



SafetyWeek

Proudly provided by the Safety Institute of Australia
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Same Machine, Two Injuries - \$40k Fine

12 September 2008

A northern suburbs business that makes carpets for the car industry has been fined by an industrial magistrate after two workers were injured in near identical circumstances by the same machine on two separate occasions.

[Editor: the full decision in this prosecution is available at <http://www.tinyurl.com/au/x.php?1a57> and is very well worth reading.]

MCK Pacific Pty Ltd (trading as Plexicorp) received its penalty today after earlier pleading guilty to two separate charges of breaching Section 19(1) of the Occupational Health Safety and Welfare Act 1986 in failing to provide a safe system of work and failing to keep plant in a safe condition.

SafeWork SA prosecuted the firm after investigating near identical incidents at the Edinburgh Park site in January 2006 and July 2007 involving the same machine, called a 'foaming press' which presses and moulds carpet.

In the first incident, a male worker climbed into the machine to remove excess foam. As he was inside, a colleague started the machine, trapping the man by the foot.

SafeWork SA found there were no safe operating procedures with respect to cleaning and maintenance of the press.

Despite a hazard identification and risk assessment which led to some alterations involving sensors and a lockout box, another worker was injured in similar fashion 18 months later.

The male worker was changing a tool die inside the same machine, and again a colleague pressed the start button unaware of the worker inside. His foot was caught in the same trapping point identified in the first incident.

Both workers recovered from their injuries, returned to the company, but have since left for unrelated reasons.

Following investigation, SafeWork SA found no safe operating procedure for this work practice, nor an adequate system for locking out the foam press while someone was inside.

These incidents occurred under a previous owner, and safety systems have now improved so much under the new management that the employer was honoured at the Safe Work Awards in 2006, with the site now regarded as a best practice safety model.

Due to the early guilty pleas, cooperation and contrition, the fines were reduced by 25 percent, with Industrial Magistrate Michael Ardlie imposing a fine of \$18,000 for the first offence and \$22,500 for the second.

SafeWork SA Executive Director, Michele Patterson says the case shows how vital it is that any safety analysis of a machine or work practice is thorough and followed through.

"In the circumstances, there was a clear obligation on the employer to undertake this process and see it through. Risks were clearly identified, but the management of them was not adequately followed up.

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Upcoming SIA Events

Victoria Division Regional Show Promotional Visits

The Victoria Division will be at select regional shows in Victoria in October and November. A stand will be set up at each of these Shows to promote the Institute and to recruit new members. It is also an opportunity for rural members to visit, meet and network with other SIA people.

The Safety Institute seeks assistance in manning stands at the following locations on the following days.

Swan Hill

Friday & Saturday
3rd & 4th of October

Wangaratta
Friday & Saturday
10th & 11th of October

Bendigo
Friday & Saturday
24th & 25th of October

Ballarat
Friday, Saturday & Sunday
7th, 8th & 9th of November

Exact locations and timings will be provided closer to the event

If you are able to assist, contact Lindsay Pritchard on 0408 137 094 or email lpritchard@sia.org.au or Niven Neyland on 0410 147 977 email nneyland@sia.org.au

OHS Educators' Chapter

Endorsement of the governing rules

The SIA-OHSE Chapter is an affiliated body of the Safety Institute of Australia and as such it is governed by the SIA constitution. However to provide some structure for activities of the Chapter, and to facilitate good governance, rules of governance have been drafted. Members were notified of these rules by mail in December 2007 and invited to provide input. The rules were subsequently tabled and approved by the National Board of Management. The rules have been circulated for members' approval.

Please review the rules then register

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"The Magistrate noted the improved safety culture under the new ownership, and we know what a difference that makes. When such a culture involves a commitment to safety from management to the shop floor followed up by action, we know that workplaces can potentially eliminate lost time injuries on an ongoing basis," Ms. Patterson said.

Source: SafeWork SA

Jockeys join riders across Australia in show of support for safety campaign

13 September, 2008

Jockeys at racetracks across the country will today wear red armbands in a sign of respect for riders seriously injured in race falls

The action highlights jockey's support for the Australian Jockeys Association's plan for a one per cent increase in the racing industry prize pool to be put into safeguarding the country's jockeys.

