

MONITOR

Official publication of the
Mining and Resource Contractors Safety Training Association

MARCSTA reaches major milestone

THE ISSUING OF THE 200,000TH GENERAL SAFETY INDUCTION TO BILL GOSLING, AN EMPLOYEE OF GR ENGINEERING, ON 19 NOVEMBER WAS A SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT IN MARCSTA'S TRAINING HISTORY.

The certificate was presented by the State Mining Engineer, Martin Knee, at the Annual General Meeting on 5 December.

Since its humble beginnings in 1996 MARCSTA has worked consistently and diligently to maintain quality, currency and relevance of its training. This has required adherence to its criteria for licenced providers, annual review of the coverage of its programs and retaining its low cost for both employers and employees.

The 50,000th induction target was reached in early 2000, the 100,000th in late 2002 and the 150,000th in December 2005.

The mining industry in Western Australia has established the benchmark for global occupational health and safety performance with training and empowerment of its workforce a key factor, particularly with regard to the election and training of safety and health representatives.

MARCSTA believes that it has played a part in creating an increased awareness of safety and health in the mining workforce and that it has justified its establishment and continuation.

Management Committee members contribute their time and personal skills without remuneration and three long-serving members remain active today.

The Association would like to acknowledge their dedicated contribution to occupational health and safety training over the past 12 years.

Pics (Top to bottom): Long-serving Management Committee members: Terry Condipodero, Joe Maglizza, Ross Graham



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www.boblitchfield.com.au

Merry
Christmas

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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.

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 Logistics
Business Services
Resources and Infrastructure Skills
Safety Awareness Training (Construction)

Model occupational safety and health laws in Australia

THE FIRST REPORT OF THE NATIONAL REVIEW INTO MODEL OHS LAWS IN AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN RELEASED.

The report focuses on only two areas:

- duties of care of all parties; and
- the nature and structure of offences.

While Part 2 (Duties of Care pp18-88) is not likely to meet with any significant opposition, Parts 3 and 4 (Offences and Other Matters pp 92-131) certainly will.

There are recommendations that breaches of duty of care should all be regarded as criminal offences. In the case of very high culpability where there is serious harm (fatality or serious injury) to any person or a high risk of such harm, the Report says that the highest penalties should apply including imprisonment for up to five years. These ideas are likely to meet stiff opposition and are totally at odds with the Robens philosophy.

There is no evidence that prosecutorial approaches as such improve occupational safety and health performance in the workplace.

In New South Wales an aggressive approach to prosecution, particularly following fatalities, has provoked an ongoing dispute between employer organisations on one hand and safety regulators and trade unions on the other.

In the mining sector prosecutions have been initiated not only against mine managers but also against other statutory duty holders. Gunningham* concludes:

"...vengeful prosecution against those who neither intended harm nor were reckless in their behaviour is widely perceived to be unjust and this has caused the law to lose its legitimacy in the eyes of the duty holders. It has also generated a defensiveness on the part of duty holders that results in an unwillingness to examine the root causes of accidents and incidents for fear of being prosecuted."

The second report which will address, among other things, the important issues of workplace-based consultation, participation and representation provisions including the key functions of safety and health representatives and safety and health committees, is expected by 30 January 2009.

It will be interesting to see whether the evidence provided to the review by the Association that consultation, participation and the role of safety and health representatives are the keys to improving safety and health in the workplace, rather than resorting to threats of imprisonment, will be given any weight.

* *Prosecution for OHS Offences: Deterrent or Disincentive?* Neil Gunningham, Sydney Law Review, Vol 29:359

Using Google Earth to improve workplace conditions

General practitioners in France's most heavily industrialised regions (iron and steel making, oil refining, basic chemical manufacturing, quarrying etc) can now check on their patients' working environment using Google Earth. But finding the link between illness and work is just the first step in an approach that ultimately aims to make workplaces healthier.

An association set up by GP's to tackle eliminable diseases has developed a computer based aid to support or disprove the suspicion that a diagnosed illness has been caused by work.

They use the term "eliminable diseases" (rather than 'occupational') because the latter implies that doing a particular job necessarily entails developing particular diseases, when in fact they can now be avoided and eliminated.

