

MONITOR

Official publication of the
Mining and Resource Contractors Safety Training Association

Jim Torlach Commemorative Fund

A REGISTERED TRUST FUND HAS NOW BEEN ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE BURSARIES FOR STUDENTS COMMENCING TERTIARY STUDIES IN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA, IN MEMORY OF JIM TORLACH, THE FORMER STATE MINING ENGINEER.

Notification of endorsement as a deductible gift recipient has been received from the Australian Taxation Office which means that contributions to the education fund are tax deductible for corporate or personal donors.

The inaugural awardee, Cassandra Prideaux, is progressing well in her Bachelor of Science - Occupational Health and Safety studies and applications will shortly be called from students enrolling in 2008.

Plans are currently underway for the erection of an Awards Board at Curtin University which will ensure Jim's work will continue to be recognised in the future.

Donations to the Commemorative Fund may be forwarded to MARCSTA.



The late Jim Torlach

Eastern goldfields induction initiative

CONTRACTORS IN THE EASTERN GOLDFIELDS HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT A NUMBER OF MINE SITES HAVE BEEN WORKING TOGETHER TO DEVELOP A COMMON INDUCTION SYSTEM FOR THIRD PARTY CONTRACTORS WHICH WILL BE RECOGNISED BY ALL PARTICIPATING SITES. THIS INITIATIVE HAS LED TO THE FORMATION OF THE EASTERN GOLDFIELDS COMMON INDUCTION PROJECT (EGCIP).

Meetings have been held to fully inform contractors about the project which has as its aim the reduction of the amount of time spent by contractors in site inductions while retaining the high level of safety required by participating sites.

This will be achieved by:

- recognising a current MARCSTA as the mandatory common entry level induction to all participating sites;
- reducing site specific inductions to no more than one hour and making them valid for one year;
- developing and maintaining a detailed database of contractor information that can be accessed by sites and contractors on a password protected website; and
- use of electronic swipe cards to verify contractor induction data and access to sites.

The project is being co-ordinated by Paul Clothier of RPS Safety and Risk who can be contacted on 9211 1143.

MARCSTA training packages...

As a Registered Training Organisation, MARCSTA delivers occupational safety and health units of competency for the following national training packages: (Applications for recognition of prior learning may be lodged for all training programs)

**Metalliferous Mining
Transport and Distribution
Business Services
Resources and Infrastructure Skills
Safety Awareness Training (Construction)**

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MARCSTA is a not-for-profit Association. All proceeds are reinvested into the industry for future development of safety and training.

Report on chemical explosion highlights inadequate safety controls

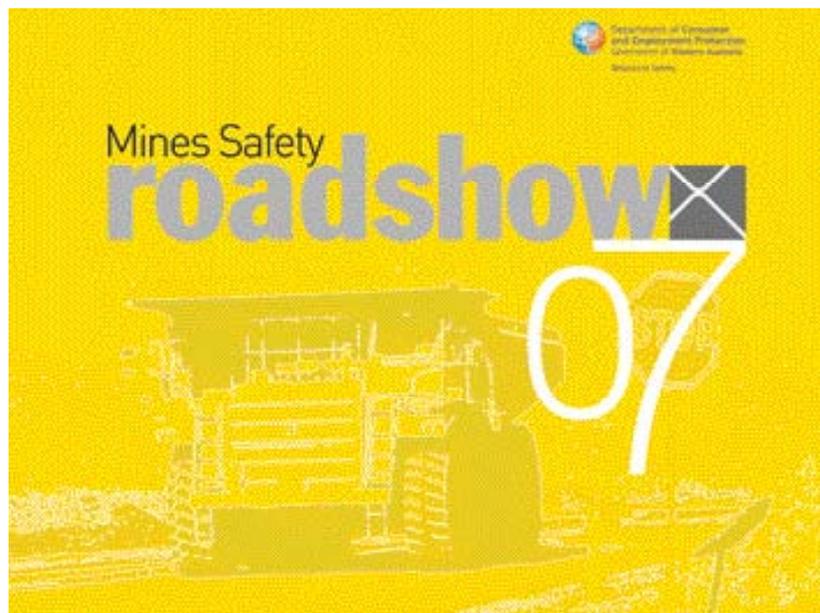
A final report on a fatal explosion at a chemical manufacturing facility in North Carolina, USA, in 2006, has highlighted the relative strength of Australia's occupational safety and health legislation vis-a-vis the USA and substantiates the emphasis of that legislation on duty of care responsibilities, hazardous materials management and emergency response preparedness.