"Racing is a dangerous industry. Over the next decade we can expect 12 to 15 jockeys to lose their lives in race falls, and many more will suffer horrific accidents resulting in permanent disability," CEO of the Australian Jockeys Association Paul Innes said. Professional riding will always hold an element of danger, but we are asking for support from the racing industry to help jockeys manage the risks inherent in their work

"Under our plan, one per cent of race money would be directed to the AJA. This money would be used to: cover jockeys' compulsory Public Liability premiums; fund a national Personal Accident Scheme for jockeys; support jockeys and their families in financial hardship due to death, illness and injury through the National Jockeys' Trust; and fund other welfare programs

"Some high profile jockeys earn a healthy living from the sport, but for the vast majority of Australian jockeys the reality of a riding career means an irregular income, regular injury, high and growing insurance costs, equipment and escalating travel expenses, pressure to remain fit and on weight and limited career prospects after an early retirement

"Jockeys ride because they love the sport. They don't expect to be highly paid, but they shouldn't be forced to risk financial ruin each time they jump in the saddle."

Source: Australian Jockeys Association

Free fuel more appealing than extra safety for new car buyers

10 September 2008

The price of fuel continues to be a worry for Australian motorists with a new survey finding new car buyers would rather have free fuel than extra safety features.

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Exclusive CEO Videos

Many members have asked for access to some of the video from Day One of Safety In Action Conference 2008. This day was devoted to prominent company directors and CEOs talking about safety at the board level.

For a limited time only, videos of four speakers will be made available exclusively at

www.siaconference.com.au

but only to those who opt-in for regular Safety In Action conference updates. This process begins by notifying us of your contact details by going to http://www.siaconference.com.au/content/contact/Contact_us and asking to be kept up to date.

The videos feature excerpts of the presentations of

Dr Ziggy Switkowski

Peter McMorrow

Glenn Henson

Colin Blair



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your acceptance, or otherwise, by completing the confirmation form also attached to this email. This may then be emailed, faxed or mailed to the Secretariat by the 26th September. Note the return instructions on the confirmation form.

Nominations for office bearers

As per the rules of the Chapter, elections are held every two years for office-bearers of the Chapter. A description of the positions within the Chapter Executive are attached together with a nomination form. Should you wish to nominate yourself or a another member of the Chapter please print off the form, complete the form and return to the Secretariat by the 26th September 2008. Follow the return instructions on the bottom of the form.

Membership of the Chapter

Membership of the Chapter is open to any financial members of the Institute who have an interest in OHS education as a researcher, an educator of OHS professionals and practitioners, as a vocational trainer involved in OHS education and training, or as an OHS workplace trainer. No additional fees are required for membership of the Chapter. You may register your membership by completing the relevant section of the information update accompanying your membership renewal or by downloading and completing the membership form for the Chapter on the web site. (Form attached for your convenience.)

Pam Pryor
Secretary, OHS Educators Chapter

More information is available at <http://www.sia.org.au/members/endorsement-ohse-chapter-2008>

South Australia Division Sustainability-OHS a Profession in Demand

Tuesday, 30th September

10:00am – 11:30am

Einstein's Café Seminar Room

This session will cover the broad

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Conducted by www.carshowroom.com.au the national survey found 56 per cent of respondents would rather have \$1,000 of free fuel than an extra \$1,000 worth of safety features when purchasing their next new car. An upgraded audio system ranked a distant third in the responses.

"We asked respondents to tell us what value-added benefits would be most attractive when considering their next new car purchase and across all states and genders the choice was clear and that was \$1,000 worth of free fuel," explained Kellie Cordner, General Manager of Car Showroom.

Ms Cordner added that the dominant result showed ongoing angst among motorists regarding the spike in fuel prices and also sent a clear message to automotive retailers about future marketing tactics.

*carshowroom.com.au poll, August 2008

Source: Carshowroom.com.au

ACT Government Focuses On Men's Health

September 8, 2008

Minister for Health Ms. Katy Gallagher MLA was pleased to launch the start of a significant health planning process to improve men's health in the ACT.