The project objective is to provide all doctors in the region with data on all cases of diseases where there is a proven link with the work environment.

In practical terms, a GP who suspects that health damage in a patient has a work related cause can call up similar cases diagnosed by fellow association members on an internet site.

The system returns two types of data:

- proven cases of occupational disease - "case gallery"; and
- workplaces associated with those cases - "workplace gallery".

With backing from local authorities the general practitioner group is planning to submit a project to the European Union to extend the initiative.

Source: HESA Newsletter June 2008

Editorial

In late November I was giving the last OHS lecture to postgraduate engineering students, as I have done since 1990. Over the years the composition of the class has changed markedly with nearly all now from overseas. While covering hazardous chemicals, I mentioned the *Globally Harmonised System (GHS)* which dovetails with the *UN Recommendations* on dangerous goods. Despite the name, students asked me for reassurance that what I was explaining applied to them. I said it did as long as their country picked up the GHS in its law, as we are doing. (The URL of a ready made GHS slideshow on this which you may like to use is www.ascc.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/F3179875-21CA-41C1-9D76-C7B4683D7DF0/0/6_KimHeadrickOverviewofGHSHealthCanada.ppt). So note the "M" is now silent as in SDS (no longer MSDS). Also the addition to communication on workplace labels I have favoured for 20 years, pictograms (shown here), is now in.



Interestingly, in the new *ADG Code* which picks up on the 2007 *UN Recommendations*, we have thankfully kept our current vehicle emergency information panels, even though they are not in the *Recommendations*.

Also just out is the First Report on harmonised OHS legislation in Australia. The overall impression is that many people understandably want it to contain their pet ideas. (The simplest step would be one OHS law for the whole country, but most people say that won't happen). The report's various summary matrices are useful, but what is not helpful is chapter numbering in the Report differing from that in the Issues paper.

While there is a national research centre in OHS regulation at ANU (which doesn't appear to have made a submission), too little funding has gone into the research needed to assess the impact of particular aspects of OHS legislation. This could have provided hard evidence in designing harmonised laws.

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

There are nine state/ territory reviews of OHS laws listed in the national review, but oddly all of those in WA have been chaired by a lawyer or IR commissioner, never a safety professional.

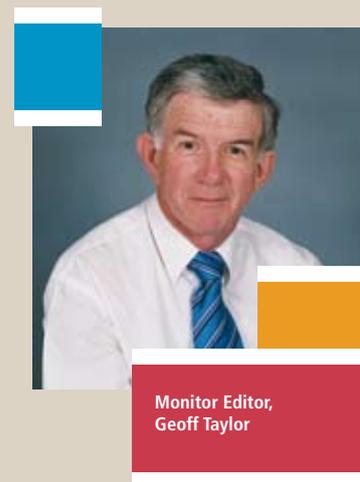
The sensible approach is to design a model OHS law with a broad focus on the key principles – duty of care, codes of practice, consultative mechanisms (with plenty of flexibility), and effective trained OHS reps and committees with mutual recognition across Australia. Add an effective inspectorate backed up with a variety of tools such as enforceable undertakings and where deserved, realistic penalties.

The policy formation bodies should contain key interests who have OHS expertise available to them, and also independent experts. The way things work through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) now, do we need nine multipartite OHS policy bodies, or could we manage with just one national body, like the UK, and farm out specific tasks such as new codes of practice around the country?

Since everyone seems to have their favoured ideas, I'll be open about mine – recognise OHS managers/advisers in OHS law. While this issue was raised in the Submissions, the First Report appears to ignore it.

