

Take A Seat!

We are encouraged to 'limber up' and prepare before lifting at work but do we take the time to adjust and prepare before taking a seat in the control room?

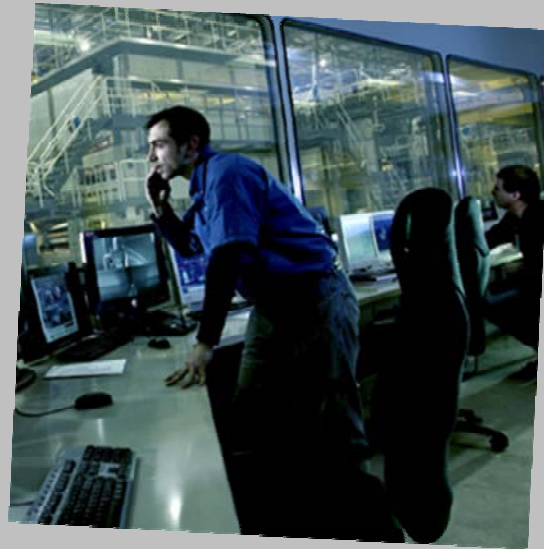
We spend extended periods of a shift at our screens, monitoring activities and keying in information. How often do you think about your 'work station' before you start work?

Adjust your chair:

- thighs are parallel to the floor
- feet rest comfortably flat
- back rest fits into the curve of the lower back
- seat is slightly tilted to suit you and decrease force on the lumbar spine

Armrests getting in the way? Adjust to suit

Desk too high? Adjust the chair to the desk and use a footrest



Christmas Time!

Yes it's that time of year again... Santa has his list out, he's checked it twice...and everyone else is elbowing each other out of the way at the shops!! We hope everyone has a safe and relaxing break and we're already looking forward to 2012!!

Denise & Jeni

W I S E

orkplace ndustrial afety and nvironment Newsletter

The last newsletter of the year should be filled with fun stories about our recent industry OHS conference and whacky Christmas 'safety' stories, however as close as Christmas may be there is still lots happening in OHS.



Paper Mill Incidents

Last week a boiler exploded at an Italian paper mill, killing the Boiler Attendant and destroying a substantial part of the mill. Images and further information are available on our website at www.ppwsafety.org. A couple of days later a tissue paper machine's drying cylinder sustained a 'blast', injuring at least one worker, in China.

Work Health & Safety Harmonisation Update

As 1 January 2012, D-Day for the harmonised OHS laws, draws closer at least three states won't be making any changes. Both Victoria and Western Australia have stated in recent weeks that there is insufficient time to prepare for the change over, and that more time is required to consider the impacts that the Model Act, Regulations, and Codes of Practice will have on businesses. Both states have called for a twelve month stay on the implementation of the new laws, and neither will be transitioning from old to new come 1 January, 2012.

Last week the SA government voted to suspend the parliamentary debate on the WHS Harmonisation Bill until February, 2012, when parliament resumes.

Whilst the Victorian government has said it will take several months for additional analysis and review activities, Western Australia has written to Minister Christopher Evans, calling for an extended implementation timeline. In the meantime all three states will continue to operate under their relevant, state based, Acts and Regulations.

All other states and territories continue to prepare for a transition to the new legislation at the turn of the new year. All states and territories have comprehensive materials, updates, and links on their websites to assist employers and employees understand the impacts the changes will have on workplaces.

Inside this edition of WISE News you will find a wrap up of our OHS Conference in November, and full presentations and photographs at www.ppwsafety.org.

Cheers,

Denise

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The unit is a joint venture sponsored by:



Partnerships and Integration—the Future of Work Health & Safety

As part of the ongoing OHS&E Unit program, the Pulp & Paper Industry recently held its fourth OHS Conference in Melbourne with a focus on Safety, Sustainability and the Future.

High Risk Work Training Facility Tour

The conference kick-started with industry representatives visiting the CFMEU Construction & General Division's recently opened High Risk Work training facility. This state-of-the-art purpose built facility offers training and assessment in all aspects of high risk licensing activities including forklift operations; scaffolding



from basic through to advanced levels; elevated work platforms; dogging; rigging; hoists; non-slewing crane and tower cranes. Participants enjoyed a very hands on experience, utilising the equipment on site.



