

WORKCOVER NEWS

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The workplace safety and injury management magazine

June 2005 - August 2005

- National Farm Safety
- WorkCover addresses truck driver safety
- Young people and safety at work



WorkCover NSW
Safe Work Awards 2005

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Safe Work Awards
flyer inside!



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ON-SITE TRAINING COURSES

CONSULTATION, OHS COMMITTEES & REPRESENTATIVES

Course in OHS Consultation (4 days)
OHS Committee Refresher* (1 day)
OHS Committee Chairperson* (1 day)

RISK MANAGEMENT

OHS Risk Management for Supervisors & Managers (1 or 2 days)
OHS Risk Management* (1 day)
BackBasics Manual Handling Risk Management* (3.5hrs)
Accident Investigation* (1 day)

RETURN TO WORK

Introduction to Return to Work Coordination (2 days)
Effective Case Coordination for RTW Coordinators (1 day)

OHS LAW & RESPONSIBILITIES

OHS Law for Directors & Managers* (2 hrs)
OHS Responsibilities for Supervisors & Managers* (2 hrs)

INDUCTION

Construction General OHS Induction (1 day)
OHS Induction for Employees (4 hrs)

MANUAL HANDLING & WORKSTATIONS

BackBasics Manual Handling - for manual handlers* (2 hrs)
BackBasics Manual Handling Risk Management - for managers, supervisors, ohs committees, employees* (3.5hrs)
BackBasics Workstation Set-up & Manual Handling - for office workers* (2 hrs)
Manual Handling - for managers, supervisors & ohs committees (1.5 days)
Manual Handling - for general employees (4 hours)

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

Workplace Substances - for general employees (1 day)
Workplace Substances - for supervisors, managers, ohs committees (2 days)

FIRST AID

Senior First Aid (2 days)
Senior First Aid Recertification (1 day)
(Note: SFA Recertification must be done prior to the expiry (three years from date of issue) of the SFA Course)

* All courses are accredited by WorkCover NSW except those marked with an asterisk, for which there is no WorkCover course.

JULY 2005 to DECEMBER 2005

course in occupational health & safety consultation

Accredited Training for OHS Committees & OHS Representatives
\$570 Plus 10% GST (2007 incl GST)

July	1	8	15	22	City	CIT7
July	4	5	11	12	City	CIT72
July	5	12	19	26	Parramatta	PAR7
July	14	15	21	22	Parramatta	PAR72
July	20	21	27	28	City	CIT73
Jul/Aug	20	27	3	10	Parramatta	PAR73
Aug	1	2	8	9	Hurstville	HUR8
Aug	1	2	8	9	Parramatta	PAR8
Aug	1	8	15	22	City	CIT8
Aug	5	12	19	26	Parramatta	PAR82
Aug	8	15	22	29	Parramatta	PAR83
Aug	10	11	17	18	Campbelltown	CAM8
Aug	11	12	18	19	City	CIT82
Aug/Sep	16	23	30	6	City	CIT83
Aug	17	18	24	25	Rocky Hill	RH8
Aug	17	18	24	25	Parramatta	PAR84
Aug/Sep	29	30	5	6	Parramatta	PAR85
Aug/Sep	31	1	7	8	City	CIT84
Sep	7	9	16	23	Cherrywood	CH8
Sep	8	15	20	27	Wollongong	WOL8
Sep	8	15	22	29	Parramatta	PAR8
Sep	9	16	23	30	City	CIT9
Sep	13	14	20	21	Parramatta	PAR92
Sep	19	20	26	27	City	CIT92
Sep	21	22	28	29	Parramatta	PAR93
Sep/Oct	28	5	12	19	City	CIT93
Sep/Oct	30	7	14	21	Parramatta	PAR94
Oct	4	11	18	25	City	CIT10
Oct	5	6	12	13	Parramatta	PAR10
Oct	5	12	20	27	Rocky Hill	RH10
Oct	10	11	17	18	Parramatta	PAR102
Oct	10	17	24	31	Hurstville	HUR10
Oct	10	17	24	31	Campbelltown	CAM10
Oct	13	14	20	21	City	CIT102
Oct/Nov	19	26	2	9	Parramatta	PAR103
Oct/Nov	24	25	31	1	City	CIT103
Oct/Nov	27	28	3	4	Parramatta	PAR104
Nov	3	3	9	10	Wollongong	WOL11
Nov	4	11	18	25	City	CIT11
Nov	8	15	22	29	Parramatta	PAR11
Nov	9	10	16	17	City	CIT112
Nov/Dec	14	21	28	5	City	CIT113
Nov	16	17	23	24	Parramatta	PAR112
Nov	21	22	28	29	Rocky Hill	RH11
Nov/Dec	23	24	30	1	City	CIT114
Nov/Dec	28	29	5	8	Parramatta	PAR113
Nov/Dec	29	30	6	7	City	CIT115
Dec	6	7	13	14	Hurstville	HUR12
Dec	6	7	13	14	Campbelltown	CAM12
Dec	8	9	15	16	Parramatta	PAR12
Dec	8	9	15	16	City	CIT12

ohs committee refresher*

\$280 Plus 10% GST (2007 incl GST)