The explosion occurred as a result of a runaway chemical reaction when an oversized batch of acrylic polymer raised the maximum heat output from the reactor by a factor of at least 2-3. The heat output exceeded the cooling capacity of the condenser and the reactor accelerated out of control.

One worker was fatally burned, 14 others were injured, two seriously, and the blast destroyed the facility and broke windows up to 500 metres away. The facility has not been rebuilt.

The US Chemical Safety Board identified the following failures:

- the actual capacity of the cooling equipment had never been documented;
- the cooling water side of the condenser on the reactor had not been cleaned or inspected for 30 years;
- the reactor hatch was improperly secured;
- management and personnel were poorly prepared to recognise the dangers - they lacked expertise on producing polymers;
- a process hazard analysis had not been conducted;
- evacuation drills had not been conducted and there was no emergency alarm system.



Anyone with an interest in mines safety is encouraged to attend the third Mines Safety Roadshow presented by Resources Safety. The program should appeal to safety and health representatives, staff responsible for managing occupational health and safety on site, supervisors, managers and employers from mining and exploration companies and service providers, as well as occupational health and safety professionals.

dates	topics
BUNBURY Thursday, 8 October	SAFETY CULTURE
KALGOORLIE Thursday, 11 October	OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
PORT HEDLAND Wednesday, 27 October	ROAD SAFETY ON MINE SITES
TOM PRICE Thursday, 28 October	PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES
PERTH Tuesday, 23 October	DANGEROUS GOODS SAFETY
	MACHINERY SAFETY

Registration brochures are also available online from www.docep.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety or phone 9338 8134

Budget cuts for OHS a major concern

Since 2002, the UK Health and Safety Executive has lost over 1000 posts as a result of government spending cuts. The organisation now employs fewer than 3,250 staff and further cuts of 15% have already been imposed for the three years 2008-2011.

New figures show an 11% rise in the number of workplace fatalities over the past year in the UK, which the European Trade Union Institute claims confirms the HSE is under-resourced.

It would be interesting to examine the levels of funding for OHS in the various states of Australia to establish the trends by comparison. At a time of 'boom' economic conditions and increasing working hours it could be expected that expenditure on occupational safety and health - in real terms - would be of primary concern with increased resources for regulatory authorities.

The concern about the health and safety of the 105,000 skilled workers under the 457 visa scheme is just one example of occupational safety and health not being accorded an appropriate priority.

Here in WA, WorkSafe WA reports a doubling of fatalities in the workplace in the year to June 2007 with the Minister for Employment Protection reportedly at a loss to explain the increase. Near full employment and the economic boom are believed to have played a part.

Neither of these factors can justify what is clearly a deterioration in workplace occupational safety and health standards. It is time for a fundamental re-appraisal of where occupational safety and health sits in our economic priorities.

Editorial

There is some emerging concern around the traps in regard to the occupational health and safety of guest workers (457 visa holders) in this country. On an admittedly small sample, fatality rates appear to be over double those of other workers. So far it has proved hard to come by serious injury statistics for the same group. One eastern state for example says it doesn't separately categorise them.

Guest workers have had OHS problems in Singapore, the Gulf, Japan and Malaysia for example, and this is not helped by the fact that in some countries (not here) the OHS law treats them differently from citizens.

There are clearly issues for training, particularly induction training and assessment, not least in regard to language difficulties and perceptions of risk.

Three hundred years ago Daniel Bernoulli explained the idea of utility. Different people assign different values to the same goods (used in the economic sense). So safety as a good will have different values for different people. As a result a guest worker earning six or seven times what he or she would earn at home may well be prepared to accept a lower degree of safety, if allowed to. Even if their rights under OHS law have been explained to them, they may be reluctant to exercise them, particularly if they come from countries where people tend to have as little to do with government as possible.

The editor can be contacted at Work Safety and Health Associates.
Tel: 08 9457 6487 or at wsha@iinet.net.au

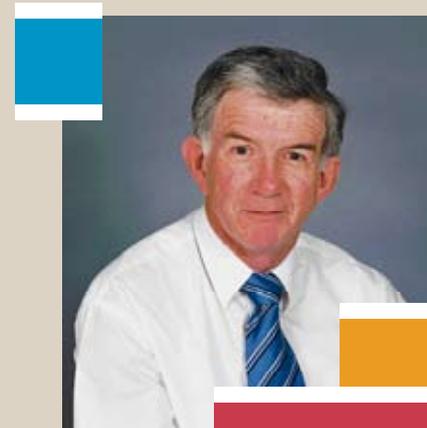
However the acceptable level of utility in WA is set by the OSH and MSI Acts, and that is that work shall be carried out to the highest standard of safety which is reasonably practicable.

