



# SAFETY AT WORK BULLETIN

Proudly Sponsored by the Safety Institute of Australia (Victoria Division)  
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## CONTENTS

FED	<i>A County Court Judge has told a company director he would have to live with the shame of failing to ensure a truck which killed a motorist had effective brakes</i>
QLD	<i>A plumber suffered burns to his arms in a gas explosion and fire</i>
NSW	<i>Police crack down on truckies</i>
VIC	<i>Poor instructions given to a trainee caused two freight wagons to crash into a passenger train carrying 220 people</i>
VIC	<i>University tumour tests show nothing unusual</i>
NSW	<i>Woman critically burned in farm backburn</i>
TAS	<i>A series of free safety seminars for Tasmanian rural workers</i>
NSW	<i>Consultation period on changes to OHS Act extended</i>
VIC	<i>A WorkSafe advertising campaign targeting some of Victoria's biggest ethnic communities begins next week</i>
QLD	<i>An international approach to mine safety</i>
WA	<i>Northern fatigue roadblocks show improvements in safety</i>
NSW	<i>Minister announces 2006 Safe Work Awards</i>

## Company Director Will "live with shame" After Fatal Smash

24 May 2006

A County Court Judge has told a company director he would have to live with the shame of failing to ensure a truck which killed a motorist had effective brakes.

In sentencing South Gippsland man Lance William Jobling<sup>1</sup>, 59, Judge Leo Hart said the May 2002 crash on the West Gate Freeway off ramp had left Jobling in dire financial circumstances, on medication and with post traumatic stress disorder.

Mr Jobling was convicted and fined \$20,000 and ordered to undertake 200 hours of unpaid community work. He pleaded guilty to three counts under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 1985.

The court was told the truck driven by one of Mr Jobling's drivers was travelling at 70 kph as it went down the off-ramp of the West Gate Freeway leading to Williamstown Road.

The brakes were applied at the top of the ramp and were effective, but when they were applied again they did not respond.

The truck and trailer went through a red light and collided with a four wheel drive driven by father-of-three Jason Moore, 32. The utility was then pushed into a bus and Mr Moore died.

In handing down sentence Judge Hart said Mr Jobling was warned that the truck's brakes were not working properly and although steps were taken to fix them, the truck had not been taken off the road before the work was done.

WorkSafe's Executive Director, John Merritt, said the smash should send a clear message to company directors in general and the transport industry in particular.

"Company directors have clear responsibilities under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, as do employers. They must ensure they fulfil their obligations and act on information they have concerning safety.

"In terms of the transport industry, this is the second major prosecution in as many months concerning the death of other road users. Our message to these people is that they will be held accountable in the event of a serious safety incident or when they are visited by WorkSafe. While most in the industry are striving to meet their legal and moral obligations some do not. Failing to ensure trucks are properly maintained puts drivers and other members of the public at risk. If you cannot carry out this basic task, you should not let your vehicles on the road.

"No one should have to go through what Mr Moore's family has. No one needs to go through a lengthy and expensive investigation and court case."

The company commenced sand production at the premises in May 2001. Between May 2001 and September 2001, the company engaged S & L Transport Pty Ltd to transport sand to customers. On 15 October 2001, S & L Transport Pty Ltd went into liquidation pursuant to a creditors' voluntary winding up.

As a Director of Omega Resources he assumed responsibility for the maintenance and running of the truck which he owned.

Source: WorkSafe Victoria

1. Lance Jobling was a director of Omega Resources Pty Ltd which mined and processed sand at Bass in South Gippsland.

### Plumber burnt in gas explosion at Cairns motel

BRISBANE, May 22 2006

A plumber suffered burns to his arms in a gas explosion and fire in far north Queensland today. The man and a workmate were carrying out repairs in a bathroom at the Adobe Motel in Cairns when they cut through a gas pipe about 4.30pm (AEST), the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) said.

Continued on page 2



# SAFETY AT WORK BULLETIN

Continued from page 2

"They were drilling a hole through the wall to do some plumbing work and they hit a gas pipe in between the wall and the outside wall," QFRS Cairns director Alan Hogg said.

"It caused the gas to ignite and explode, which then caused a fire to spread through the bathroom, and that's how he got his injuries."

The man, whose age is unknown, was taken to Cairns Base Hospital with burns to his forearms. The fire was contained to the bathroom, damaging walls and a door.

Mr Hogg said the motel and two others, all in Sheridan Street, were evacuated because of fears the gas leaking from the cut pipe could reignite. Guests have since returned to the motels.

