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WISE NEWS

Workplace Industrial Safety and Environment Newsletter

This Occupational Health, Safety & Environment Newsletter is published by the Pulp and Paper Industry OHS&E Unit.

HUH??



in this edition ...

- A minute with...
- Changes to high risk licensing
- Workplace fatality statistics
- Recent Prosecutions

PLUS

Highlights from the 2007 Pulp & Paper Industry Conference **WORKPLACE CULTURE - LEADING THE WAY**



A MINUTE WITH...

BELINDA FOX
Administration/Communications Officer
PPW OHS&E Unit

Describe yourself in 3 words..... Likes to laugh

Nickname... Bel

I barrack for.... Geelong

My magical power would be... To control time

Who would you like to sit next to on a plane...
Gordon Ramsay

One item you would take on a desert island.... a good book



High Risk Licensing

Following adoption of the **National Standard for Licensing Persons Performing High Risk Work** by states and territories, a licence to perform high risk work is required by people working with plant and equipment in the following categories:

- ✓ Crane and hoist operation
- ✓ Forklift operation
- ✓ Pressure equipment operation
- ✓ Scaffolding, rigging and dogging work.

ALTERED ARRANGEMENTS



Existing certificates of competence or tickets must be transferred to the licensing system by registering with your state based authority. Many states are well underway with the conversion of existing certificates and tickets. Phase in dates are listed below for your information.

QUEENSLAND: 1 July 2008 - 30 June 2013 depending on type and when issued

VICTORIA: 1 July 2007 - 30 June 2012 depending on type and when issued

NEW SOUTH WALES: Current until 29 March 2009

TASMANIA: 1 July 2008 - 30 June 2012 depending on type and when issued

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: 1 July 2008 - start of phase in period

KEY CHANGES TO THE SYSTEM

- ⇒ Inclusion of forklift operations and self erecting tower crane operations.
- ⇒ Licences are now renewable every five (5) years.
- ⇒ Licences must contain photographic identification.
- ⇒ Licences are valid in every Australian state and territory, enabling people to operate high risk equipment under consistent standards everywhere in Australia.

IF YOU NEED TO TRANSFER YOUR EXISTING CERTIFICATES OR TICKET PLEASE SEE YOUR SUPERVISOR OR REGISTER DIRECTLY WITH YOUR STATE AUTHORITY

“FRENCH” TOAST AT HSR BREAKFAST

Australian Paper, Maryvale Mill held its annual HSRs breakfast in October to coincide with the Victorian Health & Safety week. Attendance was up a third on last years numbers.

The group was treated to a choice of healthy lifestyle breakfast or the traditional English fry-up. Needless to say there was a considerable amount of fruit left over and no bacon...

This year while enjoying their hearty breakfast, HSRs were treated to various local presentations. None of them more entertaining and informative than that of Stuart French, a very passionate HSR from the Finishing/Converting area.

Stuart spoke on his recent attendance of the OHS Conference “**Workplace Culture – Leading the Way**”. He highlighted not only some light-hearted moments but spoke of the many ideas and inspirations he gained from the speakers and presentations at the conference and how they could be adapted to suit the Maryvale Mill.



Stuart French talking to HSRs at Australian Paper, Maryvale about his recent attendance at the OHS Conference



Swearing in the workplace

Swearing in the workplace relieves stress and is good for workers and bosses, according to a new study. Foul language creates a good team spirit, allows staff to vent frustrations and cements relationships. The study found employees use swearing on a continuous basis but not necessarily in a negative, abusive manner. Women swore more than expected – especially among themselves. The research found a ban on swearing would be bad for motivation and morale in most organisations.

“Swearing is used as a social phenomenon to reflect solidarity and enhance group cohesiveness or as a psychological phenomenon to release stress”, Professor Baruch stated.

A warning was issued however, that abusive and offensive swearing caused stress and should be stamped out.

PAPER MILL INCIDENTS

CAUSTIC / STEAM BURNS

Two operators received serious burns when they were exposed to a combination of black liquor and steam during a shut down procedure in a NSW pulp mill.

At the time of going to print, investigators have been unable to ascertain what happened, as the injured workers remain in the burns unit of a Sydney hospital.

More info will be provided when available.

KNEE INJURY

A paper machine crew were feeding paper from the calendar section to the reel drum and into a large jumbo. An employee was walking past and noticed the crew feeding up so went in to assist as the paper was building up at the jumbo. The employee pushed his foot into the sheet to push the build up of paper back down the chute. As a result of the incident the employee injured his knee.