There are already parts of the state where allegedly it is very easy to gain a certificate of competency for some item of equipment or for industry entry, and government monitoring of training and training assessment quality is said to be scant.

Add in the guest worker issue and this could lead to some very undesirable consequences.

Where there are serious injuries, have companies insuring for workers compensation factored in the cost of repatriation and then rehabilitation (assuming the services are even available) in the worker's home country under Section 69?

Companies and governments need to assess whether there is a problem, starting with collection of statistics, and then developing appropriate solutions, to ensure a safe system of work, both for the guest workers and their fellow workers. In this endeavour, tailored (the training gurus would say appropriately contextualised) training is a key issue.



Monitor Editor,
Geoff Taylor

OSH for supervisors and managers

The occupational safety and health training program for supervisors and managers developed by MARCSTA has now been trialled and some useful suggestions put forward which will be incorporated in the final version.

The program addresses key occupational safety and risk management units in the Business Services Training Package. Completion of the program will provide opportunities for recognition of prior learning transfers to similar units in a number of other national training packages.

The program provides flexibility to enable organisations to apply the content to their specific circumstances.



**Mining and Resource
Contractors Safety
Training Association**

“Regulate not ridicule” call for safety profession

Europe’s largest body for health and safety professionals, the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH), has called for the health and safety profession to be officially regulated.

Speaking at the National Safety Symposium in Nottingham, UK, the President-Elect, Ray Hurst, said that regulating the health and safety profession was important for raising standards and obtaining more positive media coverage.

He commented: “Currently, anyone can set up as a health and safety consultant or adviser with no qualifications or verifiable competence. This is something that needs to change. The advice health and safety professionals give can be the difference between life or death.

Legally regulating health and safety and requiring practitioner-level professional membership will allow us to prevent unqualified people from practicing, providing assurance to the general public and also protecting the good standing of the profession”

(The Editor would welcome reader input on this proposal)



Availability of national workers’ compensation statistics on line to the public

The Australian Safety and Compensation Council has made available standardised data on Australia’s occupational health and safety performance from 1997-98 to 2004-05 online to the public.

Data available in the system includes the number of workers’ compensation claims, incidence and frequency rates, average time lost from work and total compensation payments.

The statistics will assist employers, employees, industry and researchers in identifying high risk industries and hazards in the workplace and developing injury prevention plans and promoting workplace safety.

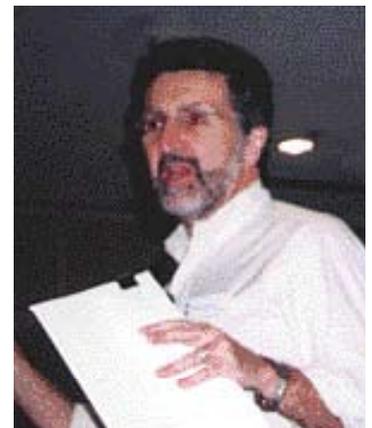
See online at <http://nosi.ascc.gov.au>.

University of Queensland gains Chair of Safety Risk Management

Anglo American are to provide US\$1m to establish a Risk Management Chair at Queensland’s Sustainable Minerals Institute.

Anglo American’s four year partnership with the Institute will ensure the company has access to one of the world’s leading thinkers on safety risk management, Professor Jim Joy.

MARCSTA extends its congratulations to Professor Joy who is to take up the newly created role immediately.



Right: Professor Jim Joy

MARCSTA members

ORDINARY MEMBERS

Ausdrill Ltd
Barmenco Limited
BGC Contracting Pty Ltd
Cooks Construction Pty Ltd
GR Engineering Services
GRD Minproc

Kellogg Brown & Root Pty Ltd
Komatsu Australia Pty Ltd
Rinker Australia Pty Ltd
Roche Mining Process Engineering
Skilled Group Ltd
Terex Materials Processing and Mining Australia

Thiess Pty Ltd
Total Corrosion Control
Westrac Equipment Pty Ltd

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

AVELING
Jako Industries Pty Ltd
Mandurah Safety and Training Services Pty Ltd
Mine SafeGear
Safety First Risk Management
Strudwick HR

Particle emissions from office printers **BARRY CHESSON, PhD, CIH**

In the modern world, printers are widely used in the office environment. However, there have been few studies to characterise the ultra-fine or nano-sized particles that are emitted during printer operation and to establish what this might mean for human health.

A recent study carried out by the Queensland University of Technology, in conjunction with the Queensland Department of Public Works, provides some important new information on the particle emission characteristics of office printers.

The study noted that the many types of printers used in offices and homes around the world are a potential source of indoor pollutants, producing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and ozone, as well as a variety of particle emissions.

