APPLICABLE

Queensland & Australian Capital Territory
Work Health and Safety Act 2011
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011
Legislation QLD: https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/work-health-and-safety-laws
Codes of Practice QLD: https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice
Legislation ACT: https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations
Codes of Practice ACT: https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice

New South Wales
Work Health and Safety Act 2011
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2017
Legislation NSW: https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/legal-obligations/legislation
Codes of Practice NSW: https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/list-of-codes-of-practice

Northern Territory
Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011
Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations 2011
Legislation NT: https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/workplace-safety-laws
Codes of Practice NT: https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/forms-and-resources/codes-of-practice

South Australia
Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 (SA)
Legislation for SA: https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/resources/legislation
Codes of Practice for SA: https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/workplaces/codes-of-practice#COPs

Tasmania
Work Health and Safety Act 2012
Work Health and Safety (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2012
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012
Work Health and Safety (Transitional) Regulations 2012
Legislation for TAS: https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations
Codes of Practice for TAS: https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice

Details of permits, licenses or access required by regulatory bodies (add or delete as required):

- Permits from local council
- Authorisation to commence work
- Any required documents.

Victoria
Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017
Legislation VIC: https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/occupational-health-and-safety-act-and-regulations
Codes of Practice VIC: https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/compliance-codes-and-codes-practice

Western Australia
Work Health and Safety Act 2020
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2022
Legislation Western Australia: https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/legislation
Codes of Practice WA: https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/codes-practice

Safe Work Australia Links
Law and Regulation (All States): https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/law-and-regulation
Model Codes of Practice: https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/resources-publications/model-codes-of-practice

Model Codes of Practice

- Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work
- Confined spaces
- Labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals
- Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace
- Welding processes
- First aid in the workplace
- Managing the risk of falls at workplaces
- Hazardous manual tasks
- Managing the risk of falls in housing construction
- Managing electrical risks in the workplace
- Demolition work
- Excavation work
- Work health and safety consultation, cooperation and coordination
- Managing the work environment and facilities
- How to manage work health and safety risks
- Managing risks of plant in the workplace
- Construction work

SIGNATORIES OF THE SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT

The signed and dated personnel listed below have cooperated in the consultation and development of this Safe Work Method Statement which has been approved by the Person/s Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU). In signing this Safe Work Method Statement each individual acknowledges and confirms that they have read this SWMS in full, having raised any questions for items on this Safe Work Method Statement that require clarification, and confirms that they are competent, skilled and knowledgeable for the task assigned to them. Every person acknowledges that they have received the relevant training and qualifications where required, before carrying out any work contained in this Safe Work Method Statement. By signing this Safe Work Method Statement each individual agrees to work safely, to follow any safe work instructions which are provided, and agrees to use all Personal Protective Equipment where appropriate.

Worker Name	Position	Signature	Date	Time	Supervisor
			Date:		
			Date:		
			Date:		
			Date:		
			Date:		
			Date:		
			Date:		

SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT MONITORING AND REVIEW

The SWMS must be reviewed regularly to make sure it remains effective and must be reviewed (and revised if necessary) if relevant control measures are changed. The review process should be carried out in consultation with workers (including contractors and subcontractors) who may be affected by the operation of the SWMS and their health and safety representatives who represented that work group at the workplace.

When the SWMS has been revised the PCBU must ensure that all persons involved with the work are advised that a revision has been made and how they can access the revised SWMS, including all persons who will need to change a work procedure or system as a result of the review are advised of the changes in a way that will enable them to implement their duties consistently with the revised SWMS. All workers that will be involved in the work must be provided with the relevant information and instruction that will assist them to understand and implement the revised SWMS.

The SWMS must be monitored regularly for the effectiveness of ensuring hazard controls are effective in reducing the risk of incidents, keeping the workplace safe for all personnel. The person responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the Safe Work Method Statement should employ a multi-faceted approach which includes but is not limited to:

1. Spot Checks.
2. Consultation with workers, contractors and sub-contractors.
3. Internal audits on a continual basis.

An approach of continuous improvement, promptly recording inconsistencies or deficiencies, followed up by immediate corrective action and consultation with all relevant personnel ensures that the PCBU is consistently developing ever-improving systems of safe work principles.

REVIEW NUMBER	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5	☐ 6	☐ 7
NAME							
INITIALS							
DATE							

SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT REVIEW CHECKLIST

This Safe Work Method Statement Review Checklist is to be followed and used upon initial development of the SWMS to help ensure that all steps have been adequately taken before work commences. Think of this document as an internal audit review checklist before commencing work, and may form part of a Toolbox Talk (safety meeting) and may be used as an opportunity for education and training.

ITEMS WHICH MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE SWMS	COMPLETED	TO BE DONE	COMMENTS
The company details have been entered, including the project name and address.	☐	☐	
Names and signatures of all relevant personnel consulted during the development of the SWMS.	☐	☐	
Name, signature, position and date signed of the person approving the SWMS.	☐	☐	
Specific personnel and qualifications, experience is noted in the SWMS.	☐	☐	
Provides a step-by-step process of tasks required to carry out the activity or task.	☐	☐	
Adequate risk assessment of any identified hazards has been completed.	☐	☐	
Foreseeable hazards are identified and documented for each step.	☐	☐	
Any hazards listed in any site risk assessments have been added to the SWM	☐	☐	
SWMS initial risk (IR) column as well as residual risk (RR) columns completed.	☐	☐	
Check control measures added to the SWMS are the most effecti[illegible]ions.	☐	☐	
Responsible person is assigned and listed on the SWMS for the im[illegible]of cont[illegible]measures.	☐	☐	
Permit requirements specified, such as Hot Wor[illegible]Electrical Work, W[illegible]t Heights etc.	☐	☐	
SWMS identifies plant and equipment to be u[illegible].	☐	☐	
Details of inspection checks required for any equipment listed a[illegible]noted on the SWMS.	☐	☐	
Describes any mandatory qualifications, experience, training[illegible]skills required to perform the work.	☐	☐	
Applicable personal protective equipment is selected on the SWMS.	☐	☐	
Lists any required permits or licenses.	☐	☐	
Reflects and documents any legislative references and/or Australian Standards.	☐	☐	
Identifies any hazardous substances used with specific control measures in line with any SDS.	☐	☐	

REVIEWED BY		**DATE REVIEWED**	
SIGNATURE		**DATE COMPLETED**	