

# WISE NEWS



Workplace Industrial Safety and Environment Newsletter

**PULP  
&  
PAPER  
INDUSTRY  
OHS  
CONFERENCE**

**MELBOURNE**

**27-28  
OCTOBER  
2009**

**HOTEL WINDSOR**

## **HEALTH & WELLBEING IN THE WORKPLACE**

Pulp & Paper Industry  
Occupational Health, Safety  
& Environment Unit

A joint venture sponsored  
by



Kimberly-Clark Australia



Established 1991

The Pulp & Paper Industry OHS conference is fast approaching and we are pleased to announce this year's program will be focussed on Health & Wellbeing in the Workplace.

Health and Wellbeing programs are widely recognized as a modern, key component in maintaining worker health and safety. Outcomes from such programs transition into lifestyle in general, and can create healthier pathways to better choices at work.

Within the framework of Health and Wellbeing is a wide range of programs, and our two day event will bring together leaders in this area to explore and discuss whether health and well being programs are smart business, how they can integrate with wider risk management strategies and where these programs are headed in the future.

To pre-register for this exciting event please email [jangus@ppwsafety.org](mailto:jangus@ppwsafety.org).

### **A MINUTE WITH ...**

**Danielle Kessner, Safety Health & Environment Department HSR,  
Australian Paper Maryvale**



**Describe yourself in 3 words ...** Way too normal

**Nickname ...** The occasional "Dani" and "Sam" from my dad

**I barrack for ...** Da da da da da, da da da da da.... We are the Navy Blues...

**Who would you like to sit next to on a plane ...** Hamish and Andy

**One item you would take on a desert island ...** Hammock

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

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# SAFETY ALERTS

## Paper Machine Reel Spool Incident— Serious Facial Injury

On 2nd February, a paper mill employee suffered a broken jaw and crush injuries to the mouth and cheek bone, when his head came into contact with a reel spool, while in the process of preparing a small reel of paper for storage. The combined weight of the reel spool and paper involved was approx 1.35 tonnes.

### Details of the incident

The incident occurred between 'Winder 3' backstand rail end, and the paper machine reel storage rails behind Winder 3. The injured operator, an experienced dryerman, had used the crane, with a remote control box, to remove a small reel from the Winder 3 backstand rail. The reel was then suspended in the crane hooks at head height close to the backstand rail end while

the operator dressed the reel and disposed of any paper broke. The detail is not clear, as all witness accounts are not yet available, but whilst the operator was leaving the area the crane moved and the operator's head was caught or struck by the reel spool in the area of the Winder 3 backstand rail end.

HSE investigations into the exact circumstances surrounding the incident, with the full co-operation of the company, are still ongoing.

In the meantime the company has taken the following actions:

1. Full crane function checks have been carried out by service engineers from Kone Cranes; these proved all clear and the crane was put back in service.
2. Work instruction has been re-issued to avoid all working on reels that are suspended in the crane hooks e.g. For dressing reels and taking lab samples.

3. If working on a suspended reel is necessary, then the crane emergency stop must be activated.

### Actions for consideration at all paper mills

Taking samples and dressing reels is a common everyday practice in the industry which until now may have been considered a low risk activity. However, all companies are now strongly advised to review their current operating procedures against the above information, in particular the practice of working on or near any suspended load.

When reviewing your risk assessment and safe system of work consider:

- ◆ The load characteristics, and the surrounding environment;
- ◆ If the task in hand has been planned in advance;
- ◆ Human behaviour (stress, fatigue, perception of

- information contained in safe systems of work, or misuse);
- ◆ The equipment being used, including hand held controls, layout and positioning;
- ◆ If current SSoW are in operation, are they being adhered to, and how are they being managed?

*Please note:*

*None of the above actions for consideration implies or confirms that these were contributory factors to the incident. They are merely pointers for companies to consider. Investigations are still ongoing and until completed the only factual information available has been supplied by the company in the details of the incident.*

### For further information on any of these incidents please contact:

Denise Campbell-Burns  
National Coordinator  
Pulp and Paper Industry  
OHS&E Unit  
(03) 9274-9236



# SAFETY ALERTS



## Paper Machine Incident—serious injury to lower left arm

**Location:** IP UK Ltd, Scotland, Paper Machine (3)  
**Date:** Tuesday, 13 January 2009 @ 3:15pm  
**Employee:** Machine Assistant (33 years of age)

### Accident Circumstances:

Following a paper break at Paper Machine (3), an employee sustained a serious injury to his lower left arm. The injured person was tidying up paper tails at the reel up area. During the process of sheet transfer to the new shell, the paper failed to blow up into the nip point aided by the tail feeding device. The injured person then attempted to throw the sheet over by hand. During this process it appears he became entangled within the heavy gram sheet, which resulted in his arm being pulled across the shell and into the nip point between the reel shell and the reel-up drum. A colleague hit the emergency stop button and released the secondary machine arm, so as to release the shell from the drum. The injured person was released from the machine and given first aid treatment until an ambulance crew arrived, he was then stabilised and immediately transferred to hospital. The medical staff at the hospital performed a surgical operation which resulted in amputation of the lower left arm at the elbow.

