

NSW

MINE SAFETY

UPDATE

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COMPETENCY, COMMITMENT AND CONTROL = SAFETY

The theme of the 2002 NSW Mining Industry OHS Conference in September is Competency, Commitment and Control. These three words will guide the way to a safer mining industry in NSW.

“Competency” is about giving all in the industry the knowledge and expertise that will enable them to do their jobs in a safer way.

“Commitment” is what is needed by industry to ensure every mine worker will return safely home from work each day.

“Control” is all about identifying risks and then controlling them.

The Mining Industry OHS Conference begins on Sunday September 1. It is being organised by the NSW Minerals Council with the support of the NSW Government.

Safety innovations will be featured on the Sunday afternoon with miners presenting practical solutions to safety problems. Entrants range from industry giants, such as the Ridegway Gold Mine, to a Lightning Ridge Opal Mine worked by just two men.

Awards for innovation will be presented at a dinner on the Sunday evening. It will be addressed by the inspirational Janine Shepherd, who was knocked off her bike by a truck while training for the Winter Olympics.



Doctors said she would never walk again but Janine focussed the mental strength of a champion athlete on rebuilding her body and life.

Formal proceedings will begin on Monday September 2, with the official opening by the Minister for Mineral Resources, Eddie Obeid.

The conference will split into several different streams to examine such topics as risk assessment, safety legislation compliance, fatigue management, rockfalls, safety management of contractors and safe work behaviour.

Over 400 delegates will share the Conference's commitment to improving the safety culture and performance of mining in NSW. See page 11 for registration information.



Promoting safety in the
NSW mining industry



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The New South Wales Government is targeting improved safety in all sectors of the mining industry.

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Information is provided in this newsletter to promote the enhancement of the safety culture of NSW mining and to alert a wide range of people to potential risks and to potential risk controls. Each site must manage its own risks according to its own hazard identification, risk assessment, control systems and monitoring process. Whereas all care is taken in producing NSW Mine Safety Update, the NSW Department of Mineral Resources accepts no responsibility for accuracy of information supplied. Inclusion of any product, service or company in NSW Mine Safety Update does not imply NSW Government or NSW Department of Mineral Resources endorsement. Editors please note: any articles in this issue of NSW Mine Safety Update can be reproduced with suitable acknowledgment of their source.

What can we learn from Longford?

“The physical isolation of engineers from the plant deprived operations personnel of engineering expertise and knowledge which previously they gained through interaction and involvement of engineers on site”
Section 13.81, Page 209, Report of the Longford Royal Commission.

The gas escape and ignition on September 25, 1998 at the Esso Gas Processing plant at Longford in Victoria cost two lives and injured eight other workers. It resulted in multimillion dollar plant damage and disrupted gas supplies to Victoria.

It also resulted in the company having to pay \$2 million in fines plus undisclosed damages to the people injured and to the families of those who died.

A class action against Esso will begin in the Victorian Supreme Court in September. The action will be on behalf of those who suffered losses due to the unavailability of gas following the event. The action could run for several years and damages could be substantial.

You may believe Longford had little to do with mining but these are the sorts of tragic costs and damages that your mine could suffer if hazard identification is not carried out properly and if engineering standards are inadequate.

What happened is described in the Longford Royal Commission Report. It



should be read by all mine operators and engineers.

The event occurred in Gas Plant One, which uses ‘lean’ oil to remove hydrocarbon products from the gas supplied by the Bass Strait oil and gas platforms.

Lean oil absorbs methane, ethane, propane and butane from the incoming flow at low temperature and high pressures in heat exchanger vessels. These hydrocarbons are removed from the oil by reversing the procedure with low pressures and high temperatures.

With the hydrocarbons removed, the lean oil is returned to the Gas Plant in a continuous cycle. Returning lean oil is warm and this

counteracts the low temperature of the incoming refrigerated gas and condensate.

On the day of the incident, the lean oil supply had been interrupted by pump and valve problems. This resulted in the temperature of the heat exchanger vessel dropping to minus 48°C.

Low temperature made the steel brittle and it fractured when 100°C lean oil supply was re-established.

The Royal Commission Report said many factors allowed the incident to occur. These included lack of risk assessment and risk change assessment even though the Esso operating procedures required both.

Inadequate operator training was also noted. Only one of the operators was aware that cold heat exchanger components could suffer catastrophic failure when the supply of hot, lean oil was restored.