Measurements for the study were taken in a multi-floor, air-conditioned office building within the CBD of Brisbane. Indoor and outdoor ultra-fine particle number concentrations were collected, along with particle concentrations in the vicinity of printers in the building and concentrations and emission rates from three different printers using an experimental chamber.

The results from the study provide the first database on sub-micron particle number emission rates of office printers. Apart from improving knowledge on particle emissions, the results have potential to assist other indoor

air exposure assessments and efforts to improve indoor air quality, as well as to provide input for future indoor air modelling studies.

Variables such as printer model, printer age, cartridge model and cartridge age are thought to affect particle emission characteristics. However, all of these aspects require further study.

The major limitation of the study is that it makes no comment on what health impacts may be associated with the ultra-fine particle concentrations and emission rates that have been measured. Admittedly, this is an area clouded with unknowns.

In recent years, nanotechnology has made its mark and is said by some to usher in a new age of products and services. One aspect that causes concern is the potential health impacts of nano-sized particles, with their ability to by-pass the body's natural defence mechanisms. It is recognised that the traditional way of assessing the potential impact of particles on human health, namely by measuring mass concentrations of dust in air, is no longer suitable. It is far more appropriate to focus on particle size and particle number concentrations. The Queensland team have used appropriate techniques to examine these factors and their methods may be useful templates for others who seek to improve our understanding of the world of the sub-micron particle.



Reference: He, C., Morawska, L., & Taplin, L (2007). Particle emission characteristics of office printers. Journal of Environmental Science and Technology, 41(17), 6039-6045.

Manual handling injuries

WorkCover NSW reports that 17,000 workers suffer injuries or illnesses directly related to poor manual handling annually at a cost of M\$335 or one third of the total cost of all workplace injury costs.

NSW legislation requires a consultative process between management and employees with training provided to all workers involved in manual handling and also to OHS representatives, supervisors and managers.

Source: Healthworks

High rate of type 1 diabetes in Australian children

A NEW REPORT BY THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND WELFARE SHOWS THAT THE RATE OF NEW CASES OF TYPE 1 DIABETES INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY FROM 19 TO 23 PER 100,000 CHILDREN BETWEEN 2000 AND 2005.

Diabetes is one of the leading threats to the health of Australians and is a large health, social and economic burden for individuals with the disease, their families and the community.

Employers in all sectors of the community should be aware of the consequences for the workforce of the future and be taking positive action to implement wellness programs for all employees.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Media Release

Resources and Infrastructure Industry Skills Council has name change

The RIISC, the national industry skills council for drilling, mining, quarrying and civil infrastructure industries, has had a change of identity to SkillsDMC.

The new name is consistent with the organisation's objective to help the industry in more ways, with a strong national research and implementation focus. Already, they have launched new products, including the Future Workforce Manager and the Skills Maximiser. Visit their new website www.skillsdmc.com.au.

Prosecution for ignoring a Provisional Improvement Notice issued by an OHS representative

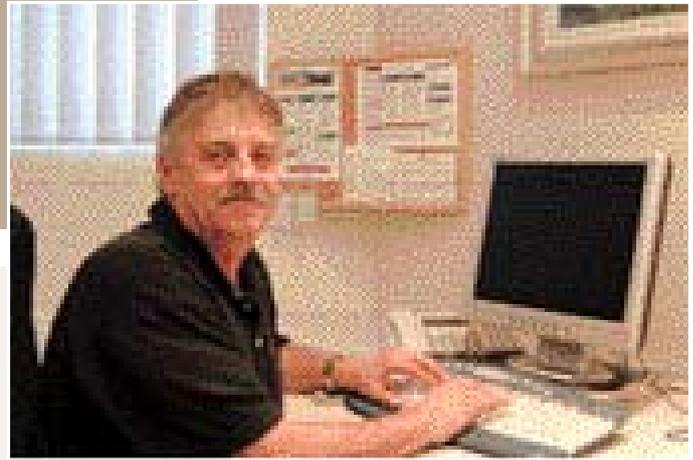
The Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has been successfully prosecuted for ignoring a PIN issued by an OHS representative.

The Secretary of the Victorian Trades Hall Council has termed it an historic case which employers and OHS representatives should take note of.

The original issue was the lack of seating in the staff room of a school, where only 13 chairs were supplied for a staff of 25.

Source: VTHC OHS Unit, August 2007

Training provider profile John White



John White joined AVELING in March 2007 and has been presenting Safety Inductions, which include Health Safety and Environment (HSE), Coastal Operations and Driver Awareness. He recently attained his MARCSTA accreditation and will be presenting this course at AVELING's training premises in Victoria Park and Bassendean.