Ms Gallagher announced that the government will be developing an ACT Men's Health Plan and to kick off of the planning process, the government has held a round table of key ACT men's health consumer and service delivery agencies.

Ms Gallagher said the Government recognises the issue of men's health is an important one, and one that deserves focussed attention.

- Ms Gallagher identified a number of concerning statistics as being at the heart of the need for the plan.
- "These include the fact that although male life expectancy is improving, men still die on average nearly 5 years younger than women," Ms. Gallagher said.
- "Men also suffer disproportionately from a range of conditions - ranging from a number of cancers, through violence, to HIV, and despite this, use primary and preventive services less than women," she said.

"This is an opportunity for us as a community, to bring our collective wisdom together to redress what is clearly a long standing and difficult public health issue in this country."

"We know there are good examples of strategies that have worked, and we know, there are strategies that have been less than successful."

"This planning exercise is the chance to systematically work our way through these issues, and for us to think creatively and strategically as to what we - the Government and the community - may do differently in the future."

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Safety In Action - Call for Papers

On behalf of the Safety Institute of Australia (Vic Division) Inc and the Safety In Action Organising Committee, we would like to invite you to submit your application to present at the 12th annual Safety in Action Conference, to be held 31 March - 2 April 2009 at the Melbourne Convention Centre. This well-established conference attracts over 1,000 health and safety personnel from a wide range of industries.

[Download Call for Papers Application Information](#)

Deadline: Friday 26 September

Note: successful applicants are required to submit a full paper in December 2008

If you have any queries, contact the Conference Managers on email safetyconference@aec.net.au or tel 03 9654 7773.

Kind Regards

The Safety in Action Conference Team



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topic of Sustainability and what its effects are on today's OHS, Risk and QA professionals. Speakers will be Ben Wilson, Managing Director of WPM & Kerrie Akkerman is a QA consultant with WPM

This will be followed by the SIA National Membership Officer, Jim Toshach FSIA, who will outline our new code of ethics, competency, continuous professional development and a Register of Safety Professionals. More information and registration is available at <http://www.sia.org.au/calendar/event.asp?ContentID=sustainability-ohs-demand-sa-20080930>

Letters to the Editor

If you have any safety issues to discuss, or concerns about SafetyWeek itself, please consider communicating with the editor at kjones@sia.org.au

In Brief

Woolloongabba – explosion 15 September 2008

Firefighters and paramedics attended the scene of an explosion on Park Rd, Woolloongabba around 10pm. The explosion occurred in a shipping container, however did not cause much of a fire. Two people suffered severe burns and were taken to the Princess Alexandra Hospital in a serious condition.

Source: Q'ld Dept of Emergency Services

Logan – fall injures man 12 September 2008

Paramedics treated a man in his 50s for chest injuries after he fell approximately five metres at a Logan industrial premises about 6.30 last night. He was taken to Logan Hospital for further treatment.

Source: Q'ld Dept of Emergency Services

Fatality Near Prominent Hill 11 September 2008

SafeWork SA has been advised that a male employee died last night in a single vehicle rollover near the Prominent Hill mine in the state's north.

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The first stages in the development of this Men's Health Plan would be to develop a Men's Health Status report for the ACT which should be completed later this year and a network group will be established to guide the work of developing the plan.

Ms Gallagher also noted that the planning process was timely in that it would be an important input to the Government's recently announced \$1 billion health initiative to build a sustainable and modern health system for the ACT; a system that would ensure the safety, availability and ongoing viability of quality health care in the ACT.

This strategy seems to overlap with some of the targets in the WorkHealth program announced by the Victorian Premier earlier in 2008. SafetyWeek asked the Minister's spokesperson whether there were any plans to implement this program in a workplace context. The spokesperson said that there was no involvement by OHS authorities in this program at the moment but that the strategy is still under development and if there was a workplace role, participation would be welcome.