I'll close by noting what poor risk assessment, among other things, has done to financial markets. So let's aim to do even better OHS risk assessments in 2009.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year. **Geoff Taylor, Adj. Prof.**



Monitor Editor,
Geoff Taylor

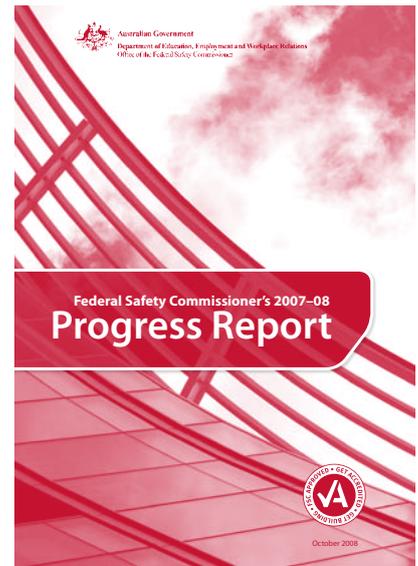
Building and Construction Industry's OHS performance: Federal Safety Commissioner's 2007-08 Progress Report

The report, issued in September 2008 by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, advises that initial indications show that the Australian Government's Building and Construction OHS Accreditation Scheme, which has been in operation for almost three years, is having a positive effect on the OHS performance of accredited companies.

However, notified fatalities for the industry as a whole are not improving. In four of the five years since 2003/04 the industry has been the first or second worst performer compared with all industries.

The report suggests that further progress in OHS in the building and construction industry can only be achieved through strong leadership and cultural changes.

Source: Federal Safety Commissioner's 2007-08 Progress Report



Construction injury hotspots

WorkSafe Victoria has produced some interesting statistics on the most common injuries and hazards for young workers in the construction sector, represented by injury class.

| | | | |
|------------------|-----|-------|-----|
| Hand and fingers | 33% | Backs | 14% |
| Forearm/wrist | 9% | Arm | 8% |
| Knee | 8% | Ankle | 5% |
| Face, ear, eye | 5% | | |

It offers some useful safety solutions.

Source: Injury Hotspots, Edition No. 1, September 2008



Construction safety awareness training - WA moves to standardise

The WorkSafe WA Commission has agreed to recognise the construction industry training conducted in South Australia, Victoria and Queensland as meeting the requirements of the WA regulations.

Workers from those states do not therefore need to complete the WA safety awareness construction program.

Training undertaken in the Northern Territory, NSW and Tasmania is yet to be recognised.

Successful completion of MARCSTA's General Safety Induction already entitles candidates to apply for RPL for the Safety Awareness Training.

MARCSTA members

ORDINARY MEMBERS

Ausdrill Ltd
Barmenco Limited
BGC Contracting Pty Ltd
Cemex Australia Pty Ltd
Cooks Construction Pty Ltd
GFR Group
GR Engineering Services
GRD Minproc

Kellogg Brown & Root Pty Ltd
Komatsu 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

Effect of exposure to natural environment on health inequalities

Studies have shown that exposure to the natural environment, or so-called green space, has an independent effect on health and health-related behaviours.

A study comparing income-related health inequality in people living in areas of England with high and low amounts of green space shows that people exposed to the greenest environments are less likely to die (from all causes or from circulatory diseases) even when taking into account income.

Thus, there are substantial differences in health inequality between populations who are exposed to the same welfare state, health service, and distribution of national income but who live in different types of physical environment.

Physical environments that promote good health might be crucial to reduce socioeconomic health inequalities.

Source: The Lancet, November 2008



Safe rates of pay for heavy vehicle drivers

The National Transport Commission (NTC) will investigate and report on driver remuneration and payment methods in the Australian trucking industry and make recommendations for reform.

The Report will examine how current methods and rates of pay for heavy vehicle drivers contribute to poor road safety outcomes. It will identify options for implementing a system of safe rates for both employees and owner-drivers recognising the special vulnerability of independent contractors in the transport industry.

The NTC will be assisted by Professor Michael Quinlan of UNSW, Hon Lance Wright QC and former president of the NSW Industrial Relations Commission.