The report paid attention to a lack of onsite engineering expertise caused by the transfer of engineers from Longford to Melbourne for re-assignment to other projects.

Read the Report of the Longford Royal Commission. The lessons it contains could help you ensure nothing similar happens at your mine. It is available from the Information Victoria on-line bookshop:

www.information.vic.gov.au ■■

Legislation amendments

Legislation amendments passed by the NSW Parliament in June provided a boost for mining safety in three significant areas. The amendments, introduced by the Carr Government, gave the Mine Safety Advisory Council a basis in legislation via the *Mining Act 1992*. The Mine Safety Advisory Council is the industry's peak tripartite consultative group of employees, employers and Government. The amendments also gave NSW Department of Mineral Resources officers the powers and functions of inspectors under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000* and clarified the application of sub-contractors to provisions of the *Coal Mines Regulation Act of 1982*. These amendments are consistent with International Labor Organisation Convention number 176 concerning safety and health in mining. ■■■

What would you do?

"A mine truck breached the safety barrier on the main haulage road at the Black Rock Coal Holdings Mine. The driver, who was not wearing a seat belt, sustained fatal injuries. There were no witnesses."

The incident above did not really happen. Instead it was a "hypothetical" presented by a cast to an audience of nearly 200 mining people at the Department of Mineral Resources Twelfth Annual Mechanical Engineering Safety Seminar at Penrith.

The presentation began with actions that would have taken place on the day of the incident and continued through every stage of events. This included the investigation and the Coroner's Inquest through to a prosecution initiated by the NSW Department of Mineral Resources.

The "hypothetical" was written and directed by Stede Condouris, Manager of the Department of Mineral Resources Investigation Unit, with the assistance of Wally Koppe, Inspector of Mechanical Engineering Safety.

Stede also played the part of the Investigator assisted by 10 other people taking the roles of those who would be involved from the accident to the Industrial Relations Court.

They were real people who might be involved in such a situation. Most of them played a role that was exactly or close to what they do in real life. They



volunteered their time to share their knowledge with the Mine Mechanical Engineers attending the conference.

For the purpose of the 'hypothetical' Neil Rae was the Mine Manager, Ian Anderson the Inspector of Coal Mines, Les Yates the District Check Inspector, Bob Johnson the Mechanical Engineer in Charge, Gordon Henderson the Company Solicitor, Michael Cowley the Coroner, Blake Maguire the NSW Department of Mineral Resources Solicitor, Malcolm Scott the Judge and Carolyn Hodges the Grief Counsellor.

The Facilitator was Norman Correy.

The facilitator asked each person in turn how they would react and what their course of action should be following the incident.

What would you have to do if something similar happened at your mine? Find out when the hypothetical story makes a return by popular demand at the NSW Minerals Industry OH&S Conference, Terrigal, on Tuesday September 3. ■■■

Busy year for mine safety education and consultation

During the 2001-2002 financial year the NSW Department of Mineral Resources ran or was involved with the running of major mining safety conferences, which were attended by 1,600 mining employees and employers. These included:

- Mineral Industry OHS Conference, Terrigal
- Eleventh Mechanical Engineering Safety Seminar, Penrith
- Electrical Engineering Safety Workshop, Penrith
- Information Day Coal Mine Health and Safety Act, Penrith
- Information Day Coal Mine Health and Safety Act, Singleton
- Local Check Inspector Conference, Penrith
- Electrical Engineering Safety Seminar, Penrith
- Twelfth Mechanical Engineering Safety Seminar, Penrith
- 20 Small Mine Courses

The NSW Department of Mineral Resources also assisted regular meetings of Mine Mechanical Engineers and Mine Electrical Engineers. At these meetings, the engineers discussed incidents, lessons learned from those incidents and safety initiatives that worked in their mines. Upcoming seminars and conferences will be notified in future editions of Mine Safety Update. ■■■

Don't drown, put up your hand for help!

Carolynn Hodges, Senior Psychologist with IPS Employee Assistance, spoke at the Mine Engineers Safety Conference about the emotional trauma likely to affect those confronted by a workplace fatality or serious injury.

"The first response is a surge of adrenalin," she said. "Training and experience takes over to create a task oriented mindset where essential actions can be taken. These include such things as ensuring the area is made safe and secured, notifying essential services and advising families.