Source: Katy Gallagher, MLA

New Workcover Prosecution Results Summary 11 September 2008

The Crown in the Right of the State of Victoria, Department of Education (Kangaroo Flat Secondary College)

Summary: Student exposed to risk arising from the condition of plant and inadequate instruction and supervision - <http://www1.worksafe.vic.gov.au/vwa/vwa097-002.nsf/content/LSID158104>

The Crown in the Right of the State of Victoria, Department of Education (Kyneton Secondary College)

Summary: Student exposed to risk arising from the condition of plant and inadequate instruction and supervision - <http://www1.worksafe.vic.gov.au/vwa/vwa097-002.nsf/content/LSID158204>

Source: WorkSafe Victoria

Recent WorkSafe Victoria publications

OHS in schools - A practical guide for school leaders 5 September 2008

A 24 page handbook that details common safety issues for schools and provides simple and helpful suggestions on how to manage safety within a school setting.

<http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/WorkSafe/Home/Forms+and+Publications/Publications/OHS+in+schools+A+practical+guide+for+school+leaders>

Aggression in emergency departments 4 September 2008

This document provides a solution for reducing the risk of health service workers being threatened or attacked in emergency departments.

<http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/WorkSafe/Home/Forms+and+Publications/Health+and+Safety+Solution/Aggression+in+emergency+departments>

Source: WorkSafe Victoria

Report Confirms Nursing Staff At Risk 12 September 2008

The latest report by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research has confirmed hospital staff are being placed at significant risk of assault from patients suffering mental illness, Shadow Minister for Health Jillian Skinner and Shadow Minister for Mental Health Greg Aplin said today.

The report found the proportion of hospital assaults classified by police as mental health related had increased from 19.2% in 1996 to 31.7% in 2006.

"Frontline hospital workers are bearing the brunt of the State Labor Government's mental health failures," Mrs Skinner said.

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The incident was reported at about 8:15 yesterday evening. It occurred on a dirt road about 20 kilometres from the main mine site, as the worker, a 36 year old contractor from Adelaide, was returning from the Aries borefield.

South Australia Police is investigating and will liaise with SafeWork SA as more information becomes available.

Source: SafeWork SA

Injury At Yankalilla

11 September 2008

An 18 year old male apprentice has suffered serious burns after an incident at a residential construction site at Yankalilla, earlier today.

As a generator was being refuelled, the heat of the machine ignited the petrol.

SafeWork SA has issued Prohibition Notices on the generator and the refuelling process while its investigation continues. Source: SafeWork SA

Incident At Seacliff

11 September 2008

SafeWork SA is investigating an incident at a residential building site at Seacliff this afternoon, in which a 'Manitou' loader toppled from a ramp.

The driver escaped uninjured, however Prohibition Notices have been placed on the loader and the use of the ramp, while the investigation progresses.

SafeWork SA Executive Director, Michele Patterson is urging employers and employees not to let deadlines or any other considerations take priority over safety.

"All incidents of these types are preventable.

"However, that's only possible when sufficient time and attention is paid to first identifying and then managing these basic and obvious hazards."

Source: SafeWork SA

Incident At Brompton

8 September 2008

SafeWork SA is investigating an incident at suburban Brompton this morning, in which a male employee was injured during a loading operation.

The man was operating a truck-

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"With more mental health patients being admitted to hospital emergency departments, this figure will only increase," she said. "Recent incidents at the Prince of Wales Hospital showed that staff were prepared to stop work if extra security was not provided.

"Hard working doctors and nursing staff should not have to accept assaults on hospital premises as part of their job description," Mrs Skinner said.

Mr Aplin said there are ways to provide better security and appropriate procedures to protect these vital staff and they need to be in place now.

"The best protection for frontline hospital workers is to ensure there are enough dedicated psychiatric emergency facilities, with appropriate security and mental health workers to treat them appropriately," Mr Aplin said. Source: Jillian Skinner MP, Deputy NSW Opposition Leader

Centrelink staff and customers under threat

15 September 2008

Four out of five Centrelink employees say they have witnessed violent or aggressive behaviour at work, fuelling fears for community safety, a national survey conducted by the Community and Public Sector Union says.