Source: Joint Media Statement Parliament House, AAI/2008

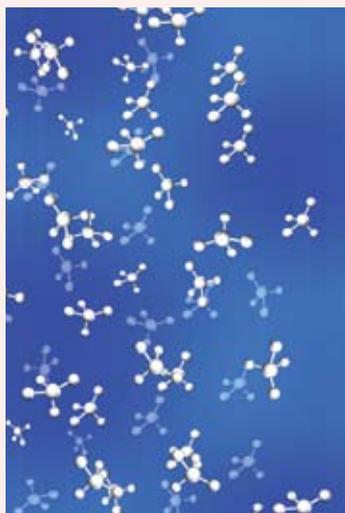
Fires in Queensland mines

The Queensland Department of Mines and Energy has issued a safety bulletin in response to the increasing number of fires occurring on mine sites. Of particular concern are fires associated with turbochargers. In the year ended 31 July 2008 there were 228 fires with the potential to harm a person. Coal mines and mobile equipment account for the vast majority of fires.

Source: DME Qld Safety Bulletin 86

Nanomaterials – urgent action needed on testing/regulation

A UK Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution has found no evidence of harm to health on the environment from nanomaterials.



The Commission believes that the pace at which such new nanomaterials are being developed and marketed is beyond the capacity of existing testing and regulatory arrangements to control the potential environmental impacts adequately.

In evaluating potential risks, the Commission concluded that it is not the size of nanomaterials per se that is important but their functionality, what they do and how they behave, that needs to be evaluated. However, the Commission considers that there is an urgent need for more testing, extending existing government arrangements, and creating new arrangements for the control of the rapidly developing field of nanomaterials.

Source: RCAP News Release 12/11/08

Training provider profile Duncan Edwards



Duncan Edwards is a MARCSTA trainer employed by Great Southern TAFE and based in Albany.

Duncan has over 10 years experience working extensively in the mining and heavy industry sectors. He has been involved in construction, shutdown and maintenance, industrial installations and plant and machinery operations in both Australia and the United Kingdom. In recent years, his work has focused on the delivery of industrial skills and occupational health and safety training to both these industry sectors throughout Western Australia.

Duncan commenced his mining experience as a dogman/rigger and crane operator, then enhanced this by gaining his Advanced Rigger qualification. He accumulated further industry experience through employment with companies such as United KG, Western Power, Woodside Petroleum, Thiess and Hamersley Iron. Duncan's experience as an advanced rigger and crane operator has given him an excellent grounding for providing training to clients through his 'on-the-ground' knowledge combined with his training delivery expertise. His strong commitment to occupational health and safety as a core element of sustainable organisational practices has led to a comprehensive understanding of safety planning and compliance.

At Great Southern TAFE, Duncan provides training consultancy, delivery and WorkSafe assessment services to the mining and heavy industry sectors. He presently delivers a variety of OHS courses including: the WorkSafe accredited Safety Representatives course, Working at Heights, Working in Confined Spaces, Safety Awareness Training (Bluecard) and Tilt Up Construction to clients within the Great Southern Region. His role also includes extensive travel within Western Australia, particularly to the Kimberley Region, to deliver WorkSafe "Licence to Perform High Risk Work" training to mining industry employees at Argyle Diamond Mine.

Conferences and courses

35th Annual Conference on Explosives and Blasting Techniques, 8-11 February 2009, Denver. See www.isee.org

Orebody Modelling and Strategic Mine Planning, 16-17 March 2009, Perth. Email: kwynn@ausimm.com.au

Perth Global Iron and Steel Forecast Conference 24-25 March 2009, Perth Conference and Exhibition Centre. Email: Alex.Hogg@informa.com.au

Practical Rock Mechanics in Mining, 26-27 March 2009, Novotel Langley Hotel, Perth. Email: acginfo@agc.uwa.edu.au

Austmine 30 -31 March 2009, Adelaide Convention Centre. Email: Deen.Hewitt@informa.com.au.

First International Seminar on Safe and Rapid Development Mining, 6-7 May 2009, Novotel Langley Hotel, Perth. Email: acginfo@agc.uwa.edu.au

Geotechnical Engineering in Open Metalliferous and Coal Pit Mines Seminar, 9-11 June 2009, Mercure Hotel Brisbane. Email: acginfo@agc.uwa.edu.au

Top public policy occupational health and safety issues of concern

THE AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION (AIHA) HAS ANNOUNCED THE RESULTS OF ITS BIENNIAL MEMBERSHIP SURVEY THAT PROJECTS THE TOP PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY PROFESSION OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

- Permissible exposure limits updating (one of the most basic tools to protect workers)
- Material Safety Data Sheets (a major feature the adoption of the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals)
- Nanotechnology (the OHS concerns when working with this new technology)
- Professional recognition/title protection (the importance of recognising those professionals who have received education and certification from nationally recognised and accredited organisations)
- Laboratory accreditation (the increased need to have accredited laboratories recognised at the international level).