July	4			Parramatta	PAR7
Aug	9			City	CIT8
Sep	6			Parramatta	PAR9
Oct	3			City	CIT10
Nov	7			Parramatta	PAR11
Dec	3			City	CIT12

* There is no WorkCover Accredited Course

ohs risk management for supervisors & managers

Formerly OHS for Supervisors & Line Managers
\$470 Plus 10% GST (2017 incl GST)

July	7	8		Parramatta	PAR57
July	13	14		City	CIT57
Aug	15	16		Parramatta	PAR58
Aug	25	26		City	CIT58
Aug/Sep	31	1		Parramatta	PAR582
Sep	13	14		City	CIT59
Oct	6	7		City	CIT510
Oct	24	25		Parramatta	PAR510
Oct/Nov	31	1		City	CIT5103
Nov	10	11		Parramatta	PAR511
Nov/Dec	30	1		Parramatta	PAR5112
Dec	6	7		City	CIT512

construction general ohs induction

\$150 (GST Inc)

July	11			Parramatta	PARC7
Aug	18			City	CITC8
Sep	5			Parramatta	PARC9
Oct	4			City	CITC10
Oct	24			Parramatta	PARC10
Nov	21			City	CITC11
Dec	8			Parramatta	PARC12

senior first aid

\$100 Plus 10% GST (2017 incl GST)

Aug	2	3		City	CITFA8
Sep	1	2		Parramatta	PARFA8
Oct	6	7		City	CITFA10
Nov	7	8		Parramatta	PARFA11

ohs committee chairperson*

\$280 Plus 10% GST (2007 incl GST)

July	13			Parramatta	PAR7
Aug	10			City	CIT8
Sep	18			Parramatta	PAR9
Oct	10			City	CIT10
Nov	1			Parramatta	PAR11
Dec	12			City	CIT12

* There is no WorkCover Accredited Course

introduction to return to work co-ordination

\$480 (GST Inc)

July	18	19		City	CITR7
July	28	29		Parramatta	PARR7
Aug	17	18		Parramatta	PARR8
Aug	23	24		City	CITR8
Sep	21	22		City	CITR9
Oct	27	28		City	CITR10
Nov	14	15		Parramatta	PARR11
Nov	23	24		City	CITR11
Dec	7	8		Parramatta	PARR12
Dec	13	14		City	CITR12

workplace substances

1 day course \$280 Plus 10% GST (2007 incl GST)

Aug	4			Parramatta	PARW8
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9552 2380

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editions of our publications
"Your Safety Matters"

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Chief Executive Officer



The past few months have set the agenda for what is the beginning of a crucial time for workers compensation in NSW. WorkCover is now in a strong position to deliver some of the most fundamental changes to workers compensation since the introduction of the Scheme in 1987.

As we embark on this exciting phase we are increasing our focus on improving workers compensation services to achieve mutual benefits for employers, workers and the Scheme.

The start of the new financial year will also see another major initiative rolled-out when WorkCover undertakes a review of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000.

This comprehensive review will involve consultation with industry and aims to further secure and promote the health, safety and welfare of people at work.

The call for proposals from organisations to deliver claims and policy services for the NSW workers compensation Scheme were released in March 2005. The tender process is an integral part of the NSW Government's reform to the Scheme and marks the beginning of a new era for workers compensation in this State.

WorkCover has been working in collaboration with industry from the early stages of developing the new commercial framework. Tenders close this month.

The latest valuation of the WorkCover Scheme revealed that strong investment markets and improved claims management has reduced its projected deficit by almost \$700 million within a six-month period.

Industry consultation following the release of a discussion paper in

March proposing a range of reforms to the workers compensation premium system has helped shape a number of changes that will be implemented in the new financial year. These reforms aim to more fairly distribute Scheme costs among employers and provide incentives to improve workplace safety and return to work outcomes.

The release of our 2002-03 Statistical Bulletin in March revealed that work related fatalities and employment injury rates in NSW had fallen to their lowest in 15 years. We see the review of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 as an important strategy that will help further reduce the rate of accidents, injuries and deaths in NSW workplaces.

WorkCover's recent advertising campaign, which highlighted the potential consequences of unsafe work practices, demonstrates the safety message has a powerful impact. Following the success of the graphic campaign, more than 1000 posters have been requested from NSW businesses to place around their workplaces.