Staff reported verbal abuse, death threats, assaults and physical violence. In one example, a Centrelink employee was held up against a wall by the throat and threatened with death.

The initial results of the national survey of 330 staff members released today support the union's call for an urgent and independent inquiry into the causes of violence at Centrelink offices. The CPSU survey found that:

- 32 per cent had received a death threat at work
- 29 per cent had been physically assaulted at work
- 18 per cent had been threatened by a customer away from the workplace
- 81 per cent had reported being threatened by a customer at work
- 52 per cent of Centrelink employees had recently witnessed violence or aggression at work.

Some members reported feeling that the customer aggression experienced at Centrelink offices meant it was "a numbers game" and "only a matter of time before something serious occurs".

CPSU Deputy President Lisa Newman said the findings demonstrated the need for action by the Centrelink management and the Federal Government to ensure all Centrelink offices are safe to visit and work in.

"One in three Australians will have contact with a Centrelink office this year – that could be you, your Nana, or your children," Ms Newman said. "Staff tell us that while local managers are doing their best to protect and support frontline workers and customers, senior management need to do more to make offices safe.

"The Federal Government needs to bring together Centrelink management, ComCare, the union and welfare groups to review the issue and tackle the causes of customer aggression, such as long queues and waiting periods."

Ms Newman said that the Government also needed to give more consideration to the impact its welfare policies have on frontline workers. "Centrelink workers have to carry out the Government's welfare policies. That also means they are forced to cop the anger and frustration their customers might express. "The Federal Government needs to think very carefully about the impact its welfare policies have on frontline workers," Ms Newman said.

Source: CPSU

This issue was discussed on the ABC Radio news program, AM, in which Centrelink responds to the survey results. It can accessed [HERE](#)

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mounted crane, and was apparently attempting to lift a container full of scaffolding components onto his vehicle.

During the operation, it appears a component of the chains holding the container failed and the man was struck in the chest and shoulder as the load fell away.

He was taken to hospital for treatment and will be interviewed by investigators.

Prohibition Notices have been issued concerning the crane and the chains used to suspend the load.

SafeWork SA's inquiries are continuing.

Source: SafeWork SA

Innot Hot Springs (west of Innisfail) – man crushed by bull

8 September 2008

An 80-year-old man suffered injuries to his knees and lower back when he was crushed against a gate by a bull around 11am. The incident is believed to have occurred on a cattle station on Silver Valley Rd, Innot Hot Springs, approx. 150km west of Innisfail. The man was transported to Ravenshoe State High School where an EMQ Rescue Helicopter waiting to transfer him to Cairns Base Hospital.

Source: Q'ld Dept of Emergency Services

Caloundra – man falls from scaffolding

8 September 2008

Paramedics responded to Bulcock Street around 1pm after a man fell from scaffolding at a caravan park. The patient, who is in his 50's, was taken to Nambour Hospital unconscious and in a serious condition. Source: Q'ld Dept of Emergency Services

SIA Fellow Questions

This week's contributor is Pam Pryor.

What sparked your interest in safety management?

I was teaching industrial first aid and began to think that it was the wrong way round and that prevention should be my focus.

Why did you join the Safety Institute of Australia?

A mentor at the time was a member and he encouraged me to be a member. Also a group of

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WorkCover Question in South Australian Parliament

In Parliament on 11 September, the South Australian Minister for Industrial Relations was asked a question about the possible economic impact on the Workcover Corporation of lost levies. The Hansard transcript is available [HERE](#).

Aircraft air quality panel appointed

11 September 2008

A panel of ten experts has been established to look at issues relating to the quality of cabin air in aircraft.

Members of the panel have expertise in aviation, occupational medicine, public health, toxicology, aviation engineering, epidemiology, aviation medicine, ethics and critical appraisal.

The Expert Panel on Cabin Air Quality will review existing international research and reports on cabin air quality, take submissions and deliver recommendations on future actions.

A key part of the panel's work will be critically looking at current scientific research on cabin air and producing a synopsis of Australian and international knowledge.

The newly created panel will have its first meeting later this month and will deliver a final report in the first quarter of 2010. The existing Cabin Air Quality Reference Group will then consider the recommendations.

