



Worksafe Qld have recently issued a safety alert in relation to self-supporting signs and the Qld Synod Office request that all of our locations assess any self-supporting signs at their work sites as a matter of importance to determine if this WHS risk exists and requires immediate action.

It is recommended to consider all structure e.g. sails, playground equipment , etc. as they all can suffer the same consequence.

The full Worksafe Qld Safety Alert can be viewed [here](#).

Incident

In May 2018, a nine metre high sign structure collapsed and fell on cars in a shopping centre car park. The sign itself was approximately 4.4 metres wide by 1.85 metres high and was supported by a seven metre high hollow steel post. The base of the steel post was embedded in dirt and therefore the foundations could not be seen – refer pictures below.



Failure area at the base of the support post. Collapsed sign.

Actions required by Qld Synod Office Locations, Schools and Congregations:

- Have a competent person undertake an inspection of any self-supporting signs – **check for:**
 - Corrosion evidence and/or cavities allowing water ingress and poor drainage around the base;
 - The ability of the pole structure to support the anticipated dead and environmental loads e.g. signage dimensions/weight , severe weather events;
 - Remove/rectify any existing sign where a substandard condition is found which is considered to be an imminent WHS risk to people or property
(suggest you consult a suitably qualified Registered Professional Engineer of Queensland);
- Ensure signs in general are part of your regular inspection programs and documented – twice per year recommended and post a severe weather event;
- Consider sign design, location, loads when installing a new sign and ensure when they are erected they will not create a hazard/risk:
i.e. corrosion resistant, pole attached to base plate bolted to concrete pad above ground level, good drainage,

For clarification or assistance in relation to this alert please do not hesitate to contact:
WHS Team at Qld Synod – Peter Rose 0419 527 985 or Christine Przibilla 0439 136 171