For further information regarding these policy issues contact Aaron Trippler at atrippler@aiha.org.

Source: AIHA

Guideline on risk-based health surveillance and biological monitoring

DOCEP Resources Safety has released a new guideline on risk-based health surveillance and biological monitoring to ensure the best possible safety environment for workers in the State's mining industry.

Particular attention is paid to toxic metals being mined or present as a significant ore contaminant in WA, or used in mining operations.

The guideline also contains comprehensive appendices containing links to specific heavy metals, legislation provisions, exposure standards and control measures.

Source: DOCEP Media Release 13/10/2008

New publications

Resources Safety:

Guideline – *Risk-based health surveillance and biological monitoring*

Fact sheets – series of ten on manual tasks in mining www.docep.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety/Content/Mining/Occupational_Health/Hazardous_manual_tasks/Hazardous_manual_tasks.html

HIF audit templates and guidelines updated in 2008 – *Classified plant administration; Development of high headings underground; Emergency preparedness; Fixed plant; Gold rooms; Isolation and tagout; Surface dust management; Tipping; Underground fire prevention; Underground ventilation management; Workshops*

Report – *Overview of Dangerous Goods Incidents 2007*

Joint guide with WorkSafe – *Testing and tagging portable electrical equipment and residual current devices at workplaces*

Dangerous goods guidance notes – *Storage of explosives; Disposal of unwanted and abandoned explosives*

Department of Commerce – WorkSafe WA:

Guidance Note for the *Prevention of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning from Petrol and Gas Powered Equipment*. www.docep.wa.gov.au/WorkSafe/PDF/Guidance_notes/guide_carbon_monoxide_poisoning.pdf

Web Q&A's on *Chasing saws and carbon monoxide* www.docep.wa.gov.au/WorkSafe/Content/Safety_Topics/Hazardous_substances/. Additional_resources/Chasing_saws_and_carbon_monoxide.html

OHSE Subbypack. www.docep.wa.gov.au/WorkSafe/PDF/Guides/SubbyPack.pdf

Report of National Review into Model OHS Laws, www.nationalohsreview.gov.au/ohs/Reports/





Issue 4/2008

Worker Health and Well Being

Deep breathing exercise to aid sleep

At bedtime many people have trouble letting go of the stress in their lives. To help conquer stress, try doing deep breathing exercises. One method is to lie flat on your back in bed and take a deep, slow, steady breath through your nose and feel your lungs expand.

Once your lungs are full, hold the air inside for a second and then begin to slowly exhale through your mouth. When the air has all been exhaled, wait a second or two before taking another breath. While doing deep breathing exercises try to clear your mind and focus on the sound of your breathing.

By repeating this exercise, you can lower your blood pressure and calm your nerves, both of which can aid you as you try to sleep.

Source: Working Nights, October 2008

Music improves sleep quality

A recent study investigated the effects of music on sleep quality in 94 students (aged between 19 to 28) with poor sleep.

The participants were divided into three groups. Two groups listened for 45 minutes either to relaxing classical music or an audiobook at bedtime for three weeks. The third (control) group received no intervention.

The results revealed that music improved sleep quality, whereas the audiobook and no intervention did not.

Overall the study concludes that relaxing classical music is an effective, safe and inexpensive intervention for reducing sleep problems.

Source: Working Nights, October 2008

Study finds link between sleep apnea and sudden cardiac death

After studying the sleep characteristics of nearly 11,000 adults, Mayo Clinic researchers suggest that obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) and, in particular, the low night time oxygen saturation of the blood it causes, may be a risk factor for sudden cardiac death.

If further studies validate these findings OSA would join established risk factors, such as smoking, obesity, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure.