The panel is headed by Dr Michael Bollen, a general practitioner with expertise in chemical sensitivities and experience in chairing expert committees.

The other nine members are:

- George Braitberg, an expert in clinical toxicology and Professor of Emergency Medicine at Monash University
- Kerry Breen, a gastroenterologist who specialises in medical ethics and medico-legal issues
- Graeme Cleary, the safety and technical director of the Australian and International Pilots Association
- Paul Cousins, a highly experienced licensed aircraft maintenance engineer and executive member of the International Federation of Airworthiness
- Rob Loblay, a senior lecturer in immunology at Sydney University and expert in multiple chemical sensitivity
- Pooshan Navathe, the senior medical officer in CASA with more than 30 years experience in aviation medicine
- Malcolm Sim, an occupational and public health physician and director of the Monash Centre for Environmental and Occupational Health
- Bhupi Singh, the head of research at the RAAF Institute of Aviation Medicine
- Chris Winder, the Professor of Applied Toxicology at the University of NSW and an expert in workplace exposure to chemicals, with experience in aircraft air quality.

Source: CASA

[The Editor notes that one member of the panel, Chris Winder, is a Fellow of the Safety Institute]

Benchmarking of OHS Regulation proceeds

Last year the Productivity Commission proposed a three-year program to analyse the benchmarking of regulations. OHS was proposed for Stage 2 of the project. In April 2007, COAG agreed to the timetable.

In the draft research report, released by the Productivity Commission on 12 September 2008, Performance Benchmarking of Australian Business Regulation: Quantity and Quality, the Commission discusses the validity of some of the available information. It says

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the executive came to a dinner at Ballarat while I was a student and the president spoke to the students.

What is the easiest action a person can do to make their own workplaces safer?

Speak up!

How important is a tertiary education in occupational safety?

Absolutely vital provided it has a science and conceptual basis. Too often safety activity is treated approached as a “recipe”, without thinking through the underlying conceptual links. However I do have concern that some OHS tertiary education is taking a superficial approach and this more likely when the lecturers are teaching what they did in their safety practice rather it being informed of the recent research and so able to lead evidence-based developing of knowledge and conceptual thinking.

Should the safety discipline differentiate between workplace safety and non-workplace safety?

The two are inextricably linked and many of the principles are the same but the application is different. This is becoming evident as we become more aware of the role of organisation culture in the way we should frame effective safety strategies.

What safety lesson did you learn at work that you applied at home?

The importance of design. We are all human, we are not eternally vigilant and occasionally take short cuts. Therefore if we address issues at the design stage, or choose the piece of equipment that addresses safety the consequences of a lapse should be less serious. The other is not to “make do” when you do not have the right tool or piece of equipment. Put off the job until you can get the right tool.

What do you think will be the most significant workplace hazard in 2018?

If not addressed earlier, fatigue and “burn out”. On a more technical level nanotechnology, which may well be the asbestos of the 2020s.

What is the biggest impediment in a workplace to the improvement of safety standards?

Focus on short term financial

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“a number of features of legislative processes that reduce comparability of stock and flow estimates in terms of the burden imposed on business. The presumption that the volume of regulation reflects the number of obligations on businesses, and that these relate to the level of regulatory burden, needs to be tested. Indeed, there is evidence to suggest that it is a relatively few ‘hotspots’ which drive the majority of the regulatory burden on business, such as taxation and occupational health and safety.” (Page 102)

OHS regulation is not singled out often but it is a legitimate element in the business regulation analysis and, for those researching such issues, the reports are of interest.

The latest draft research reports are available at <http://www.pc.gov.au/>

Kevin Jones

Research, workshops and case studies feature at The Safety Conference

15 September 2008

New research into the safety of everything from female truck drivers to the use of safety gear in the construction industry and even work-life balance will be released at The Safety Conference in Sydney from October 28 to 30.

The factual focus of the research will be complemented by interactive workshops and a series of case studies that demonstrate the real-life impact of workplace safety programs and tragedies. The most hotly debated topic in the occupational health and safety profession – the role of human error in workplace injuries and fatalities – also looms large on The Safety Conference’s agenda.