AAP

## Police crack down on truckies

SYDNEY, May 24 2006

A statewide blitz on regional NSW highways is set to target truckies who flout safety regulations.

Operation Heavy Load 4 will run until midnight tomorrow and will target the Newell, Hume, Pacific, New England, Sturt and Barrier highways and the Kidman Way.

It aims to address the competitive nature of the industry, which can lead drivers into taking unsafe shortcuts, NSW Police Deputy Commissioner Andrew Scipione said.

"Heavy Load 4 is about police making sure people don't take those shortcuts with loading or log books that could place them at risk of being in a crash due to tiredness and or overloading," Mr Scipione said in a statement. "An unduly competitive environment ultimately gives rise to road safety issues such as fatigue management, vehicle compliance and road worthiness."

Mr Scipione denied the operation would lead to all heavy vehicle drivers being unfairly tagged as law-breakers.

"We are not trying to marginalise those heavy vehicle drivers who are doing the right thing," Mr Scipione said. "This is our way of levelling out the playing field and making the roads safer for everyone."

AAP

## Bad instructions cause train crash

MELBOURNE, May 23 2006

Poor instructions given to a trainee caused two freight wagons to crash into a passenger train carrying 220 people, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) has found.

The wagons of a Pacific National freight train collided with a RailCorp eXpress Passenger Train (XPT) at South Dynon, Melbourne, about 2.3km from Southern Cross station, formerly Spencer Street Station, shortly before 8pm on January 19 last year.

Three of the passenger cars and the two freight wagons were damaged, but no one was injured.

The wagons were being marshalled to form a train in the South Dynon yard when the two leading wagons were propelled at a speed of 9kph into the side of the passenger train, running about 13kph, the ATSB said in a report released today.

A train driver, terminal operator and a trainee were working at the time.

"The trainee did not fully understand his role. He went to the rear of the train before the movement started and remained there instead of guiding the leading wagon," the report said. "The investigation found that the trainee's task had not been clearly specified. The accident sequence had developed because of a lack of defined procedures covering the marshalling of long trains, the breakdown in communication between terminal operations employees and the lack of structure in the task."

The ATSB made several recommendations including a "revision of the safety management system to incorporate the need for a supervisory structure in relation to trainees in terminal operator teams".

AAP

## University tumour tests show nothing unusual

26 May 2006

Tests on a Melbourne university building at the centre of a brain tumour scare .. show radiation levels are safe and below the national standard.

RMIT University says results of environmental tests on the building's top floors show nothing unusual.

Experts have tested for volatile organic compounds .. microbiological substances .. radiation and electromagnetic waves .. and included water quality testing and radio frequency testing.

Seven RMIT University staff members working on levels 16 and 17 in the building in central Melbourne have been diagnosed with brain tumours over the past seven years.

AAP

Continued on page 3



# SAFETY AT WORK BULLETIN

Continued from page 2

## Woman critically burned in farm backburn

SYDNEY, May 28 2006

A woman has suffered burns to 85 per cent of her body after being engulfed by fire in a backburning operation on a property in the NSW central west.

The 42-year-old tripped while climbing a fence on the Bathurst property and was caught by the flames, an NRMA CareFlight spokesman said.

She was rushed to Bathurst Base Hospital in a critical condition with severe burns to most of her body, including her airway, and has been placed on life support to be airlifted to Sydney.

She is due to arrive at Royal North Shore Hospital at 10pm (AEST).

AAP

## Free safety seminars for rural workers

29 May 2006

A series of free safety seminars for Tasmanian rural workers are being held across the State in the fight to reduce rural workplace accidents. Workplace Standards Rural Inspector, Peter Rigby, said the rural safety seminars are primarily for workers and will provide practical information on workplace safety.

"In particular, the seminars will focus on common accidents, the rights and responsibilities of workers and employers under the law and identifying hazards in the workplace," Mr Rigby said. "Workers will also learn about the impact a workplace accident can have on their lives and families."

Mr Rigby said rural workers continue to be one of the occupational groups most at risk of severe injury.

"We are calling on all farmers to make a commitment to keeping their workers safe by sending them along to one of the free safety seminars in their region," he said.

The two-hour seminars will be held during June in the following locations around the State:

- Southern Tasmania, 7 June at the Melton Mowbray Hotel from 10 am to 12 noon
- North East Tasmania, 14 June at the Branxholm Hotel from 10 am to 12 noon.
- North West Tasmania, 21 June at the Christmas Hills Raspberry Farm, Elizabeth Town from 10am to 12 noon.

