



# 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.

**WORKPLACE SAFETY WEEK -  
SAFE WORK WEEK -  
WORK SAFE WEEK -**

**OCTOBER  
23 - 28, 2005**

*in this  
in this  
edition...  
edition...*

- ◆ **Safety Week -  
October 23 - 28**
- ◆ **The effects of  
Overtime!**
- ◆ **Industry  
donation in  
memory of  
workmates**
- ◆ **Forklift  
Procedures...**
- ◆ **AMCOR FINE  
tripled...**
- ◆ **The Quarterly  
Report**

That's right... for the first time all states are having their health and safety week at the same time!

Following a resolution from the National OHS Commission earlier this year it was agreed that all states would align their health and safety weeks. This allows a concentrated and coordinated focus on safety across the country.

What does the Pulp and Paper Industry OHS&E Unit have planned for this inaugural event?

We are currently focused on acknowledging the important role the OHS Representatives play in your workplace. They represent your workgroup on safety matters and participate in safety activities on your behalf.

We want to make sure that not only you can recognize them at work – but that anyone coming into your work area can also recognize them. To assist with this we are providing all elected OHS Representatives with OHS REP polo shirts. *More on this initiative inside...*

This edition of WISE News covers a range of issues that are relevant for us or of interest including a summary of a recent US study that identifies overtime as a key factor in increasing the risk of injury at work; the increased fine handed down to AMCOR in the past couple of weeks and the \$2,000 donation made to the Industrial Deaths Support and Advocacy organization in memory of those colleagues who have been killed at work in recent years.

Until December... (Christmas again??)

Cheers,

*Denise*



## *a minute with...*

Describe yourself in 3 words... **A QUIET ACHIEVER**

One piece of PPE you would never leave home without... **TROUSERS**

Holden or Ford... **HOLDEN**

You barrack for... **PARRAMATTA EELS**

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

Who would you like to sit next to on a plane... **MY WIFE**

Health & Safety at work means... **ARRIVING HOME THE SAME WAY YOU LEFT FOR WORK - ALIVE!**



**Andrew Schaeffer**  
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### *Correspondence:*

**Denise Campbell-Burns**  
National Co-ordinator  
Pulp & Paper Industry  
OHS&E Unit

1st Floor,  
500 Swanston St.  
Carlton Vic 3053

Ph: (03) 9349 2344  
Fax: (03) 9349 2580  
info@ppwsafety.org

# OVERTIME INCREASES RISK OF INJURY...

Workers who perform overtime are substantially more likely to be injured, and the risk increases with the number of hours worked new research from the USA has found. The researchers looked at 5,139 work injuries over a 13 year study. Of those 2,799 occurred in jobs that fit into at least one of four exposure categories:

- *Extended hours per week (regularly working 60 or more hours per week);*
- *Extended hours per day (regularly working 12 or more hours per day);*

- *Working overtime (where the worker received an overtime payment); and*
- *Extended commuting time (travelling two or more hours per day).*

The results show that working overtime was associated with a 61% higher rate of injury compared to jobs without overtime. Working at least 12 hours per day was associated with a 37% increased rate of injury and working at least 60 hours per week increased the rate by 27%.

## INJURY INCREASES WITH HOURS...

The researchers found a strong positive association between the magnitude of extended hours per week and per day, and the corresponding injury incidence rate. For extended hours per week, every additional five hours

worked per week was associated with an average increase of about 0.7 injuries per 100 worker hours. For extended hours per day, every additional two hours worked per day (over eight) increased the risk of injury by about 1.2 injuries per 100 worker hours.

## LONG HOURS ARE RISKY REGARDLESS OF INDUSTRY...

The researchers note that unlike previous studies, their investigation covered a large variety of jobs and controlled for factors such as age, gender, occupation, industry and region.

They found that jobs with long working hours are not more risky merely because they are concentrated in inherently hazardous industries or occupations, or because of the demographic characteristics of the employees involved.

## SPECIAL ATTENTION NEEDED FOR OVERTIME WORKERS...

The researchers state that special attention should be paid to establishing protective measures for people working overtime.

- *Intensive hazard identification and control measures – such as safety inspections – could be focused on jobs in which employees work overtime schedules.*
- *Changes in work organization – such as periodic rest breaks, redesigning processes to avoid the*

- *need for overtime assignments, and employing more people who would work fewer hours.*
- *Employer-sponsored health promotion programs – such as education about long work schedules and ergonomic redesign to decrease job demands.*
- *Individual coping practices such as maintaining good sleep and nutrition and seeking supportive services when needed.*

# CALLING ALL OHS REPS

As part of our **Workplace Safety Week** activities in October we are producing **OHS REP** shirts and making them available to all elected OHS Representatives.

The production of the shirts is being funded by the Pulp and Paper Industry OHS&E Unit. Printing and distribution is planned for during health and safety week.