Hosted by the Safety Institute of Australia’s NSW Division, the conference will cover seven themes, including transport, safety systems and practices, change management, human factors, and injury management. New in 2008 is Safety Saving the Environment.

Among the 60 or more international and local speakers will be the heads of Comcare, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau and WorkCover NSW. The regulator is principal sponsor of The Safety Conference and representatives will discuss its plans for effective OHS regulation, long distance truck driver fatigue, problem solving, employer commitment, manual handling, injury management, staff fitness, and major hazard facilities.

A more personal perspective will come from Ambulance NSW’s Keith Williams, who was a key member of the Beaconsfield mine rescue team. Another Australian workplace incident will be investigated by delegates at The Safety Conference, who will examine what went wrong and decide on the causes with the help of experts and witnesses. The investigation will be filmed for the professional development of managers responsible for workplace safety.

A more controversial viewpoint on the cause of injuries will come from North American author, Larry Wilson.

“Participants in the conference will see what has really caused over 99 per cent of all the acute injuries but, and this is a big but, what if you discover it isn’t an easy pill to swallow?” Wilson said ahead of his October 30 address.

Apportioning responsibility will continue to feature in conference workshops for expert witnesses, while a preventative approach will be the flavour of OHS training sessions. Also up for challenge are the roles of stakeholders – unions, employers, regulators and OHS professionals – in workplace safety. The WorkCover NSW Hypothetical will engage representatives in a dynamic debate when moderator and broadcaster Adam Spencer delivers a series of challenges.

Conference chairman Barry Silburn said The Safety Conference program was designed to appeal to the spectrum of people involved in workplace safety, from senior managers through to OHS professionals and safety representatives.

“There’s a great mix of practical information, the latest academic research and personal

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outcomes.

What safety advice would you provide to a young person who is about to begin their first real job?

Speak up if unsure, don't feel that you have to do things that are unsafe just to keep your job.

Have you ever been injured at work? If so, how?

Slow onset back, shoulder and neck pain. Computers!

(If old enough) how different was safety management before the legislative changes in the late 1970's and early 1980's?

In the 1980s many companies had large OHS units, there was a mix of skills and professional support. While there is greater acceptance of management responsibility, there is much more paper and I do not see any quantum leap of changes

What was your first real job and how safe would you say it was?

School teaching. It was a different world then but I do shudder at some of the things we did in the science labs.

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insights on offer at The Safety Conference in 2008," he said.

Sponsored by WorkCover NSW and Getex, The Safety Conference will run from October 28 to 30 at the Sydney Showground, Sydney Olympic Park concurrently with The Safety Show Sydney. For more information, visit www.thesafetyshow.com

Source: Safety Institute of Australia

AWU commemorates Miners' Memorial Day 15 September 2008

The Queensland State Government is holding a Miners Memorial Day to commemorate the lives of more than 1450 miners who have been killed in mining tragedies since mining began in Queensland in the 1800s.

Bill Ludwig, Queensland Secretary and National President of the the Australian Workers' Union said the union was part of a steering committee working with the State Government on its inaugural Miners Memorial Day.

"Miners Memorial Day will fall on the anniversary of Queensland's worst mining disaster.

"On the 19th September in 1921, 75 miners lost their lives in a coal dust explosion at Mount Mulligan in far north Queensland.

"On this day, at the inaugural Miners Memorial Day Service in Brisbane we will remember the Mount Mulligan miners and all miners who have died in tragedies that touch on three centuries of mining in Queensland.

"There will be one minute's silence as part of the Memorial Service at 10.50am on the 19th September in Brisbane's Roma Street Parklands in memory of those miners who lost their lives.

"The AWU encourages mine sites around Queensland to get behind Miners Memorial Day and hold a minute's silence or some other fitting tribute to their fallen comrades.

"It's important to remember the sacrifices made by the men and women who worked in our mines. They've helped forge Queensland's strong economy and their sacrifices should never be forgotten."

Source: The Australian Workers' Union

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