### Key Points

- ◆ Machine break
- ◆ Heavy grammage grade 160 gsm Very small shell (not as illustrated)
- ◆ Blower system/sheet feeding device ineffective at heavy grammage
- ◆ Operator assistance required to feed sheet to shell
- ◆ Tools available for assisting sheeting into nip point
- ◆ Procedures established, however not fully effective on heavy grammage
- ◆ Current guard creates effective distances (at knee level)

### Corrective actions / Learning Points

Preliminary investigation has led to the following corrective actions:

- ◆ Immediately put in place a procedure to ensure risk is reduced at PM3 reel up (this was done before machine was restarted)
- ◆ Review of risk assessments for all nip points on PM3 machine and at PM4
- ◆ New procedure for blowing full sheet on to shell
- ◆ Complete safety briefs will all crews making sure that they are fully aware of the incident and all corrective actions

- ◆ Investigate the possibility of increasing air flow and pressure to improve the reel up blower system
- ◆ Repainting of the floor at reel up guard with message clearly stating “**NO ENTRY**”
- ◆ Review guard design—consider as a design which creates a physical barrier rather than just a distance obstacle
- ◆ Review and standardise tools associated with this task



# INDUSTRY FLASH!

## Italy: Fatal accident after fall into sawing equipment in a pulp mill

**Date:** 17 January 2009 at 15:30hrs

**Site:** Production unit of wood logs to feed the pulp mill of Duino (Burgo Group—Italy—close to Trieste). Property and management of this unit, adjacent to the Burgo mill, have been outsourced a few years ago to the company of Monfalcone Harbour from which the wood trunks are sourced.

**Injuries:** Death

**Facts (\*):** Initial inquiries were under way to determine the causes of the accident. For process reasons related to the Duino mill, wood trunks have to be cut into logs of 1 metre length. The sawing is done inside a 10m tall structure. IP was supposedly on a platform at height when he apparently fell into the sawing equipment. The emergency stop system of the saw failed for reasons not yet clear. There were no witnesses, and the accident was only discovered when various parts of his body were found inside the log shuttle feeding the pulp mill.

**(\*):** Look out!, all this information came from local and national Italian newspapers. Until now we haven't been made aware of any official communication from the authorities, companies or paper confederation concerning this matter.

### RISK ASSESSMENT—EQUIPMENT GUARDING—EMERGENCY SYSTEM CHECKING—HAZARD SIGNS

**Comments:** We should feel concerned by this type of accident !!!

- Pulpers screws
- Crusher for wood chips to feed biomass boilers

Access to this equipment and to ramps, conveyors or hoppers to feed them have to be guarded, regularly inspected, and fitted with the appropriate emergency stop systems. Nobody should be in a position where they can be drawn inside this type of equipment, by lack of concentration, because of a collapse, to the flow of material feeding the equipment, or an equipment failure itself.



**NB:** *This information was sourced verbatim from an Industry Flash issued by Gilles Botalla Battistina, President, The Grouping of South-eastern Paper Industries (a French trade union covering the paper industry created on 8 October 1929)*

## OUR NEW WEBSITE IS COMING ...

Keep an eye out for our new website, which we'll be launching at the beginning of May. You'll be able to find information on training, the latest Industry Safety Alerts, archive copies of WISE News, lots of links to useful sites and the latest news on health, safety and the environment for our industry.

If you have ideas you'd like to see included on the site please let us know.

## More Links Between Shiftwork and Adverse Health Impacts

New research has demonstrated further links between shiftwork and negative health impacts. US researchers have found that the disruptive effect of working shifts on the body's natural circadian cycles can cause hormonal and metabolic changes that could lead to obesity, high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease. The study, from the Harvard Medical School, supports recent Australian research that found shift workers were more likely to smoke and be overweight.

## Health & Safety Representatives' Training Entitlements

### **Are you a newly elected Health & Safety Representative or Deputy?**

If so you are entitled to access training under your relevant state legislation.

### **Are you an existing Health & Safety Representative or Deputy?**

If so you may be entitled to access refresher training under your relevant state legislation.

To discuss and confirm your training entitlements please contact Denise Campbell-Burns at [d.campbellburns@ppwsafety.org](mailto:d.campbellburns@ppwsafety.org) OR your union representative.

**Do you have any ideas or feedback relating to the WISE Newsletter? If so, please call (03) 9274 9235, Fax: (03) 9274 8294 or Email: [info@ppwsafety.org](mailto:info@ppwsafety.org)**