"That night shock sets in. Some people want to endlessly discuss the event while others prefer to bottle it up. Substance abuse with alcohol, tobacco or drugs is a common response.

"As days go by, some people may experience intrusive flashbacks. Avoidance is common with some people unable to talk about the event, or even go back to work.

"Extreme fear of being involved in a similar event may be experienced and this can lead to feelings of guilt.

"Substance abuse is likely to continue and it may include gambling as well as excessive smoking, drinking or drug taking.

"Distressing mood swings are often experienced, ranging through anger, apathy, depression to elation, with a heightened awareness of being alive. Risk-taking, such as running red lights, is common.

"The event is mentally revisited at random or on significant dates, such as the one-month, six-month, one-year anniversary of the event.

"Constant reminders occur through interviews, investigations, preparations for the coroner's inquest and a court case if a prosecution eventuates.

"The detail of an inquest can be difficult for seasoned investigators so it is really hard for someone who has never been in the position before, especially as the person involved was most probably a friend, acquaintance or work colleague.

"Hostility from the victim's family is another emotional trauma. Family members attending an inquest are understandably distraught.



Carolynn Hodges, Senior Psychologist

"Inquests or court cases are adversarial events – it can be as if you are an actor in a play but you have no control of the unfamiliar events and the intimidating, relentless, repetitive cross questioning you may have to undergo.

"The process is often drawn out over several years forcing you to constantly revisit and re-examine the event despite the fact that your memory is being clouded by time.

"Excessive sleep is also a common escape. Risky behaviour such as substance abuse is likely to continue

and you may become alienated from friends and family. Complete marriage breakdowns or affairs are common during the long drawn-out procedure.

"Mood swings can continue, elation one moment, sobbing the next. You will experience anger and revisit every emotion you felt at the time. Old literature on the subject said that revisiting is helpful but that is not always the case.

"You may question your own sense of self and self-worth and constantly wonder whether there was something you could have done to prevent the incident.

"People trying to cope are often unable to handle change because familiarity feels comfortable and safe. They can become inflexible, rigid and intolerant.

"Other problems, such as family or money, occurring at the same time can make you even more vulnerable to long-term stress disorders.

"Don't drown, put up your hand. Help is available but you may have to seek it out. Talk to your union or approach your company's Human Resources Division for assistance.

"Don't imagine that you should be able to handle the situation yourself and leave it until it is too late. You are not Superman! Your problems are real and they need real treatment that can be supplied. The person needing help may not be yourself but one of your workmates or someone from your family," Carolynn Hodges said. ■■

Identifying and controlling the risks of tyre changing

Every year people in the NSW mining industry are injured while changing tyres.

Last year a fitter was seriously injured while trying to take a wheel off a shuttle car. By mistake, he removed some of the split rim assembly nuts as well as the wheel mounting nuts. The tyre and outer rim blew off and he received head and face injuries, broken arms and knee, and severe bruising.

Following the incident, the NSW Department of Mineral Resources issued Safety Alert number SA01-15. It recommended all mines:

- carry out an audit to identify all vehicles that have split rim wheel assemblies
- complete a risk review on hazards associated with split rims
- ensure split rim assemblies have sufficient barriers to prevent anyone from accidentally removing split rim assembly nuts
- review safe work procedures to make sure they address all risks associated with vehicles fitted with split rim assemblies, and
- ensure only people who have been trained and who have been assessed as competent are allowed to take wheels off vehicles at the mine.

There are some important rules to remember when inflating tyres:

- large tyres should be inflated in a cage; if this is not possible, never sit or stand in front of a tyre and rim assembly being inflated
- use a clip-on chuck and make sure the inflation hose is long enough to permit the person inflating the tyre to stand well clear
- double check to ensure all components are properly seated prior to inflation
- don't inflate before all components are properly in place
- don't try to seat rings or other components by hammering while the tyre is inflated, partially inflated or being inflated
- don't hammer rims or wheel components with steel hammers; instead use rubber, lead, plastic or brass-faced mallets if it is necessary to gently tap components together
- inflate tyres in a safety cage to approximately 68.95 kPa (10 PSI); stop inflating and check components are properly assembled, if not, deflate and refit
- after inflation, completely deflate the tyre again to avoid localised tube overstretching
- never go off and leave a tyre that is being inflated, instead monitor the pressure



- do not inflate above the tyre manufacturer's maximum pressure shown on the sidewall
- tubeless tyres should be fitted and inflated with similar care and
- follow tyre and rim manufacturers' manual recommended demounting, deflating, repairing, mounting, and inflating procedures to ensure safety during tyre fitting. ■■



Be wary of gas build up in sealed frames

The March/April issue of BHPSTEEL WELDING SAFETY BULLETIN ran an article on ignition hazards that could be encountered when penetrating sealed compartments of frames on large mining equipment.