Source: ohsonline 12/11/08

Less sleep may reduce heart risk in elderly

According to research carried out in Japan at Jichi Medical University, sleeping fewer than seven and a half hours each night could increase the risk of heart disease for older patients.

A combination of little sleep and elevated blood pressure was associated with an increased risk as well.

The researchers found that shorter duration of night time sleep is a predictor of cardiovascular incidents in elderly individuals with hypertension, particularly when it occurs with a rising nocturnal blood pressure.

Source: medpage today, 10/11/08

Ergonomic pitfalls

Research confirms that some exposures at work should be avoided such as poor posture, heavy manual handling of materials or patients, repetitive work and mental stress.

A Swedish ergonomist has warned that implementing ergonomic solutions to alleviate the musculoskeletal disorders does not always solve the problem but may fall into an 'ergonomic pitfall', i.e. the interaction between ergonomics and rationalisation measures which make a major contribution to the frequent lack of services in reducing musculoskeletal disorders.

The example given was the decision in Sweden in the 1960's to have dentists sit rather than stand to treat patients.

A decade later it was found that to a large extent many still suffer musculoskeletal complaints much more so than any of the other groups investigated.

Why? Because the risk of mechanical exposure was a function of the exposure amplitude (e.g. manual handling or posture) as well as frequency and duration.

The long duration of constrained sitting without physical variation but with highly repetitive hand movements entailed an increased risk of development musculoskeletal problems.

Pacing the work by means of piece-rates and focusing economic rewards increased the muscle tension in the shoulder and neck from psychological causes, which has been shown to increase the load level in the shoulder-neck region.

The risk factors were influenced by two different stakeholders with different objectives: the ergonomist aiming for improved musculoskeletal health and the rationalisation experts aiming for improved efficiency.

Further studies from industrialised countries involving different trades show that when organisations aim for large cost reductions, downsizing is the first step. The same amount of work then has to be performed by fewer people. This is usually accomplished together with reorganisation aimed at minimising value-added time. Research indicates that this kind of 'work intensification' may increase certified sick leave due to musculoskeletal disorders by up to about six times.

"Good practice" regarding smart solutions to ergonomic problems is not in itself sufficient to achieve sustainable work systems. The production context changes continuously which makes today's ergonomic solutions inadequate tomorrow.

Source: HESA Newsletter, June 2008

Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2006-07

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released its findings from the National Minimum Data Set.

Included in the highlights are some interesting statistics on the most common principal drugs of concern.

Nationally in 2006/07 alcohol was the most common principal drug of concern reported in closed treatment episodes (42%), followed by cannabis (23%), opioids (14% with heroin accounting for 11%) and amphetamines (12%). These proportions are very similar to previous years.

When all drugs of concern are considered, more than half (57%) of all episodes included alcohol as a drug of concern, while 44% of episodes included cannabis as a drug of concern.

Source: AIHW Bulletin 65, October 2008

Member Profile - GFR Group

GFR Group is Australia's most experienced designer, fabricator and installer of HDPE pipelines, mine site and civil reticulation and trenching, a merchant supplier of pipes and fittings, and a specialist fabricator of large chemical tanks and custom poly work.

Now into its third decade of operations, it is the recognised leader in HDPE services, providing unique technical knowledge and problem-solving skills for the mining industry, water authorities, and general industry.

It provides a total PE service; design, trenching, fabrication, testing and commissioning, plus support services for either short or long term client contracts. GFR's success is built on its reputation for problem solving and fair-dealing.

GFR is also unique in being able to offer custom valve and tank solutions for many applications.

In fabrication GFR has one of the largest sheet butt welders in Australia, and when used in conjunction with GFR's "RITA" design software, water and chemical tanks are designed and fabricated using world's best practice German DVS standards DVS2205 and EN12573.

GFR has a presence in key mining service areas throughout WA and NT, plus dedicated on-site project teams.

Since 2004 it has had GFR staff working on various sites in the Pilbara. These include Brockman, Marandoo, Paraburdoo, Newman, Yandi, West Angelas, Dampier, Pannawonica, Telfer, Nifty, Plutonic and Port Hedland. At all sites it achieved LTI free projects.