CRUSHED ARM

An employee was clearing a plastic jam from rollers in trancel without isolating the machine. He was lying face down with his right arm between two rollers trying to pull the plastic out from underneath. The employee asked another employee to pass the air hose. As the employee got the air hose he walked in front of a beam which activated the damper roll rollers which crushed and pinned the employees arm.

WORKPLACE FATALITIES

162 notified work-related fatalities for the period July 2006 - June 2007 in workplaces across Australia

The occupation group **INTERMEDIATE PRODUCTION AND TRANSPORT WORKERS** contributed **31%** of all notified work related fatalities (the highest rate). The occupation group includes operators of moving and stationary plant, and machinery operators

The most common causes of fatalities were:

Mechanism of Fatality	Breakdown agency of fatality						All agencies
	Mobile plant and transport	Machinery and fixed plant	Non-powered equipment	Environmental agencies	Materials and substances	Other agency or agency not stated	
Vehicle accidents ^(a)	25	2	3	0	0	0	30
Being hit by moving objects	20	3	2	0	0	4	29
Being hit by falling objects	5	5	5	7	6	1	29
Falls from a height	2	1	13	8	0	4	28
Contact with electricity	1	10	0	0	2	0	13
Being trapped by moving machinery	1	8	2	0	0	0	11
Drowning/immersion	2	0	0	3	0	2	7
Other mechanism of fatality	3	3	1	1	1	6	15
All mechanisms	59	32	26	19	9	17	162

^(a)Includes rollovers of mobile mechanical equipment such as tractors, forklifts and construction vehicles

30 Vehicle accidents

29 Being hit by moving objects

29 Being hit by falling objects

28 Falls from a height

13 Electrocution

11 Being trapped by moving machinery

Recent Prosecutions

FINED \$27,000

Six Metre Fall After Fall Protection Left to Workers

A roofing contractor was convicted and fined after a worker fell from a pitched roof in 2005, sustaining serious injuries.

The worker was installing corrugated iron roofing sheets. At the time of the fall, he was not wearing a harness or lanyard, nor was there scaffolding or structural protection in place.

The Magistrate heard that although there was a mobile scaffolding unit available, the employer did not request the workers to use it. The employer also made available fall protection, but did not enforce a policy of wearing it.

The supervisor did not have formal training in supervision in OHS and had left the site just before the incident occurred. The supervisor had instructed workers to work in an area where scaffolding was erected, but when he left the workers decided to work in a different area.

The Magistrate stated that ensuring worker safety as far as reasonably practicable was a matter for the employer, and it was its responsibility to ensure safety devices were used and that the culture did not place employees at risk.

The employer pleaded guilty and was fined \$27,000.

FINED \$19,646

Hand Amputation

A food manufacturing company was fined and convicted for breaching OHS legislation after an on-hired worker's hand was amputated.

In 2004 an on-hired worker and a new employee were instructed by their supervisor to clean a blender. They were left by themselves, without supervision.

The worker's hand was trapped when a pneumatic sliding door closed. The workers pressed the emergency stop button, but neither of them knew how to isolate the air or turn the power off. In an attempt to free the worker's hand, a control button was pressed, starting the blender.

The plant had been operational for 15 years but had no safe operating procedures, hazard identification or risk assessments. The Magistrate heard that the blender was inadequately guarded. The employer also failed to provide adequate training and supervision to the workers.

RECOGNISE SIGNS OF A STROKE

Doctors say a bystander can recognise a stroke by asking three simple questions

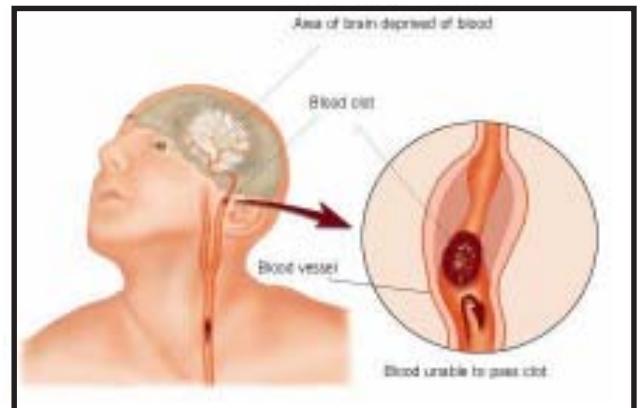
Just remember the 1st three letters....

S - Ask the individual to SMILE.

T - Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently) (i.e. It is sunny out today)

R - Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call 000 immediately and describe the symptoms to the operator.



Source: G Gasperotti, SCA Hygiene