Frames are often filled with scrap metal ballast. The presence of chemically reactive metals, or electrochemically active pairs such as from zinc galvanising, can produce hydrogen, which can build to high pressure. Methane can also be produced by microbial action on contaminated scrap metal.

In USA, some workers were injured when hydrogen ignited after they drilled into a sealed frame. The gas at 1,276 kPa of pressure was found when another section of the equipment's frame was penetrated with a drill designed for safe penetration of high-pressure gas pipes.

A similar incident in NSW in 1998, resulted in no injuries but led to a dragline being out of service for some time. Department of Mineral Resources investigators found hydrogen at a pressure of 627 kPa in another section of the dragline's frame.

Sealed and filled compartments must be treated as if they always contain flammable gas at high pressure. Penetration should be done remotely in a safe area with a drill designed to safely penetrate high-pressure gas lines. The potential for hazard can be minimised by providing a vent hole

or relief valve or by using only clean, dry, carbon steel scrap as ballast.

Several other incidents were reported. One concerned a boilermaker who lost an eye when an angle grinder wheel broke and another involved an acetylene cylinder falling from its trolley while being lifted by crane.

BHPSTEEL Welding Safety Bulletin is circulated by email within the organisation and to other interested people. The editor, Bob Cunningham, can be contacted on 02 4275 4443 or by email at bob.cunningham@bhpsteel.com ■■



Meeting your General Rule 2000 responsibilities

Two new books to help you meet your General Rule 2000 responsibilities are now available from the NSW Department of Mineral Resources.

They are the Mines Inspection General Rule 2000 Compliance Audit and the second edition of BE AWARE, BE SAFE, a safety booklet to help you understand and implement the conditions of mining legislation.

BE AWARE, BE SAFE tells how a mining operation can test the effectiveness of its prepared mine safety management plan. It includes an explanation of General Rule 2000, a chapter on the role of verification, a guide to self assessment, methods of reviewing safety operations and a section about what is expected of mine owners and operators.

The Mines Inspection General Rule 2000 Compliance Audit is a first step

audit tool to review the way a mine is meeting its legislative responsibilities.

It is a "work through" book with 63 pages of detailed questions and tick boxes that allow you to assess your state of compliance and determine what needs to be done to fulfil your obligations under General Rule 2000.

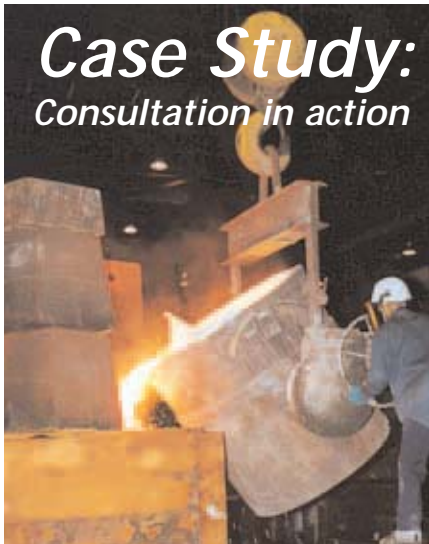
Mines Inspection General Rule 2000 Compliance Audit and the second edition of BE AWARE, BE SAFE are available from the NSW Department of Mineral Resources Head Office Information Counter phone: (02) 9901 8269, fax: (02) 9901 9247, email:

maniakak@minerals.nsw.gov.au ■■

Consultation: a two-way street

An effective consultation system is required for all workplaces in NSW under the OHS Act 2000 and OHS Regulation 2001.

This requirement includes all types of mining because the OHS Act is the



Case Study: Consultation in action

Faced with frequent minor burns to employees from flying sparks in its Sydney foundry, mining pump manufacturer, Warman International, decided to attack the OHS problem through consultation.

Start-of-shift meetings revealed foundry workers thought safety jackets provided by the company were inadequate. Warman International arranged for samples of all available jackets to be examined by the workers. A style was chosen but modifications were asked for. The supplier made up a prototype, which was submitted to the meetings and changed several times until it met the workers' needs.