GFR's Pilbara Team has achieved over 1,000 days with no Lost Time Injuries. It is dedicated to providing a standard of service and safe working practices to keep its impeccable OHSE record and it is very proud that Allaine Coleman, GFR's HSE Manager, is a member of the MARCSTA Management Committee.



MARCSTA licensed training providers

Mark Adam
Denis Aitken
Jayson Aveling
Graham Bailey
Ron Baker
Carl Berglin
Wayne Berkrey
Danny Bogнар
Stacey Clark
Scott Clarke
Brian Cloney

Dale Cocker (U) (S)
Jim Dandie
Geoff Day
Peter Dowding
Joe Duyvestyn
Duncan Edwards
Linda Elezovich
Donelle Fraser
Ross Graham
Ray Hargreaves
Sheryl Henley (C)

Jeffrey Hickin
Peter Jones
Ralph Keegan (S)
Joe Maglizza
Les McIntyre
Neil McMeekin
Guy Mead
Katherine Montague
Thomas Mozer (C)
Rodney Pool
John Preston

Kevin Ramsay
Merryn Richards
Jason Roberts
Victor Roberts
Shane Salt
Grant Shearwin
Marcus Taylor
James Titmus
Peter Tynan
Ron Van Baaren (C)
Micheal White

Graham Williams
Peter Williams (C only)
Paul Willoughby

All training providers listed 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

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SAFETY,
ENVIRONMENT AND EQUIPMENT INFORMATION
FOR THE MINING INDUSTRY

Queensland Government Mining Journal for Winter 2008 carries a report on **peer review** of health and safety, discusses a joint US/Australia study using computer modelling with "**nanocodes**" of work practice segments to identify key points in the accident chain, and has a 3-page review of **emergency services**.

The *Safety First Supplement* by Reed Publications for July 2008 mentions **mirror columns** by Sick Australia which allow a single device to monitor several sides of an access or hazard point of operation, and Welding Industries of Australia's **autodarkening welding helmets** with digital adjustment.

Engineering and Mining Journal for September 2008 notes that Vale has ordered 12 Chinese-built **ore carriers of 400,000 dwt**, and will use 330-wagon trains, includes a five page **iron ore market review** by Magnus Ericsson, an article by Andrew Watson on incorporating **sustainability** into mining services, and two pages from BOC on **gas cylinder handling**.

Australian Journal of Mining for September/October 2008 notes **better safety for lone workers** technology by Tasmanian firm Marcom Watson, including text to speech via SMS to the radio system, Chris Bain of Philip Resources Fund on why **underground will be favoured** earlier in an orebody's life, has a 2-page **roof support review** by Dmitry Przhedetsky, and writes on IsaMill's energy efficient (reduced carbon footprint) **grinding mill**.

Mineral Processing and Extractive Metallurgy for September 2008 has a two page article on the **seven metals of ancient history**, and their imagined links with the seven planets then known.

Australian Drilling for September/October 2008 reproduces C.Sylvestre and Larry Wilson's article from *Australasian Mine Safety Journal* on workers' **dangerous states of mind** - fatigued, frustrated, complacent or hurried, as well as a 3-page summary on **457 visas, trade recognition, English-language competency** and salary levels, and information on B/W Solar's Lorentz **solar water pumps**.

Australian Mining for October 2008 celebrated its 100th anniversary. It was launched by Peter Tait on 5th October 1908. It notes the **fist fight** at a WA mining company shareholders meeting (where does the duty of care lie there?), the implications for mining of changes in **fall arrest standards** by Liz Foster, on **protection by automation** by Jessica Darnbrough, and a BHPB partnership with the WA Police to improve **community safety** in the Pilbara.

Also included is another article by Jessica on **mine production simulation tools**, and there are 12 pages of profiles of **Australia's most influential mining figures** in the last 100 years.

Then there is Dingo Products' **hazardous area shoveller**, Strata Safety's **portable rescue chamber**, Pioneer Services' Dustbloc for **reduced water dust control**, and Sylvia Aitken on **driver fatigue and apnea**, with work by Dr Martyn Flahive of BHPB and Dr Andrew Marsden of Rio using the Apneaink screening device from Rhonda Russo of Sleep for Health and Safety. Finally we include from *Australian Mining* GENR8's **night vision safety** for trucks and cranes, B-safe **glove with inbuilt lamp**, and Redbusbar's test device to check motor control centre-based **electrical isolations**.



