



NSW DEPARTMENT OF  
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Partners in the **profitable** and **sustainable development**  
of our State's **agriculture, fisheries, forests and minerals**



Mechanical Engineering Safety Seminar

August 2007

Communication and managing information



# Overview

- The role of NSW DPI in informing industry about mine safety best practice
- Industry's obligations in regards to safety information
- Managing safety information in a systematic manner
- Audit Checklist for Safety Alert Management Systems



# Communication

- Men are from Mars, women are from Venus
- What can we learn from this?



## Managing information

- The objective of the NSW Government and the NSW mining industry is zero fatalities and serious injury
- NSW DPI informs the mining industry of best safety practice and supports it with the tools and resources to improve safety performance



# Managing information

- NSW DPI's Mine Safety Branch has a key role in communicating safety information
  
- NSW DPI communicates safety information through a range of tools, including:
  - Safety Alerts and Safety Bulletins
  - Mine Safety Update (quarterly newsletter)
  - Guidelines (MDGs) and technical references



# Managing information

- Mine Safety website  
([www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/safety](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/safety))
- Audit and assessment tools
- Workbooks and kits
- Legislation Updates
- Safety publications
- PrimeFacts information sheets
- Workshops, information days and seminars
- Guidance from NSW DPI Mine Safety inspectors and officers



# Managing information

- Presentations at industry conferences and seminars by NSW DPI officers
  - Communication strategy/documentation to inform industry of legislative reform, eg MHS Regulation and extension of the OHS Regulation
  - Incident statistics and learnings from COMET
- NSW DPI Mine Safety facilitates consultation with industry stakeholders:
- Supporting NSW Mine Safety Advisory Council



# Managing information

- Supporting the NSW coal, metalliferous and extractive sectors Safety Advisory Committees
- Expert industry participation in the development of safety guidelines
- Providing opportunities for industry to comment on guidelines/legislative reform
- Consultation with key industry stakeholders, eg NSW Minerals Council, CFMEU, AWU, MEMMES, Australian Conference of Mining Chief Inspectors, IQA, Cement Concrete and Aggregates, Australian Mines and Metals Assoc



## Managing information

- Industry has an obligation to review and assess the safety information available from NSW DPI.
- All stakeholders should have access to safety information, including contractors, OEMs and plant/equipment suppliers



# Managing information

- Safety information helps industry fulfil its legislative obligations
  
- After reviewing the information, ask yourself the following questions:
  - Is it relevant to my operation?
  - How will I manage this information?



# Managing information

- What do you do with safety information when you receive it?
- How do learn from it? Has it helped you adopt industry safety best practice? Is your workforce educated about its lessons?
- Safety information is your window to industry best practice.



# Managing information

- But you must use it improve your systems, processes, workplace behaviour and equipment design or manufacture
- Improved safety performance can be driven by lessons learned from past experience and from best practice



## Managing information

- Conversely, ignoring past experience can have negative safety consequences
- Fatalities and serious injuries in recent years highlight a failure to learn from past experience – for example plant and equipment



## Managing information

- However, a recent incident involving the rollover of a bulldozer highlighted how behavioural change can have positive outcomes.
- The driver did not suffer injury - he was wearing a seatbelt. NSW DPI issued a Safety Alert in early 2006 about passenger restraint devices



# Managing information

- The Safety Alert Management System Audit Checklist available for industry  
(available on Mine Safety website)
- The checklist helps industry process a Safety Alert in a systematic manner through its information and communication processes



# Happiness in the home

- Systematically managing information can help prevent fatalities and serious injury
- It can also prevent marital stress!



# Managing information

- By adopting a systematic approach to managing information, industry can harness the valuable lessons of past experience
- Communicating these messages to ALL people in your workforce and incorporating new learnings and best practice will help improve safety performance.



# Managing information

- “The only way you can motivate people is to communicate with them.”

Lee Iacocca, former CEO Chrysler

- Is your workforce motivated to improve its safety performance and achieve zero harm?
- Do they have the benefit of learning from past experience and best practice?



# Finding out more

## **How do you get more information?**

- Guidance Notes, Technical References, Guidelines, seminar PowerPoint presentations, MDGs and other information is available online at:

[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/safety](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/safety)



## Finding out more

- You can contact an Inspector or Mine Safety Officer
- Alternatively, you can email your question to:  
[mine.safety@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mine.safety@dpi.nsw.gov.au)
- You can also register to receive safety information via email at the Mine Safety website:

[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/safety](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/safety)



# Summary

- Review the mine safety information available from NSW DPI
- Assess whether the information is relevant to your work area, and if so act upon it
- Utilise the Audit Checklist for Safety Alert Management Systems



## Summary

- Make sure the lessons you learn from past experience are translated to improved safety performance in your workplace!