This selection eliminated spark burns and there has been no problem getting the foundry workers to wear it because they designed it themselves! Warman International used this successful exercise as the model for full introduction of consultation to meet the requirements of OHS legislation. ■■

principal act governing health and safety. Mining legislation is "associated legislation" and its provisions must be also met by all mining and extractive industry operations in NSW.

Consultation should not be seen as something mines are made to undertake by legislation. Instead it should be a valuable tool to improve the safety of any mine.

As the Act defines, consultation is:

- sharing of relevant information about OHS and welfare with employees
- an opportunity for employees to express their views and contribute to the resolution of OHS and welfare issues, and
- a way for the views of employees to be considered.

It must be a two-way street with the views and expertise of everybody taken into account. Effective consultation works because it is often the case that nobody knows the hazards of a job better than the people who do the job.

How do you meet your legislative obligations by implementing effective consultation at your mine? The answer is in OHS CONSULTATION, A CODE OF PRACTICE published by WorkCover NSW. Its catalogue number is 311 and it is available from the WorkCover NSW Client Contact Centre 13 10 50.

On the left is an example of consultation being used to address a specific OHS problem. Consultation should also be used to address the broader picture of OHS so that everybody has had an opportunity to voice their opinion on, and is committed to, the aims and principles of the workplace OHS program. ■■

Learning about court procedures

The Investigation Branch of the NSW Department of Mineral Resources has run a series of two-day courses to prepare staff for what they would experience if called to give evidence at a Coronial Inquest or other legal proceedings.

Attendees also included District Check Inspectors and others who might be involved with mine safety incidents.

Between 12 and 16 people attended each course. They were held at Singleton, Gateshead, Wollongong and Orange.

Those attending included Investigators, Inspectors, Mine Safety officers, Scientific staff from the Lidcombe Laboratory, personnel from Environment and Mining Registrars.

The aim was to give the staff a grounding in how they should collect information, brief legal counsel and then present the information from the witness box to an audience that might not have technical or mining experience.

In the next stage of the course, participants will be given evidence from a hypothetical investigation and then they will be asked to present this evidence from a witness box in a mock court before a judge, under cross-examination from a real barrister.

The course was developed and presented with the assistance of the Brief Group P/L, a legal consultancy specialising in health and safety issues and is made up of former prosecuting solicitors. ■■

Safe mining in the minerals industry

A new publication, **Minerals Industry Safety Guidelines**, is being prepared to replace **Guidelines for Safe Mining**. It covers all aspects of health and safety in all non-coal mining operations and it is cross-referenced to the **Safety Management Plan Workbook** to enable practical application.

The information is vital for all mines developing or reviewing operating practices. It can help mines assess risks, develop risk controls, identify required competency standards and develop training programs. The publication is in the form of a loose-leaf folder to

enable updating of sections and changing of legislative requirements. It is a living document that will have new sections added when developed according to changing mining requirements and improving standards for Occupational Health and Safety.

Minerals Industry Safety Guidelines is of national importance because it contains information provided by several state organisations. It is supported by:

- NSW Department of Mineral Resources
- Victoria Department of Natural Resources and Environment
- Northern Territory Department of

Business, Industry and Resource Development

- WA Department of Minerals and Petroleum Resources
- NSW Minerals Council
- Northern Territory Minerals Council
- Victorian Minerals and Energy Council
- Tasmanian Minerals Council Limited

Minerals Industry Safety Guidelines will be available from the NSW Department of Mineral Resources Head Office Information Counter phone: (02) 9901 8269, fax: (02) 9901 9247, email: maniakak@minerals.nsw.gov.au, from the regional offices of the NSW Department of Mineral Resources or from the other supporting organisations. ■■

MINESAFE

Union establishes mine safety website

The CFMEU has established MINESafe to help mineworkers get information on Australian and International Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) matters. The purpose is to raise safety awareness among employees and disseminate information about International Labour Organisation (ILO) OHS conventions. MINESafe is committed to:

- establishing a self sustaining mineworkers' network that develops management tools and information services designed to protect the health and welfare of workers, communities and the environment
- developing a database of mining operations, which will include information on ratification of ILO OHS conventions
- raising awareness so that important ILO OHS conventions are acknowledged, understood, implemented and developed
- producing frequent network bulletins and developing training materials, and
- developing both national and international information exchange.

