



the culture effect

WHAT COVID-19 CHALLENGES ARE FACED BY SAFETY MANAGERS?

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

At The Culture Effect we recognise the unprecedented obstacles presented by COVID-19, particularly from a health and safety perspective. From March 2020, until October 2020 we are interviewing Safety Managers across 12 industries, to understand the unique encounters faced during this time. Our objective is to shine a light on the challenges faced by Safety Managers in supporting the wellbeing of our national workforce.

1

Ensuring COVID-19 responses are practical and effective

Safety managers talked about shortages of personal protective equipment, challenges with working-from-home, complying with multiple state-level restrictions.

2

Managing regular and emerging safety risks

Distraction is a major concern for safety managers, who feel that many existing safety have had to 'give way' for other priorities. Safety managers are worried about the 'rising curve' of mental health issues.

3

Coordinating and consulting with multiple stakeholders

When one company implements COVID-19 restrictions, this can create uncertainty and even increased safety risks for others. Consulting with the workforce to manage change has been especially difficult.

4

Feeling less effective in their role

Safety managers feel most effective when they are visiting worksites. Social isolation and travel bans means that many safety managers feel less effective and are worried about the effects on health and safety.

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