



ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY UNIT

# OHS ALERT

APRIL 2023

## HOARDING HORRORS

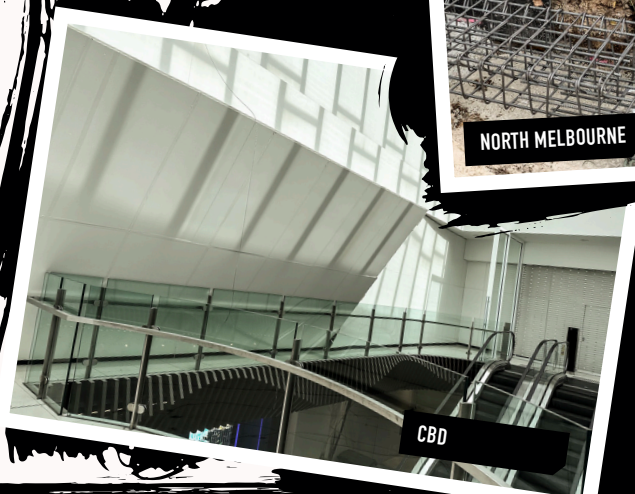
RECENT TIMES HAVE PROVEN THAT UNDER ENGINEERED DESIGNED AND BUILT HOARDING PROTECTION, CAN BE MORE OF A RISK TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAN WHAT IT WAS INITIALLY INTENDED TO PREVENT.

Two incidents early in the year narrowly missed someone being seriously injured or killed. An under engineered hoarding came down in Geelong narrowly missing a pedestrian and damaged several parked vehicles. Another in North Melbourne, where the hoarding was connected to a scaffold and the builder had excavated under the internal legs supports, caused the hoarding and scaffolding to fall internally.

A third incident occurred in the CBD where a hoarding was erected on level 4 to prevent falling objects coming down the atrium void. When a fire alarm was set off, the shopping centres' smoke extraction system engaged causing a vacuum effect and sucked the hoarding away from it's supports, onto the atrium void, coming to rest on a glass handrail/balustrade.

There are two sets of standards for hoarding protection: One for external use and one for internal use. We must ensure that the design of any hoarding has taken into consideration any and all possible events that may compromise the structure and/or injure any persons. Make sure the hoardings on your job can stand up against any and all circumstances and variables.

If you're unsure, phone the CFMEU on (03) 9341 3444 for support and assistance.



9341 3444



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VICTORIA

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