John has an extensive list of qualifications which include Certificate IV in Leadership and Management (Minerals and Energy), Certificate IV Workplace Training and Assessment (BSZ40198); Workplace Auditor; Certificate II in Information Management; Certificate II and III in Chemical, Hydrocarbons and Oil Refining (PMA02) and Senior First Aid Certificate.

Prior to working for AVELING, John was a Training Facilitator at Worsley Alumina. Before this he

accumulated over 27 years experience in the Alumina Industry, 11 of these years as a Production Supervisor prior to moving into Human Resources - training and development in 2000.

John has always enjoyed the interaction of training groups and feels his enthusiasm and good communication skills enhance his training delivery.

John has a sound knowledge of the S.A.P. computer management operating system which was used at Worsley and BHP Billiton.

**Online OSH courses.
Complete them wherever you are.**

Occupational & Environmental Safety & Health, Occupational Hygiene & Toxicology, Emergency Management. For more information please e-mail publichealth@ecu.edu.au or call 134 328.

OSH Online @ 

EDITH CURRIE UNIVERSITY



Vale - Arlene Roe

The MARCSTA Management Committee records its deep regret at the passing of Arlene Roe who, over the past five years, served the Association as a member of the Provider Assessment Panel and of the Management Committee.

She was a committed and sincere professional and will be greatly missed.

Electric shocks continue to be a major concern

The NSW Department of Primary Industries has issued a Safety Bulletin expressing concern at the increasing incidence of electric shocks at voltages above 50 volts AC at underground coal mines during the past three years.

Commenting on the unacceptability of workers receiving electric shocks while going about their normal duties, the Department noted that when a person receives an electric shock it is an indication of a systemic failure in the management of electrical engineering safety.

In a further Safety Bulletin, the Department requested all mines to review their use of 240 volt AC hand-held power tools at all sites following a number of electric shock incidents. A number of recommendations were made for consideration by management with a request that all relevant people be fully informed on the content of the Safety Bulletin.

Source: NSW DPI, Mine Safety Report SB07-08, July 2007

Death when carrying out maintenance in a car yard

Following the death of a 26 year old worker after receiving an electric shock while removing broken glass from a 'live' light fitting, his employer was convicted and fined \$300,000.

The worker had not been provided with protective gloves and was using an uninsulated screwdriver. There was no written job safety analysis or work permit system before electrical work was done and employees had inadequate information, instruction and training in relation to the safe operation of the elevating work platform (EWP).

Source: WorkSafe Victoria

Conferences and courses

World Gold 2007. Cairns. 22-24 October, 2007. Fax: 03 9662 3662. Email: conference@ausimm.com.au

4th International Seminar on Deep and High Stress Mining. Perth, 7-9 November 2007. Fax: 08 6488 1130
Web: www.deepmining07.com

China Mining. Beijing. November 13-15, 2007. Email: info@china-mining.org

34th International Conference on Explosives and Blasting Technique. New Orleans, 27-30 January 2008. Fax: 0011 1 440 349 3788 Web: www.isec.org

MINExpo 2008. Las Vegas, 22-24 September. Fax: 0011 1 630 434 1216 Email: minexpo@heexpo.com

12th US/North American Mine Ventilation Symposium, Reno, 9-11 June, 2008. Email: mouset@unr.edu

24th International Mine Processing Congress, Beijing 24-28 September 2008. Email: impc2008@impc2008.org

New publications

Powers, J.P. et al . (2007). *Construction Dewatering and Groundwater Control*. 3rd ed. New York, John Wiley and Sons.

DOCEP Resources Safety: Mine Safety Bulletin No 79. *Cyclone - Emergency Preparation, Planning and Preparedness*.

WorkSafe WA. Code of Practice: *Occupational Safety and Health in the Western Australian Public Sector*.

WorkSafe WA. Draft Code of Practice: *Safe Design of Buildings and Structures*.

DEIR (Queensland): *Guidelines for Business Use of Non-potable Water*.

Australian Safety and Compensation Council (2007): *National Standard for Manual tasks and National Code of Practice for the Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders from Performing Manual Tasks at Work*.



Issue 3/2007

Notes for the Shift Worker

Rotating shift workers have lower levels of serotonin

According to a study published in the August issue of the journal *Sleep*, people who work rotating shifts have significantly lower levels of serotonin, a hormone and neurotransmitter in the central nervous system which is believed to play an important role in the regulation of sleep.

In addition to causing sleep problems, low levels of serotonin are also associated with other conditions such as anger, depression and anxiety.

Researchers hope the finding will lead to new and better treatments to help fight shiftwork-linked fatigue.