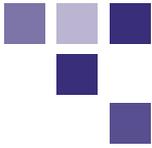
Our immediate challenge is to deliver a balanced workers compensation environment encompassing a fully funded Scheme that delivers fair benefits to workers without increasing costs for employers.

In the meantime, WorkCover will continue to work closely with industry, employers and workers to secure the future of workers compensation and occupational health and safety in NSW.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Blackwell', written over a thin horizontal line.

Jon Blackwell
Chief Executive Officer
WorkCover NSW

truck driver safety



LONG DISTANCE DRIVER FATIGUE

As part of the national compliance program, WorkCover NSW recently held a Truck Compliance and Safety Seminar in Wagga Wagga. The draft Occupational Health and Safety Amendment (Long Distance Truck Driver Fatigue) Regulation 2005 was presented to industry stakeholders. The regulation reflects the NSW Government's commitment to improve safety in the long haul trucking industry, in particular to reduce the fatigue of drivers of heavy trucks.

Stakeholder comments were specifically sought on the following proposals:

- The proposed 500km distance and tonnage of vehicle for the specific provisions to take effect.
- Exempting self-employed carriers who drive the trucks themselves or only use family members as truck drivers, except when they employ relief truck drivers who are not family members.
- Limiting head carriers to persons whose business involves the transport of freight for other persons
- Specifying a limited number of industries that would be subject to consignor/consignee responsibilities.
- Specifying a threshold of workers before consignor and consignee would have specific duties.
- Identifying the specific duties of consignors/consignees.
- Inclusions on fatigue management plans (FMPs)
- Operational issues around FMPs.
- Period for compliance (transition period).

Figures from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau show that in NSW in 2003/04:

- 57 crashes involved articulated trucks
- 71 people died in NSW as a result of those incidents.

The economic cost to NSW of articulated truck crashes/incidents is estimated at more than \$178 million. While not all of the incidents are fatigue-related, factors such as extended and irregular shift patterns and strict time pressures significantly contribute to incidents involving heavy vehicles.

The effect of the proposed regulation is to impose duties to eliminate or control the risk of truck driver fatigue on the employer or, if the driver is a contractor, on the person contracting directly with the driver - but only to the extent that the person's activities contribute to the risk of fatigue.

While the NSW Government acknowledges that reaching national uniformity in truck driver safety across all states will take time, the proposed regulation is a major step forward to ensure that drivers of heavy freight have the risk of fatigue eliminated or managed.

BLITZ ON FALLS FROM HEIGHTS

WorkCover NSW continues its efforts to keep truck drivers safe with its latest compliance blitz on falls from heights in the transport industry.

The blitz formed part of a national program consisting of two elements, the first being a compliance program and the second being an information/advisory program.

The recently completed blitz focused on the issues of fall prevention and working at heights on heavy vehicles such as car carriers, tankers, dry bulk haulage and livestock transport.

The first phase of the compliance program achieved a 100 per cent success rate after WorkCover inspectors visited 16 of the biggest car carrier operators in NSW and issued 22 compliance notices. Follow-up visits demonstrated that the program had achieved full compliance in relation to each targeted area.

Results of the second phase tanker blitz indicated that the majority of operators were in compliance, with only 10 improvement notices issued. Forty per cent of improvement notices issued related to systems for falls from heights, 30 per cent related to policies and procedures in falls from heights, 20 per cent related to risk identification in falls from heights and 10 per cent related to on premises equipment. Overall, a high level of cooperation and compliance in the transport industry was noted.

Tanker operators were encouraged to adopt hazard control measures that eliminate or reduce the need for operators or drivers to climb on top of the vehicles.

Breaches were addressed via the provision of advice to operators on work practices such as loading/unloading of tankers, examination of access and exit procedures and risk of falls from heights were monitored. As well as issuing improvement notices.

Falls from heights cost employers and the industry over \$4 million in workers compensation claims in 2000/2001. The need for a national strategy to address the issue was identified by the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission, and the Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities. These organisations agreed that WorkCover NSW would coordinate the national program.

assistance unit

ASSISTING SMALL TO MEDIUM SIZED BUSINESSES

WorkCover's Business Assistance Unit (BAU) has commenced delivering a new series of state-wide information workshops to help small to medium sized businesses improve their workplace safety.

The free workshops are being conducted by the BAU to help participants make their workplaces safer and manage their occupational health and safety (OHS) and workers compensation responsibilities.

The workshop program covers topics such as:

- introduction to OHS and workers compensation
- working safely with chemicals
- farm safety
- safety in construction
- workers compensation and injury management
- OHS for hairdressers
- OHS and workers compensation for community services.

The new workshop series commencing in June (see Diary section, page 18) follows the success of the February to April 2005 program when over 700 small to medium sized business owners and managers participated in the workshops held throughout the State.

