



MEDIA RELEASE

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SAFETY AT WORK, YOU'RE IN CHARGE

The Hills Shire Council's new approach to empowering their outdoor workers to take personal accountability for their safety and wellbeing has been recognised by Insurance and Care NSW (icare) and won a highly commended [icare Aware Award](#).

Jason McLaughlin, [icare](#)'s General Manager, Prevention Product and Pricing, said the Council has been recognised for the giant strides they have taken by introducing Safety Days and living by their new motto 'Safety at Work, You're in Charge'.

"This is one of the fastest growing regions in NSW and the Council's 600 employees have to look after the 160,000-plus residents," Mr McLaughlin said.

"Outdoor workers face relatively high health and safety risks because they perform a wide range of tasks in constantly changing work environments. They could be repairing a road in Maroota one week and maintaining a park in Castle Hill the next."

Michael Edgar, General Manager of The Hills Shire Council, says since they started holding Safety Days, Council has seen a steady decrease in the number of injuries among outdoor workers.

"We are also finding Council officers are being more conscientious and proactive when it comes to protecting themselves and others in the workplace," Mr Edgar said.

"Safety Days provide the perfect opportunity to get all our workers together to talk about any issues and consult about any proposed workplace changes. It's a great event for training our staff and reminding them about the importance of checking their equipment, looking at their procedures and working safely.

"The day also allows us to build on team morale and confidence and to continue to promote a healthy culture of sharing safety knowledge and experiences.

"I'm proud to belong to an organisation that has a continuous improvement mindset and takes a proactive approach to identifying and addressing hazards and risks," he said.

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