Source: *Physorg*, August 2007

Reducing interns hours doesn't reduce death rates in hospital

Two recent studies into work-hour rules implemented in 2003 in the USA which limits doctors-in-training to 80 hour weeks have found little change in mortality rates for surgical patients.

It should be noted that before the rules, medical residents often worked 100 hour weeks, with some shifts lasting 36 hours straight.

One can only speculate whether a reduction to a more reasonable limit of 50 per week would have more positive results.

Source: *Washington Post*, September 2007

Is extra sleep a strong pain reliever?

A visiting American sleep specialist has told a conference in Cairns that extra sleep can have the same effect on pain as a dose of codeine.

Dr Tim Roehrs who directs the Sleep Disorders Research Center at Henry Ford Hospital in Michigan commented that, while he isn't exactly sure how sleep manages to act as a pain killer, he thinks it has something to do with the fact that a tired body produces chemicals called pro-inflammatory cytokines which sensitise the body to pain.

Researchers had a group of normal but sleepy people hold their fingers over a hot light bulb and told them to pull away when it started to hurt. They found that after six nights of 10 hours sleep, the volunteers were able to hold their finger there 40% longer.

The findings are considered to have major implications for the treatment of acute and chronic pain.

Source: *ABC Online*, September 2007

More work equals less sleep

A study in the journal *SLEEP* has confirmed what workers have long suspected: the more hours a person works, the less sleep that he or she gets.

According to the study results most waking activities were inversely related to sleep time. Respondents who slept four and a half hours or less, worked an average of 93 minutes more on weekdays and 118 minutes more on weekends than the average sleeper. Those who slept 11 and a half hours or more worked an average of 143 minutes less on week days and 71 minutes less on weekends than the average sleeper.

The results suggest that compensated work time is the most potent determinant of sleep time, in which case, work time should be considered an important factor when evaluating the relationship between sleep time and morbidity and mortality, said the author, Mathias Basner, University of Pennsylvania.

Source: *OHS online*, September 2007

Night shift work not linked to cancer

A new study of Swedish workers has found no link between working the night shift and the risk of developing any kind of cancer.

The researchers analysed nearly 20 years of data on 3.2 million people which compared day workers to people who said they had jobs that required night shift work.

The findings appear in the *Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment and Health*.

Source: *OHS Online*, August 2007



Extended Working Hours and Your Health and Safety



This MARCSTA program is designed for workers and employers everywhere as a basic introduction to managing extended working hours.

Much of the content of the program calls for input and discussion involving candidates.

The content of the course has been grouped under six main elements:

1. Our Biological Clocks.
2. Sleep.
3. Sleep Deprivation.
4. Staying Safe and Alert.
5. Maintaining Good Health.
6. Family and Social Consequences.

The one-day program has been developed to enable both employers and employees to meet:

- the duty of care obligations contained in the occupational safety and health legislation prevailing in respective workplaces; and
- the Working Hours Code of Practice.

This program also meets the elements of competency and performance criteria of the Transport and Distribution Package unit TDTF1097B "Apply Fatigue Management Strategies".

This unit involves the skills and knowledge required to apply fatigue management strategies, including identifying and acting upon signs of fatigue and implementing appropriate strategies to minimise fatigue during work activities.

Successful candidates who are able to demonstrate application of the learning and skills acquired from attendance at this training program can make application to MARCSTA for a Statement of Attainment.

www.marcsta.com/content/coursesExtendedWorkingHours.asp

MARCSTA Monitor September 2016



Member Profile - Mine Safegear

The oil, gas and mining industries are fickle ones at the best of times, and as safety equipment and safe work practices play a huge role in these industries, it only makes sense that a one-stop shop which provides accredited training, personal protective equipment, specialised safety and rescue systems, industrial instrumentation and expert advice, exists to meet those industries' ever evolving requirements.

For over a decade, *HeighTech Safety Systems* has tackled the bull by the horns, becoming a major supplier of nationally accredited training and safety products to key industry leaders such as BHP, Rio Tinto, Woodside, Apache, DOCEP (Worksafe inspectors) and BP. This has been achieved through highly experienced staff who have a strong focus on clients and their specific requirements.

Earlier this year, to accommodate the demand and growth of industry's many sectors, *HeighTech* spawned

the *Safegear* family of companies, which consists of *Work Safegear*, *Mine Safegear* and *Rig Safegear*. Each one supplies specialist products, training and advice to its respective sector.

Mine Safegear now provides safety training to industry personnel in order for them to perform their job in a safe manner. Some of the courses available include height safety, confined space entry, monitoring hazardous atmospheres, breathing apparatus and blue card. These courses can be attended at *Mine Safegear's* specially designed training facilities or can be delivered on site.