A small business owner from Dubbo attended the Working safely with chemicals and hazardous substances and the Workers compensation and injury management workshops recently and commented,

"I found the two workshops that I attended in Orange to be very informative.

"They were more than just quoting the legislation – the workshop presenters gave practical advice on how to put the legislation into place and explained it in a very simple way.

"The workshop presenters answered my questions, and it was nice to know that I was actually right on track with my OHS and workers compensation," he said.

In addition to learning how to make their workplaces safer, small to medium sized businesses that participate in the workshops are learning that workplace safety is not just a legal requirement; it is good management practice.

Smaller businesses suffer a greater negative impact on productivity when their workplaces are not safe and workers are injured. Businesses that are safe and injury free are better able to maintain their productivity.

Many small and medium sized businesses have limited resources and are looking for help to ensure they meet their workplace safety, workers compensation and injury management responsibilities. The BAU was established specifically to provide this specialised information to small to medium businesses and is currently developing a number of initiatives to further fulfil their needs for workplace safety advice.

The BAU website can be found at www.workcover.nsw.gov.au and provides information about specific safety issues for small to medium businesses and is updated regularly with new safety and workshop program information. Businesses that would like a BAU workshop in their area, and can gather a group of 15 or more participants, can do so by filling in an online request form.

Business owners with a query about workplace safety, workers compensation or injury management can call the Business Assistance Unit on **13 10 50** and speak to a trained staff member. Registration for any of the BAU workshops can be made by phoning **1800 624 097**.



WorkCover's Andrew Theakstone, Hon John Della Bosca, WorkCover's Melissa Carey and Jenny Thomas

Premium Review

IMPROVING THE NSW WORKERS COMPENSATION PREMIUM SYSTEM

In March this year WorkCover NSW released a comprehensive discussion paper proposing a range of reforms to the current workers compensation premium system.

The proposed reforms aim to more fairly distribute Scheme costs among employers and provide incentives to improve workplace safety, early reporting of claims and return to work opportunities.

The proposed reforms were developed after 18 months of extensive consultation with employers and industry, following commencement of a review into the NSW workers compensation premium system in August 2003. The review began with the release of a discussion paper, which invited comment on the premium calculation formula, incentives to promote early reporting of injuries, as well as recommendations for grouping related employers for premium assessment.

More than 100 submissions were received in response to that paper. This feedback showed that key stakeholders held concerns about a number of issues, including the fairness of the existing premium formula and the potential unintended consequences of implementing grouping.

In response, the NSW Government initiated a more fundamental review of the premium system in June 2004. To more closely address the issues raised from the initial consultation, WorkCover NSW held a series of industry-specific focus groups that led to the development of the current range of proposals.

The premium review has a broad scope, encompassing 19 proposals that focus on nine key areas for reform, including:

- the way premiums are calculated for small, medium and large businesses
- the extent to which a claim influences a business' premium
- refunds to business following fraudulent claims
- the way costs of claims are calculated
- grouping of related businesses when assessing premium
- the excess a business pays when they have a claim
- discounts for employers who improve their occupational health and safety.

While the proposals were developed in close collaboration with key stakeholders, WorkCover was keen to seek further feedback. Stakeholders were invited to provide written responses to the discussion paper to share any comments or concerns, particularly with regard to the practical implementation of the reforms.

WorkCover also held a series of public forums in March to provide further detail on the proposals. More than 430 people attended 20 forums in metropolitan and regional areas around the State including the Central Coast, Lismore, Newcastle, Orange, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga, Wollongong, Parramatta, Sydney CBD and Balmain.

Around 70 written submissions were received in response to the 2005 discussion paper. The feedback received as part of this latest consultation will help shape WorkCover's final position on the reforms and their implementation.

The underlying principles guiding the premium review are that workers compensation premiums should:

- be fair and reflective of an employer's risk, as indicated by the employer's business activity and their previous claims experience
- be affordable and, particularly for small and medium-sized employers, be relatively stable
- provide incentives to influence employers to improve workplace safety and injury and claims management
- reflect a balance between 'user pays' where each employer pays the full costs of their claims, and insurance protection, where the costs of claims is spread among all employers.

Most importantly, one of the Premium Review's primary objectives is to ensure that implementation of the proposed reforms will not change the level of premium collected for the Scheme.

As many employers in NSW will be affected by the proposed changes to the premium system, WorkCover is undertaking measures to ensure that the implementation of these reforms will be as equitable as possible.

It is intended that the reforms will be implemented over the next two and a half years, starting from 30 June 2005.

WorkCover will keep employers and other key stakeholders informed about these changes and their effects in the lead-up to their implementation. An extensive education program is also being developed.