The MINESafe website points out that stringent maintenance of Health and Safety standards, combined with the introduction of effective legislation, will save lives and reduce injuries.

ILO figures show that miners account for only 1% of the global workforce but 7% of global fatalities. There are around 11,000 mining fatalities around the world each year and up to one million lost-time injuries.

MINESafe will carry information from the ILO, CFMEU, ICEM, Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines, NSW Department of Mineral Resources, Coal Services Pty Ltd and the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission. The prototype of MINESafe can be seen on the web at <http://minesafe-dev.socialchange.net.au> when it is fully operational, the website address will be: www.minesafe.org ■■

Nominations for unplanned movement group

Nominations are being sought for an industry group to be formed to examine the issue of unplanned movement of remote controlled mining equipment.

The industry group will provide advice on this significant issue to mine safety advisory committees and to the Mine Safety Council.

The Chairman of the industry group will be John Waudby, who is the NSW Department of Mineral Resources Senior Inspector of Electrical Engineering for Mine Safety.

The group will review incidents, Australian Standards, preparation of guidelines, legislation and report to industry advisory safety groups.

Nominations should be submitted by September 30, 2002, to John Waudby, Senior Inspector of Electrical Engineering, NSW Department of Mineral Resources. Fax: 02 4942 2323, Email: waudbyj@minerals.nsw.gov.au ■■

New faces

WARWICK SCHOFIELD

Warwick Schofield has been appointed Mine Safety Officer for the NSW Department of Mineral Resources at Lightning Ridge. He brings to the position a wealth of experience in opal mining, industry and education. For the last five years, Warwick and his wife, Margaret, have been opal miners, operating several claims around the Lightning Ridge area. He has also built up a unique knowledge of the area by driving the local tourist bus. Prior to moving to Lightning Ridge, Warwick ran a major poultry-producing business at Tamworth, where he considered his major responsibility was ensuring the safety of employees operating pumps, tractors, bobcats and belt-driven machinery. Before moving into the poultry industry, Warwick spent 13 years as a High

School teacher, finishing as Head Teacher of Science and Agriculture at Narrabri High. He has also led four-wheel-drive, tag-along expeditions into remote areas of Australia. Warwick has a Degree in Earth Science and Ecology from Macquarie University and he has a Diploma in Professional Counselling.



Warwick Schofield at work in his claim (and practising what he preaches!), prior to joining the NSW Department of Mineral Resources as a Safety Officer at Lightning Ridge

ROBERT OLIVER

Robert Oliver has replaced Richard Coleman as OHS Strategy Manager for the NSW Minerals Council. Richard has taken up the position of National OHS Manager with Boral Ltd. Robert is no stranger to the mining industry, having previously held this position at the Minerals Council from 1998 to October 2000. During that time he represented the Council's member companies in negotiations on the Mines Inspection Act, General Rule 2000 and the CMRA Regulations 1999. Prior to joining the Minerals Council, Robert held a range of senior positions with WorkCover NSW and gained extensive experience in developing and undertaking industry consultation on both OHS and workers compensation legislation and regulation. He returned to WorkCover in October 2000, where he managed the introduction of a new industry classification system for WorkCover premiums and the new WorkCover Premium Discount Scheme. ■■

Safety Alerts

SA 02-05 Driller killed in NZ quarry

A driller was killed when his overalls became entangled while he was manually fitting a new rod into the rod changer of an Ingersoll Rand XL 635 crawler rig. It is recommended operations using drilling equipment assess safe work procedures for rod handling and energy isolation. Work procedures must be put in place that remove the risk to people from equipment which is moving or likely to move.

SA 02-04 Coroner's inquest into death at quarry

A quarry worker died from multiple injuries when struck by a front-end loader. The Coroner said drugs had contributed to the worker's death and recommended mines should put in place procedures to prevent employees and other people using drugs and alcohol on mine sites. Mines should provide information and training on symptoms of using drugs and alcohol, effects of common drugs, effects of mixing drugs and/or alcohol, effects of drugs and alcohol on a person who is tired, stressed, injured or on prescription medicine. Mines should have random tests for drugs and alcohol. The mine site's drug and alcohol policy should be enforced. Mine Managers and General Managers must comply with legislation dealing with risks to health and safety due to drugs and alcohol.