If you are a farm worker and wish to register for the seminar or an employer wishing to register your workers, please phone Jodie on 6233 4988 or phone the Workplace Standards Helpline on 1300 366 322. You can also register online at [www.workplacesafe.tas.gov.au](http://www.workplacesafe.tas.gov.au)

The seminars are part of a larger Workplace Safe campaign targeting rural workers that aims to effect behavioural change in order to reduce the number of workplace injuries experienced by rural workers.

Source: Workplace Standards

## Consultation period on changes to OHS Act extended

26 May 2006

NSW Commerce Minister, John Della Bosca, today announced an extension to

7 July 2006 for consultation on proposed changes to the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000.

"Employers and unions have requested extra time to consider the proposals," Mr Della Bosca said. "It is important that everyone has a proper opportunity to consider the impact of the proposed changes," he said. "Occupational Health and Safety legislation serves a very important role and underpins safe places of work in NSW."

Fact sheets providing further information on the proposed changes are available on the WorkCover website

[www.workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au)

Source: NSW Commerce Minister

## WorkSafe talks to Arabic, Chinese, Turkish and Vietnamese communities.

25 May 2006

A WorkSafe advertising campaign targeting some of Victoria's biggest ethnic communities begins next week.

Print and radio advertising calling on the Arabic, Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin/Standard), Turkish and Vietnamese communities to think about what's important about going to work – coming home safely to family and friends.

It also urges them to get information about workplace health and safety by calling a WorkSafe telephone service where advisors will provide information in community languages.

WorkSafe is the State Government body which helps employers and workers understand workplace health and safety laws. It is part of the Victorian WorkCover Authority which helps injured workers.

"The Arabic, Chinese, Turkish and Vietnamese communities are close to their families and work hard to provide for them," WorkSafe's Executive Director, John Merritt, said. "WorkSafe wants these communities to be able to continue working without interruption or without long-term injuries or deaths."

Continued on page 4





# SAFETY AT WORK BULLETIN

Continued from page 3

"The joy we all felt when Brant Webb and Todd Russell walked out of the Beaconsfield mine was in stark contrast to the sadness many Victorians have gone through and continue to go through."

The new advertising campaign is an extension of the current English-language campaign on television, in newspapers, radio and on billboards.

Source: WorkSafe

## An international approach to mine safety

May 25 2006

Queensland's world class mine safety training expertise is helping to make mining industries across the globe safer, Mines Minister Henry Palaszczuk said today.

For the next two months, six officers from the Department of Geology and Minerals of Vietnam are in Queensland undertaking mine safety management training.

The delegation, which includes three mining engineers, a mineral processing engineer and two surveyors, will be based at Simtars, the Queensland Government's industry-leading mine safety research organisation.

Mr Palaszczuk said their training would focus on areas such as spontaneous combustion, strata control, surveying, explosives and mine site rehabilitation. They will also learn the latest in mine incident investigation and reporting and electrical safety in mines.

"The aim of this project is to equip the participants with a working knowledge of the systems that we have in place in Queensland," Mr Palaszczuk said. "They will be able to take back to Vietnam everything they have learned and apply it to their own industry."

The group will also visit the major mining areas in the State, including Mount Isa, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Mt Morgan and the Bowen Basin coal fields.

Mr Palaszczuk said the Government was also preparing to install, commission and train staff at the Singareni Collieries Company in India in the operation of Camgas mine gas monitoring systems.

Developed by Simtars, Camgas is an ultra-fast micro gas chromatograph used in analysing complex mixes of gas. Along with specialised software, it determines the toxicity and explosive potential of gases in underground coal mines. It can quickly detect dangerous conditions and provide an early warning system against a possible disaster. Six of the latest Camgas systems were sold to China early last year.

Later this month, staff in the Department will travel to the company's site at Kothagudem in south India to undertake installation and training to install the system.

Source: Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Water

## Northern fatigue roadblocks show improvements in safety

May 25, 2006

A WorkSafe roadblock exercise in Port Hedland and Kununurra last week has revealed an improvement in compliance with fatigue safety laws.

The joint roadblock – conducted by inspectors from WorkSafe and WA Police – found that transport companies are now generally complying with the laws, although some problems still exist.

WorkSafe WA Commissioner Nina Lyhne said today that it was pleasing to note that there seemed to have been a greater effort to comply with the major aspects of the fatigue regulations.