The 2005 Premium Review discussion paper can be found on WorkCover's website www.workcover.nsw.gov.au

scheme update

Achieving a fair and balanced workers compensation system is at the forefront of the NSW Government's WorkCover Scheme reforms. WorkCover NSW CEO Jon Blackwell explains what employers and workers can expect from the new Scheme arrangements.

An increased focus on return to work, a competitive marketplace, and an economically viable Scheme are the forces driving the Government's comprehensive reforms to workers compensation in New South Wales.

"Previously the focus has tended to be on process issues, for example how quickly a worker gets compensation or how soon an injury is notified to an insurer. This, at times, overshadowed the need to focus on returning injured workers to a safe and sustainable work environment," Mr Blackwell said.

"Return to work remains the Scheme's prime goal. Research indicates that injured workers are not content when they are unproductive and detached from the workforce."

Mr Blackwell commented that this shift in focus is set to produce positive long-term outcomes, leading to a more productive workforce and a more affordable workers compensation scheme.

A COMPETITIVE MARKETPLACE AND THE CHANGING ROLE OF WORKCOVER NSW

Agents operating within the Scheme will deliver claims and policy services under commercial contracts. Under the current arrangements, services are delivered by insurers under an open ended licence.

"The introduction of competition will open the market to new agents to the Scheme at a crucial time.

"Employers and workers can expect to see a range of positive results, with better claims management and ultimately reduced costs for employers, making the Scheme more sustainable in the long term.

The December 2004 Scheme valuation indicated that strong investment markets and improved claims management has reduced the projected deficit by \$698 million within a six-month period.

"To ensure this positive trend continues, further improvements are needed to make certain the Scheme remains viable over the longer term," Mr Blackwell said.

WorkCover NSW will oversee agent performance and take accountability for the investment of Scheme funds. An independent Investment Board and an investment division have been established to oversee the investment of a fund worth \$6 billion.

EMPLOYERS AND THE NEW SCHEME

Better claims management is just one of the changes employers will see as a result of the new Scheme environment.

"Employers will receive better service delivery from agents. Employers with a poor claims experience will have more frequent interaction with their agent to help reduce claims costs and improve workplace safety," he said.

IMPROVED SERVICES FOR INJURED WORKERS

As improved services follow earlier intervention by agents, injured workers will receive more dedicated attention. As well as an increased focus on claims management, agents will ensure workers have speedy access to the best available practitioners by working closely with the worker's nominated doctor.

Mr Blackwell explained that it is important to note that none of these changes will adversely affect an injured worker's right to choose a service provider. These changes will, however, mean that agents will have staff dedicated to helping an injured worker on the path to recovery and return to work.

KEEPING EMPLOYERS INFORMED

Communication and consultation with unions and key employer groups has played a crucial role in developing the new Scheme arrangements and will continue during its implementation.

"We have been working with industry for the past 18 months to make the system work better, particularly for small to medium sized businesses. The Scheme changes will particularly assist these businesses."

WHERE TO FROM HERE

The NSW Government and WorkCover NSW envisage a streamlined approach to workers compensation.

"The challenge is to produce a balanced workers compensation environment that encompasses a fully-funded Scheme and provides fair benefits to workers without increasing costs to employers.

"We want to be more responsive to employers needs, producing an efficiently run system that is easy to understand and comply with, is less costly and produces positive long-term results," Mr Blackwell said.

Tenders for claims and policy services closed in June 2005 with successful agents expected to be awarded contracts in August. A series of public information sessions about the changes will be held in the lead-up to the implementation of the new Scheme arrangements. For more details visit our website www.workcover.nsw.gov.au.

Changes to the code of practice for

workplace noise

WORKCOVER NSW RECENTLY ANNOUNCED a revised Code of Practice for Noise Management and Protection of Hearing at Work. The code has been updated to assist employers, self-employed people and workers develop and implement practices for noise management and protection of hearing at work.

Noise-induced hearing loss accounts for nearly 30 per cent of all permanent employment injuries reported in NSW, predominantly in industries such as construction, manufacturing and mining. Examples of equipment that have a negative affect on hearing include jackhammers, excavators, air compressors, electric saws, generators and explosives.

The objectives outlined in the Code of Practice are to:

- Minimise occupational noise-induced hearing loss and tinnitus by an approach that emphasises the reduction of noise levels at work by elimination, or other engineering noise control measures.
- Promote the recognition and understanding of the effects of exposure to noise.
- Promote the adoption of a systematic approach to the management of exposure to excessive noise.
- Promote implementation through established consultative processes.