Mine Safegear's rapidly increasing presence in mining workplaces is no accident. *Mine Safegear* provides the best products available from all the leading brands such as Bacou Dalloz, Sala, Miller Moxham, Spanset, Hi-Safe, Gastech, Brady, Petzl, Edelrid, BioSystems, MSA, Drager, Protector, Beaver, Unisafe, Enware, Ozone, Sabre, Scaffoldtag,



SRT, Pelican, Vertical, Anthron, Safemaster, Fallright, Maglites, Scott, UCL, Camp Italy, Uveto, Pro Choice, BW Technologies, Industrial Scientific, Pratt and many more.

Mine Safegear's central safety store is based in O'Connor, with thousands of products in stock ranging from gas detectors, SCBA, and rescue equipment through to general safety gear.

New Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

The GHS is a single internationally agreed system of classification and labelling of chemicals, which was developed under the auspices of the United Nations. The GHS includes harmonised criteria for the classification of physical hazards (such as flammability), health hazards (such as carcinogenicity) and environmental hazards. These internationally-developed criteria are used to

evaluate the hazards of both substances and mixtures. The GHS is intended to cover all hazardous chemical substances, dilute solutions and mixtures, address how labels and safety data sheets should be used to convey information about their hazards, and how to protect people from these effects.

Source: ASCC



MARCSTA licensed training providers

Mark Adam
Jayson Aveling
Graham Bailey
Ron Baker
Tom Bateman
Carl Berglin
Danny Bognar
Clive Brindley
Scott Clarke
Brian Cloney
Dale Cocker (U) (S)

Jim Dandie
Geoff Day
Peter Dowding
Joe Duyvestyn
Linda Elezovich
Ross Graham
Ray Hargreaves
Sheryl Henley (C)
Jeffrey Hickin
Peter Jones
Ralph Keegan (S)

Rob Lewis
Joe Maglizza
Les McIntyre
Neil McMeekin
Guy Mead
Katherine Montague
Rodney Pool
John Preston
Merryn Richards
Jason Roberts
Victor Roberts

Shane Salt
Grant Shearwin
Brian Smith
Marcus Taylor
James Titmus
Peter Tynan
Ron Van Baaren (C)
Anne-Marie Widermanski
Graham Williams
Paul Willoughby

All training providers listed above provide general inductions. C denotes the Construction Safety Awareness program U denotes the underground program. S denotes the extended working hours program.



news and views

INFORMATION ON GENERAL NEWS AND VIEWS
WITHIN THE MINING INDUSTRY,
BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL.

AJM for May-June 2007 mentions Front Line Coaching's coaching of **front line mining managers**. (The name gives it away – what else would they do?). There is also an article on Enerpac's **manual torque multipliers** which have antibacklash built in, Omega **tyre handlers** for tyres up to 3.9m diameter, and Deep Scenes **video inspection equipment** for those hard to see places or locations where an operator's head would be in danger.

AJM for July-August 2007 mentions Pronal seamless **inflatable lifting cushions** for lifts where space is limited.

Engineering and Mining Journal for June 2007 notes Ground Probe's **slope stability radar** is now used at more than 45 surface mines, and there is also a four page feature on **slope stability**. It mentions Simlog's PC-based **offhighway-truck simulator**, which can use PC input controls or replica controls, and Atlas Copco's Rocket Boomer E-series face-drilling rigs with **tunnel management software**.

In *Mining Engineering* for June 2007 a former director of the US Bureau of Mines questions Congress' dismantling of it in 1996. The procedures it developed saved thousands of **coal mining lives** and it has now been resurrected under a new name, Office of Mine Safety and Health. Also MSHA has found that **lightning created current** in a disused underground cable triggering the 2006 Sago mine explosion.

Mining Magazine for April 2007 notes Dewag **chains for tyre protection**, including sidewalls. (Three pages are also devoted to tyre chain lifetime in *AJM* for May-June 2007). There is also mention of Belaz 220 tonne **haul trucks from Belarus** being used at the Enmore mine in Queensland. There are five pages on the advantages of **surface miners** (eg. no drill and blast, crusher or conveyor), a seven page summary of a report on **electric vs hydraulic shovels**, and three pages on **wheel loaders**, a two page review of **high pressure acid leach** for nickel recovery, and a seven page review on **drilling consumables**.

The *International Railway Journal* for June 2007 has an item of interest to mining companies with railways. For the second time candidates tested for proficiency in the European Train Control System to be used on the new Rotterdam-Germany line had a **100% failure rate**.