Safety alerts can be downloaded from the NSW Department of Mineral Resources website: www.minerals.nsw.gov.au ■■

You have a duty of care

Under Section Eight of the OHS Act 2000, all employers have a Duty of Care to ensure the health, safety and welfare of their employees.

This is because a contract of employment gives the employer significant control over what employees do, how they do it, when they do it and where they do it. With this right of control comes the responsibility to protect the workers from harm.

The General Duty of Care is outlined in the OHS Act 2000, brought into operation by the OHS Regulations 2001. The OHS Act is the principal act governing safety in all NSW workplaces, including mines.

It sets out the primary obligations for workplace safety of employers, controllers of workplaces and other duty holders such as manufacturers

and suppliers. It also states the responsibilities of employees.

Mining legislation is "associated legislation" and its provisions must be met as well as those of the OHS Act. Mining legislation sets out how the primary obligations under the OHS Act are to be applied. For example: through Mine Safety Management Plans. It also details how hazards in mining are to be controlled.

Duty of Care goes beyond protecting your employees from harm. It also makes you responsible for the health and safety of anybody who might be on your mine site, including contractors and visitors. This includes any people who may be present on

your mine site without permission, such as trespassers!

Under the OHS Act 2000 the Duty of Care is absolute and it requires employers to:

- make sure the work premises are safe and without risks to health
- provide and maintain equipment, systems of work and working environment that are safe and without risk to health
- ensure safe use, handling and storage of hazardous substances
- provide information, instruction, training and supervision necessary to ensure health and safety, and
- provide adequate facilities for employee welfare. ■■

2002 NSW Mining Occupational Health and Safety Conference Sunday 1st - Tuesday 3rd September - Crowne Plaza, Terrigal

The Conference

The 2002 NSW Mining Occupational Health and Safety Conference is hosted annually by the NSW Minerals Council and supported by the NSW Department of Mineral Resources. The conference provides delegates with up-to-date information on Occupational Health and Safety practices and an opportunity to share experiences gained from workplace and industry safety programs and initiatives.

Who should attend

The seminar attracts mine workers and OH&S professionals and managers from across the mining, quarrying and extractive industries, as well as suppliers of products and services, government representatives, unions and industry groups.

Contact

For further information:
Robyn Hodges, phone: (02) 9267 6488
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ARMIDALE

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(PO Box 65 Armidale NSW 2350)
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New Phone No: (02) 6776 0300
New Fax No: (02) 6776 0399

BROKEN HILL

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LIDCOMBE

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Phone (02) 9649 8959, Fax (02) 9649 5631

LIGHTNING RIDGE

Lot 60 Morilla Street, Lightning Ridge NSW 2834
(PO Box 314 Lightning Ridge NSW 2834)
Phone (02) 6829 0678
Fax (02) 6829 0825

LITHGOW

The Hartley Building
184 Mort Street, Lithgow NSW 2790
(PO Box 69 Lithgow NSW 2790)
Phone (02) 6351 3052
Fax (02) 6352 3876

LONDONDERRY

Core Library
947-953 Londonderry Road, Londonderry NSW 2753
Phone (02) 4777 4316
Fax (02) 4777 4397

ORANGE

185 Anson Street, Orange 2800
(PO Box 53 Orange NSW 2800)
Phone (02) 6392 6333
Fax (02) 6392 6363

SINGLETON

1 Civic Avenue, Joint Coal Board, Singleton NSW 2330
(PO Box 51 Singleton NSW 2330)
DX 7071
Phone (02) 6572 1899 (Inspectors)
Phone (02) 6572 4200 (Geology)
Fax (02) 6572 1201

WOLLONGONG

State Government Offices
Level 3, Block F, 84 Crown Street, Wollongong NSW 2500
(PO Box 674 Wollongong NSW 2520)
Phone (02) 4227 1699
Fax (02) 4226 3851



Do the right people in your organisation read Mine Safety Update?

NSW Mine Safety Update can only be of assistance if it is read by the widest possible cross section of people who can influence safety performance in mining.

If you want to get Mine Safety Update mailed directly to you at home or work, or want it to go to someone else, please fill in the this form, fax it to us and we will add the name to the mailing list.

TO: Steve Stewart, Mine Safety Performance Improvement Division, NSW Department of Mineral Resources, Fax number: (02) 9901 8584

Please add the following name to the Mine Safety Update mailing list:

Name:.....

Position:

Mine / Company:

Address:.....

.....

..... **Postcode:**