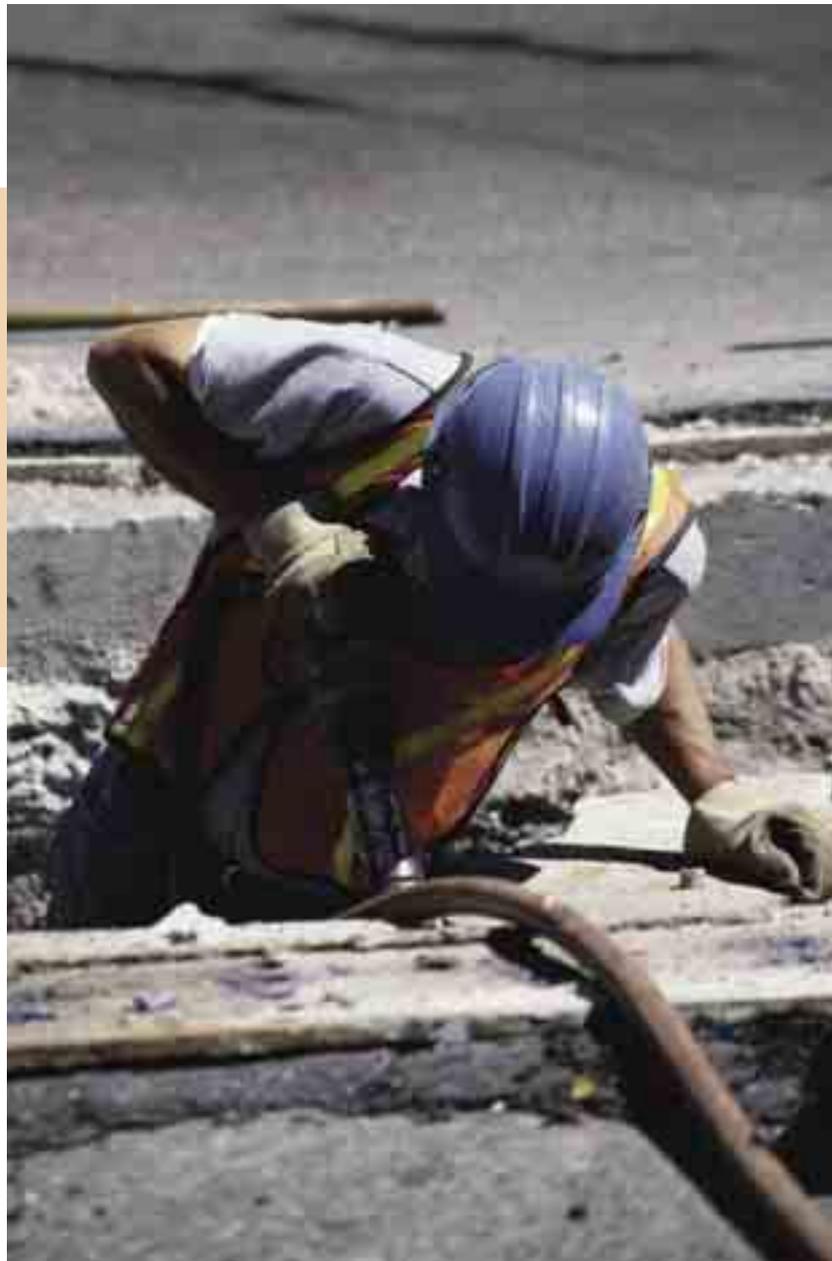
The revised code includes generic information relating to the importance of occupational health and safety, including an employer's obligation to consult with workers on OHS matters.

Both employers and workers responsibilities are discussed, along with the duties required from manufacturers, importers and suppliers of plant for use in a workplace. Other issues covered include noise control planning, engineering and administrative noise control measures, personal hearing protectors, training and education, noise assessments and audiometric testing.

The revised code has been updated to reflect the current occupational health and safety legislation. It also adopts the provisions of the National Code of Practice for Noise Management and Protection of Hearing produced by the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission.

The Code of Practice is a practical guide to addressing noise in the workplace and will be of assistance to employers in achieving healthy, safe workplaces.

The Code of Practice is available at www.workcover.nsw.gov.au or by calling **13 10 50**.



farm safety

TREESAFA - HELPING THE ARBORIST INDUSTRY

WorkCover NSW rural team conducted an industry intervention project recently focussing the arborists.

The arborist industry is characterised by small employers with an average of three workers per employer across NSW, the majority of whom work in the greater Sydney region.

The Treesafe Project randomly selected 33 arborists for workplace inspections in the greater Sydney region. Inspectors provided assistance with OHS compliance and, where appropriate, issued compliance notices.

The principle OHS risk identified by the Treesafe Project was the failure to conduct risk assessments at work sites, with 24 per cent non-compliance in the sample group.

Applying this to the broader arborist industry — based on employers holding current policies — around 520 workers and their employers are potentially put at increased risk each day as risk assessments are not conducted at their work sites.