Who's who?

Chairman

Ross Graham, Terex Materials Processing
and Mining

Deputy Chairman

Joe Maglizza, Cemex Australia PL

Director Safety and Health

Patrick Gilroy AM

Training Manager

Sheryl Henley

Committee of Management

Warren Claydon

Allaine Coleman

Terry Condipodero

Peter Nicholls

Garry Round

Kim Stewart

MARCSTA Monitor Editor

Geoff Taylor

Around the globe

UK

OHS law – HSE introducing tougher penalties

The Health and Safety (Offences) Bill became law in October in the UK. Under the new legislation the maximum fine in magistrates' courts will be raised to £20,000 (A\$50,000) for most offences and imprisonment will be an option for a wider range of breaches.

Failure to discharge general duties of care for all parties can now result in imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or a fine, or both.

These changes represent an approach contrary to that recommended by the Robens Committee which found that the institution of criminal proceedings, conviction and ultimate fine was not a very effective way of producing an early remedy for known unsatisfactory conditions.

The character of criminal proceedings is inappropriate to the majority of situations which arise, and the processes involved make little contribution towards the real objective of improving future standards and performance.

Source: ETUI-REHS, 5/11/2008

Sharp rise in firefighter deaths

A sharp rise in firefighter deaths in the UK (8 died on duty in 2007) has been linked to training and the absence of safety critical operational guidance from central government, says new research.

The report identifies five factors which contributed to the increase:

- a neglect of up-to-date central guidance on firefighter safety
- firefighters have been committed into emergency incidents on the basis of inadequate assessment of the risks
- risk assessments have been inadequate and some so bad as to have compromised firefighter safety
- training for emergency response was insufficient
- crewing levels were not high enough

According to a survey released in October, 85% of firefighters do not believe that the UK Government values them.

Source: UK Fire Brigades Union, Media Release 10/11/08

USA

Alcohol and drug free mines - policy, prohibitions, testing, training and assistance

The US Department of Labor (MSHA) has issued a proposed rule which would replace the existing metal and non-metal mine standards for the possession and use of intoxicating beverages and narcotics and establish a standard for all mines.

The proposed rule will designate the substances that cannot be possessed on mine property or used while performing safety-sensitive duties except where used in accordance with a valid prescription.

Mine operators would be required to establish an alcohol and drug free mine program, which includes a written policy, employee education, supervisory training, alcohol and drug testing for miners who perform safety-sensitive tasks and their supervisors, and referrals to assistance for miners who violate the policy.

The rule would require the recommended treatment and their alcohol and drug free status to be confirmed by a return-to-duty test.

The progress of the proposed rule will be watched with great interest.

Source: MSHA

Safety performance in the USA

The US Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics has reported a further decline in 2007 in the rate of non-fatal workplace injuries and illnesses in the construction sector with 5.4 cases per 100 full time workers compared with 5.6 in the manufacturing sector.

Both these sectors exceed the mining industry rate of 3.1.

According to preliminary 2007 fatality data, there were at least 442 construction worker fatalities as a result of falls from all causes.

Source: US Department of Labor

Europe

SHR's now central to preventive strategies agenda

All the available evidence in Europe points toward the existence of workers' health and safety representation as being closely associated with a more systematic organisation of prevention and enables more weight to be given to workers' interests and concerns about health and safety at work. Adequate training, information and access to expertise all play a key role.

However, European and many national prevention strategies pay scant regard to the vast potential of workers safety representation.

There are two aspects to strengthening workers' representation. One is *numbers* - it means giving all workers access to this resource. Large numbers of workers are denied representation in health and safety. The other is *quality* - and here several factors are in play. Representatives are often inadequately protected against dismissal or other forms of reprisal and their training differs widely from one country or industry to the next.

Solutions centre on the struggle to introduce democracy into working life and employers are against workers having any control over their working conditions.

Source: HESA, November 2008