Then followed two days of presentations, discussions and panels. The conference was attended by over 70 health and safety professionals, frontline managers, human resource professionals and health & safety representatives. Key messages

across the two days were around the changing face of work health and safety, and the role that industry partnerships will have in the future.

Our keynote speaker on Day 1 was Darren Flanagan, an explosives expert, who was responsible for the blasting work that rescued the Beaconsfield miners in 2006. Darren tells his story of the time spent planning and realising the rescue of the miners, and the exacting toll it took on them and him.



His story is fascinating, enthralling and he finished by sharing with us how a number of the rescuers needed intensive counselling and so many of them, including himself, found that they started to fall apart mentally once it was all over. Darren stressed how important it is for us to support our work mates who are going through stressful times, and how people suffering from stress and depression should be prepared to seek help. Mental health issues are real and they need to be dealt with. Darren was given a standing ovation.

The conference then went on to hear from a number of innovative leaders including:



John Merritt, CEO of the Environment Protection Agency Victoria who discussed sustainability and its connection to workplace culture. Mr Merritt also commented on activities of environmental groups who target our industry, despite our obvious commitment to sustainability and the

advancement and improvements made in recent years within the pulp and paper sector.

Professor Niki Ellis, CEO of the Institute for Safety, Compensation & Recovery Research who presented research findings of OHS based "Future Studies". She outlined nine different trends that have been identified through the research work, and discussed the changing nature of traditional



work with the advent of digitisation. The predicted future of OHS is going to see businesses move away from the traditional injury prevention model and to a much more integrated approach that will see them addressing issues such as mental wellness and embracing wider diversity in the workplace. Professor Ellis also discussed the importance that partnerships will play in the future of work health and safety. It is predicted that many of these partnerships will be community based and will provide expert support and guidance for organisations as we continue to see our workforce ageing and mental health based workers compensation claims steadily rising. As with the more traditional forms of OHS management, it is going to be essential to be proactive rather than reactive when managing these emerging issues in the workplace.

Professor Ellis was quick to praise the unique partnership around OHS that industry employers and the union have created. This will prove judicious when moving forward into this new work health and safety phase, as it provides a solid grounding for the concepts that will make partnering with community or other professional groups into the future a much more viable prospect.

A number of best practice sessions were also held across the two days with mills

sharing their experiences, learnings, and best practice solutions with each other. This has always proved a highlight of the Industry OHS&E conference and we see mills implementing improvement projects that are based on the learnings from other businesses.

For the first time our conference included a session on Sustainability. Key organisations shared their programs and activities in this area. **Scott Whicker (Manager Operations KCA)** talked about reducing the carbon footprint and costs at the Millicent mill. Energy costs have increased by a substantial amount over a number of years and the mill recognised the need to explore energy generation on site. A gas turbine project has been implemented, which will provide the bulk of the mill's energy needs and result in reduced emissions, as well as financial benefits. It is estimated that this will reduce their carbon footprint by over 90,000 + pa and is due for completion in 2013.



To close out the conference a panel discussion around the future of OHS in the pulp and paper industry was held. The panel consisted of corporate safety managers from key organisations. Discussion was broad and covered diverse topics such as: improvements to OHS training for frontline managers; skill development and retention for health and safety representatives; support mechanisms for workers in a contracting industry sector; the continued value and importance of sharing learnings and best practice activities across the whole industry to benefit the whole industry. Significant outcomes of the conference are that the pulp and paper sector is



collectively ready to move to an integrated model approach to managing the breadth of health and safety issues in the workplace. These include health management for our ageing workforce; mental health and other 'fit for work' issues. The challenge is establishing appropriate processes to achieve desired outcomes and identifying suitable partners to move forward with.

The Pulp & Paper Industry OHS&E Unit will continue to work with leading researchers in the field, our industry sponsors and community professionals to develop programs that will have a positive impact on the issues that are important in both the traditional and integrated model approaches to work health and safety.

Conference summary prepared by Danielle Kessner and Tim Scott, Australian Paper