Between August 2001 and May 2004, there were 59 incidents and complaints reported (including two fatalities), that were directly attributable to arborists' work activities. Within the same period a total of 50 improvement notices were issued to industry employers.

The most prevalent issues associated with reported incidents within the industry involved manual handling, use of plant and equipment, employee training levels, traffic control and danger zone hazards, crush traumas and workers compensation compliance.

The survey data describes an industry where improvements can be made in the following top nine areas:

- Carrying out risk assessments at each work site.
- Maintaining the chipper in safe working condition.
- Ensuring adequate machine guarding for all plant.
- Adequately cordoning off the danger zones at each work site.
- Providing suitable traffic management for each work site.
- Identifying emergency escape routes on the site plan.
- Ensuring the fire extinguishing equipment is adequate.
- Establishing a return to work program.
- Establishing an accident/incident notification system.

Claims costs add to the cost of premiums and NSW arborists pay an average base premium rate of over \$7000 per year.

Over the past five years many in the industry have taken steps to reduce the cost of claims. This is reflected in the steadily decreasing premium rate – from 17.26 per cent in 2000/01 to 13.3 per cent in 2004/05. (Source: Insurance Premiums Orders 2000/01 to 2004/05). The industry can further reduce premium rates by encouraging all employers to comply with the OHS Regulation requirements, thereby leading to fewer incidents.

By adopting safer work practices, the industry can reduce the number and cost of workplace incidents. The suggestions given above must be applied in the context of a complete risk management approach at each work site.

WORKCOVER TARGETS QUAD BIKE SAFETY AT THE RURAL FIELD DAYS 2005

WorkCover NSW is once again highlighting the need for vigilance with farm quad bikes or all terrain vehicles (ATVs) by sponsoring safety demonstrations at the 2005 Rural Field Days.

The demonstrations proved very successful at the 2004 Rural Field Days, with an estimated total audience of 5000 people.

ATVs are widely used on farms throughout Australia, and the increasing number of fatalities and serious injuries involving these vehicles is a cause of growing concern.

The demonstrations aim to improve occupational health and safety (OHS) on farms and reduce serious injuries involving quad bikes. Demonstrations include practical advice on the operation of these vehicles, covering areas such as correct riding technique, braking, and swerving to avoid sudden hazards.

Demonstrations will be held at the following Field Days:

Primex (Casino) 16-18 June

Mudgee Small Farm Field Days 15-16 July

Ag-Quip (Gunnedah) 23-25 August

Henty Machinery Field Days (Henty) 20-22 September

Australian National Field Days (Orange) 19-21 October

To provide information and answer questions on general farm OHS, WorkCover staff will be at the following Rural Field Days:

Primex (Casino) 16-18 June

Ag-Quip (Gunnedah) 23-25 August

Henty Machinery Field Days (Henty) 20-22 September

Australian National Field Days (Orange) 19-21 October

Farming Small Areas Expo (Richmond) 11-12 November

For further information about quad bike and rural safety, please contact the Rural Safety Hotline on **1800 300 377**.

National

farm safety



FARM SAFETY SOCIAL EVENING

WorkCover NSW Rural Team and FarmSafe NSW held a farm safety evening at Braidwood recently. The evening was very successful with over 60 local farmers attending.

The focus of the evening was to assist farmers by providing advice from a panel of experts who could answer specific questions on all aspects of farm safety.

During the evening, farmers broke into small, specifically focused workshops on farm safety. These workshops were run by the recently established Business Assistance Unit (BAU). (See page 4.)

Following the success of the evening, further farm safety evenings are being planned across the state. WorkCover will continue to work together with industry stakeholders to deliver practical solutions to farmers

For further information about farm safety evenings and rural safety, please contact the Rural Safety Hotline on **1800 300 377**.

THE SAFETY SHOW AND CONFERENCE SYDNEY 2005

This year WorkCover NSW will again be the principal sponsor of The Safety Show and Conference Sydney 2005. This event is Australia's largest dedicated workplace health and safety trade show.

Last year attracted over 7,400 health and safety professionals from a broad range of industry sectors, including manufacturing, building/construction, government, emergency services and transport/freight.

This year will be 25 per cent larger and boasts an exciting range of new features, including a dedicated building and electrical safety feature, free safety tours led by industry experts, and a live demonstration area where occupational health and safety (OHS) products will be put to the test.

The Safety Conference, presented by the Safety Institute of Australia (NSW Division) and held concurrently with the Trade Show, will feature over 100 Australian and International speakers across a broad range of industry streams. Topics will range from shiftwork and fatigue to OHS measurement, auditing and reporting.