"Since WorkSafe began undertaking these roadblock exercises a couple of years ago, we have seen a steady improvement in compliance with the fatigue regulations," Ms Lyhne said. "It seems that the level of understanding of the regulations has risen steadily over the past few years, and the industry has come to grips with the fact that the laws are there to ensure that commercial vehicle drivers get enough rest so they can drive safely."

"Although compliance with the major aspects of the regulations such as adequate rest breaks has become widespread, there are still some areas of concern for which notices were issued."

A total of 125 vehicles were stopped at the Port Hedland and Kununurra roadblocks, with four improvement notices and one prohibition notice issued.

In addition to these notices, inspectors will follow up with another 50 companies on other fatigue related

## SIA EVENTS

### The Visions Conference 2006

Venue:

Rydges International Resort, Yeppoon

August 30, 31 - September 1 2006

[www.sia.org.au](http://www.sia.org.au)

### The Safety Conference, Sydney NSW

17 - 19 October 2006

[www.thesafetyshow.com](http://www.thesafetyshow.com)

## OTHER EVENTS

### Crane Seminars In Queensland

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland will conduct a series of Queensland Crane Strategy Seminars across the state during the next few months.

Dates, times and bookings are available at <http://www.dir.qld.gov.au/workplace/training/events/cranes/index.htm>

### Waves of Change

Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists, Inc.

Venue: Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort, Gold Coast QLD

2-6 December 2006

For more information email mailto: [conference@aioh.org.au](mailto:conference@aioh.org.au)

Continued on page 5





# SAFETY AT WORK BULLETIN

Continued from page 5

issues.

"The pleasing result is that in general there seems to have been a greater effort to comply with the major aspects of the fatigue regulations, in particular having at least a seven hour continuous break in a 24-hour period for solo drivers," Ms Lyhne said. "WorkSafe inspectors also noticed a growing tendency towards having two drivers, making it easier to comply with the laws and safer in general.

"Most of the follow-ups with transport companies are on issues such as regular medical checks, training and keeping records, which are important issues.

"We are pleased with the general increase in compliance, but it is essential that we continue to remind the industry that the human body has limitations and adequate rest and sleep is essential to safely undertake long-distance driving.

"Regulations governing fatigue management for commercial vehicle drivers have been in place since July 2003, so we expect that all transport companies would have safe work practices in place by now.

"A comprehensive code of practice for the management of fatigue has been in operation in WA since 1998. This was updated in 2003, and I would encourage every company involved in commercial vehicle transport to have a copy of the code readily available." Source: DOCEP

## Minister announces 2006 Safe Work Awards

24 May 2006

NSW Commerce Minister, John Della Bosca, today invited employers and employees to submit entries for the 2006 WorkCover NSW Safe Work Awards.

"The awards have become a prestigious showcase for innovation and excellence, attracting outstanding examples of what employees and employers are doing to improve safety in the workplace," Mr Della Bosca said.

Nominations for the 2006 Awards will open on Monday 29 May 2006 with written entries sought for five categories.

"The awards are a tangible example of our drive to promote and recognise best practice in workplace safety," said the Minister. "The incidence of injuries and fatalities in NSW workplaces is at an 18 year low, so our collective efforts are paying dividends for workers and for business."

The award categories are:

- Best Workplace Health and Safety Management System
- Best Solution to an Identified Workplace Health and Safety Issue
- Best Workplace Health and Safety Practices in Small Business
- Public Sector Leadership Award for Injury Prevention and Management
- Best Individual Contribution to Workplace Health and Safety

Nominations close Friday 7 July 2006, with applications being reviewed and short-listed by a WorkCover assessment panel during July/August.

For the first time this year, all five category winners will automatically be entered into the matching category in the national awards.

Further information is available from [www.workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au) or on 4321 5344.

Source: NSW Commerce Minister

## Adobe Acrobat V7.07 Information

Some readers have expressed difficulty in upgrading to the latest version of Acrobat Reader with one of the problems being that the download can be over 20 megabytes - a substantial burden to dial-up internet connections.

Safety At Work publishers are now allowed to distribute the latest edition of Acrobat Reader on a CD. If you want a copy of Acrobat Reader 7.07 please email me at [jonesk@sia.org.au](mailto:jonesk@sia.org.au) and include your full postal address. A CD will be mailed to you shortly after.

The CD won't be pretty as it is a burnt copy of the software that Adobe permits us to distribute. It is not allowed to be given to anyone other than the person requesting the CD and all CDs will be checked for viruses before distribution.

For those readers who are unconcerned about download limits, the latest version of Acrobat Reader is available for free from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

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