Queensland Government Mining Journal for June 2007 notes that JAS-ANZ is investigating an **accreditation program for greenhouse gas emissions trading** based on ISO 14064 and 14065. (A website to note: greenhouse.crc.org.au). It also notes that the University of Queensland has reviewed the **generic induction program** of the Mining Industry Skills Centre, and the program has been revitalised. The Queensland inspectorate has also begun **unannounced audits**. M. Hersey writes on **flyrock safety** during blasting, and the federal government has funded commercialisation of an **underground coal mine rescue vehicle**.

On a lighter note (or maybe it isn't) *Mining Journal* for 27th July note the **perils of a site visit** to Africa, where alcohol, prescription medication and chronic sleepwalking reportedly saw the deputy audit committee chairman of a mining company appear naked three times in the small hours at the room of the company secretary.



Who's who?

Director Safety and Health

Patrick Gilroy AM

Chairman

Joe Maglizza, Rinker Australia PL

Deputy Chairman

Ross Graham, Terex Materials Processing and Mining

Committee of Management

Warren Claydon

Allaine Coleman

Terry Condipodero

Peter Nicholls

Kim Stewart

MARCSTA Monitor Editor

Geoff Taylor

Around the world

CHINA

On August 19 in east China's Shandong Province a molten aluminium spill killed 16 people and injured 59 others.

According to the State Administration of Work Safety the molten aluminium container had serious design defects and the employer had failed to establish the product lines in accordance with the original design and also to evacuate workers on the scene in time..

Source: *People's Daily Online, August 2007*

In an effort to ban the fabrication and spread of false information on accidents and disasters, the Chinese Government are considering legislation to prohibit units and individuals spreading false information regarding emergencies and government efforts to cope with emergencies.

Behaviour that contravenes public security management rules or criminal statements will lead to prosecution.

Emergencies are defined in the draft as industrial accidents, natural disasters and health and public security crises.

Source: *People's Daily Online, August 2007*

Lessons on safety must be learned

The Chief of the State Administration of Work Safety reports that the work safety situation in China is grim despite a decline in the death toll over the first eight months of 2007.

Statistics show that 61,919 people were killed in various work accidents nationwide between January and August. This was 13.9% lower than over the same period last year!

In response to the high fatality incidence the State Council Work Safety Committee has sent out teams to carry out safety check-ups across the country.

Source: *People's Daily Online, September 2007*

SOUTH AFRICA

AIDS in the South African mining industry is hampering operations at a time of booming demand for minerals despite prevention efforts.

Anglo American realised it had a problem 21 years ago when four of its 18,450 South African workers tested positive to the virus. Over two decades later, with up to one in three workers infected, the company concedes its own prevention efforts have failed.

Goldfields has estimated the total cost from HIV at around US\$5 per ounce of gold produced.

The HIV infection rate among South African miners is now nearly double that of the general working population.

Source: *Reuters*

Safety inspector receives death threat

After an inspector was threatened with death by an employer who had been issued a notice to stop dangerous work, South Africa's Labour Minister has reminded employers in the construction industry that if they refused to allow inspectors on site they would face "the full might of the law".

Source: *Safety Soapbox, September 2007*

USA

Key findings of the 2006 Census of Fatalities in the USA have revealed that the overall fatal work injury rate was lower than the rate for any year since the fatality census was first conducted in 1992. Unfortunately, coal mining industry fatalities more than doubled in 2006.

Importantly, fatalities among workers under 25 years of age fell nine percent and the fatal injury rate was down significantly.

Source: *Strategic Risk UK, August 2007*

Methane gas kills five on a US dairy farm

A dairy farmer transferring manure from a small pit to a larger one climbed into the pit to clear a blockage. He was overcome by methane gas in the enclosed pit which was poorly ventilated. His wife, two children and a farm worker died attempting to rescue him.

Open trenches should be treated as confined spaces as they can accumulate gases.

Source: *The West Australian, 4 July 2007*

UK

A study in the UK of almost one thousand 32 year olds has found 45% of new cases of depression and anxiety were attributed to stressful work.

They defined a highly demanding job as involving a lack of control, long hours, non-negotiable deadlines and a high volume of work. The authors say their study is the first of its kind to establish a firm link between working conditions and poor mental health among people who had no previous history of the disorders before their career began.

Note: The HSE has launched new stress management guidelines.

Source: *The Telegraph, UK, August 2007*

UK workplace fatality rates rising

The latest UK work-related fatal injury statistics were released on 1 August and showed a rise in workplace fatalities.

Although a long-term downward trend is clear, the rate of decrease has slowed over the last 15 years with little change in the overall rate over the last five years.

Construction has the highest incidence of fatal injuries accounting for 31% of all fatal injuries to workers.

Source: *Occupational Hazards, August 2007*