We want to make sure that **OHS REPS** are recognizable to anyone coming into the work area, as well as their own crew.

We would like to see all **OHS REPS** get behind this initiative and wear the shirts at work. This creates a much more visible presence for the REPS in the work area and reminds management and co-workers alike that they are there and should be consulted regarding all safety issues that affect, or could affect the work group.

**OHS REPS** can order shirts by contacting Alissa on (03) 9349 2344 or [a.chaaban@ppwsafety.org](mailto:a.chaaban@ppwsafety.org) - shirts are available in all sizes and come in two colours (fluro green/black & fluro orange/black).



## FORKLIFT PROCEDURES MUST BE CLEARLY COMMUNICATED!!!

A NSW employer has been fined \$110,000 after failing to have in place adequate procedures to manage forklift traffic.



The incident occurred when a forklift reversed into a warehouse aisle, colliding with another forklift already in the aisle, causing it to topple. One driver sustained serious injuries including multiple fractures; a punctured lung, a severed ear and severed tendons.

At the time of the incident the company only had informal procedures stipulating how many vehicles were permitted in an aisle. The evidence showed these were not clearly understood by employees.

It was found that training was conducted on-the-job and the employer was unable to provide specific details of the training. Documented risk assessments for tasks in the warehouse had been completed, but these were still in draft form at the time of the incident.

## Industry makes Donation in MEMORY OF WORKMATES

The Pulp and Paper Industry OHS&E Unit recently made a \$2,000 donation to the Industrial Deaths Support & Advocacy (IDSA) organization in memory of workers from the pulp and paper industry who have been killed in workplace incidents in recent years.



IDSA is a not-for-profit advocacy and support organization dedicated to assisting families, workers and employers in crisis as the result of a workplace death. They also take a proactive role in promoting health and safety at work and in OHS training forums.

They can be contacted at [www.idsa.com.au](http://www.idsa.com.au)

# The Quarterly **REPORT**

- a n i n d u s t r y p e r s p e c t i v e -



## STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS

### AMCOR FINE TRIPLED...

The Victorian Court of Appeal recently tripled the penalty imposed on Amcor Packaging (Australia) Pty Ltd to \$360,000 after the death of Darren Moon in March, 2003.

The original penalty was described by WorkSafe Victoria as 'inadequate' prior to the appeal by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

WorkSafe's Executive Director, John Merritt, said the Court of Appeal's decision reflected the increasing importance of workplace safety to the Victorian community.

### AMCOR

Botany, Fairfield, Functional Coatings

📁	<b>Recordable Case Incidents:</b>	<b>1</b>
📁	<b>Contractor/Labour Hire Incidents:</b>	<b>0</b>
📁	<b>Recordable Case Frequency Rate:</b>	<b>17.6</b>
	<i>(per million person hours)</i>	

#### Safety Activities...

The company had 2 serious incidents in recent months – one involving a cable failure at the Fairfield mill and the other a driveshaft failure at the Petrie mill. Both these incidents had serious implications, but were fortunately injury free. These incidents are currently being investigated with external agents to determine what led to the plant failures.

There have been significant activities across all sites to achieve AS/NZS4801 certification. Corrective actions are also underway regarding the two previous noted incidents and the Maryvale fatality.

### SCA HYGIENE AUSTRALASIA

Consumer - Box Hill

📁	<b>Recordable Lost Time Incidents:</b>	<b>3</b>
📁	<b>Contractor/Labour Hire Incidents:</b>	
📁	<b>Recordable Injury Frequency Rate:</b>	<b>31.0</b>
	<i>(per million person hours)</i>	

#### Safety Activities...

SCA Hygiene is one of 11 manufacturing sites targeted by WorkSafe Victoria. The site's safety management system was recently audited as part of the high risk enterprises project and found to be compliant in the management of OHS and risks. Phase III guarding risk assessments have been completed on paper machine 3.

The assessment process included all general guarding risks, re-assessment of all recent upgrades, wire section clothing change process and reel section end. 19 risks were highlighted in this process and they are expected to be completed by the end of 2005.

### KIMBERLY-CLARK AUSTRALIA

Millicent

📁	<b>Recordable Case Incidents:</b>	<b>3</b>
📁	<b>Contractor/Labour Hire Incidents:</b>	<b>7</b>
📁	<b>Recordable Case Frequency Rate:</b>	<b>13.1</b>
	<i>(per million person hours)</i>	

#### Safety Activities...

As part of the ongoing management of safety at the Millicent site ergonomic assessments have begun for office staff as their rate of occupational overuse syndrome is increasing. A number of audits and assessments are taking place across the site with OHS representatives utilizing the assessment tools as part of their recent Continuing training sessions.

**Do you have any ideas or feedback relating to the WISE Newsletter?**

If so, please call (03) 9349 2344 or Fax: (03) 9349 2580 or  
E-Mail : [info@ppwsafety.org](mailto:info@ppwsafety.org)