For further information about The Safety Show and Conference Sydney 2005, contact:

Australian Exhibitions & Conference

Tel 03 9654 7773

Fax 03 9654 5596

Email safety@aec.net.au

Web www.thesafetyshow.com

The Safety Show and Conference at a glance

WHEN: 26 - 28 October 2005

WHERE: The Dome, Hall 2 and the Southee Complex, Sydney Showgrounds, Sydney Olympic Park

TRADE SHOW: More than 300 companies covering 14,400 square metres of exhibition space

CONFERENCE: More than 100 speakers, presented by Safety Institute of Australia (NSW Division)

ORGANISER: Australian Exhibitions & Conferences Pty Ltd

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR: WorkCover NSW

"By sponsoring The Safety Show and Conference Sydney 2005, WorkCover aims to assist employers to achieve better workplace safety by presenting hundreds of practical solutions to safety issues under one roof." - WorkCover CEO Jon Blackwell



New trends in occupational health and safety for the aged care sector

OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS WORKCOVER NSW and the aged care sector have carefully laid the groundwork for improved industry performance in the prevention and management of workplace injuries.

Through grants provided by the WorkCover NSW Assist program, projects targeting operational staff, middle and senior management and board members have been developed.

Once such project saw a new occupational health and safety (OHS) manual, BoardSafe, developed for directors of aged care facilities and services. Directors are generally volunteers and the manual enables them to easily demonstrate good occupational health and safety governance.

BoardSafe contains tools and tips for implementing OHS in the workplace. Through a series of checklists, users can assess their organisations compliance with OHS legislation and identify areas for improvement. BoardSafe then details how further improvements can be made. The comprehensive checklists are quick and easy to use and can also monitor ongoing OHS improvements.

Topics covered in the BoardSafe manual include injury management, volunteers, contractors, liability of managers, good governance, developing an OHS management strategy and board and directors duties.

Members of the aged care sector can attend seminars on how to use BoardSafe and ongoing technical support is provided. BoardSafe can also be used by other non-government organisations and is easily adapted to different needs.

The BoardSafe manual can be used by small and large organisations and is available from the aged care website at www.agedcareohs.info.

The website also provides OHS information and sample risk management policies and procedures, and is updated each month with articles and useful links. The website was developed through grants provided by the WorkCover NSW Assist program.

A new feature of the website is the OHS online learning program. The program was developed to address the need for practical, flexible, accessible OHS risk management training for direct and indirect care workers.

The program is interactive and addresses legislation, who is responsible for OHS, assessing and controlling risk and consultation and communication. The online learning program is also available to download from the aged care website for a small charge.



MANUAL HANDLING IN THE HEALTH INDUSTRY

WorkCover's health and community services industry reference group is finalizing a range of products on manual handling in the health and allied industries. Products include a manual handling training package, a revised edition of the manual handling guide for nurses and a guide about implementing a minimal lift program (showcasing the activities of hospitals and health care facilities across the state).

More information will be available on www.workcover.nsw.gov.au from August 2005.

WorkCover NSW talks safety at

construction sausage sizzle

WorkCover NSW recently held a successful lunchtime safety information session for construction workers and TAFE students at Harrington Park in south-west Sydney.

Over 100 people attended the free sausage sizzle run by WorkCover's Business Assistance Unit and Construction Team.

The informal session enabled representatives from WorkCover NSW, Master Builders Association and the Housing Industry Association to provide occupational health and safety information to builders, sub-contractors and employers.

A team of WorkCover staff handed out 'Talk Safety With Us' information packs and offered advice in a relaxed atmosphere.

The event was aimed at informing people working in the construction industry about safety due to the high rate of workplace injuries that occur. According to WorkCover's Statistical Bulletin for 2002/2003, the construction industry had 35.2 injuries per 1000 workers.

Falls from heights is a significant problem on construction sites, resulting in serious injury and death of workers.

The 2004 National Falls Prevention in Construction blitz targeted seven trades known to be at high risk of falls,

including plumbers, electricians, air conditioning installers, wall plasterers, render plasterers, painters and glaziers.

During the blitz, 83 per cent of prohibition notices and 78 per cent of improvement notices were written for housing construction sites.

Feedback from the lunchtime event was very positive, with many questions asked about fall prevention, safe work method statements and first floor framing edge protection. Presenting the workplace safety information session in an informal local environment proved to be effective and helped to build trust between WorkCover NSW, employers and workers.

More positive initiatives are planned for 2005, with two more sausage sizzles scheduled to take place in Newcastle in June and Tuggerah before the end of the year.

For details on upcoming workplace safety information sessions, contact the Business Assistance Unit by emailing businessassist@workcover.nsw.gov.au or phoning **13 10 50**.



benchmarks

shaped by WorkCover's published resources

WORKCOVER NSW PRODUCES A WIDE RANGE of print and electronic information resources on various OHS and workers compensation issues.

With more than 300 titles on WorkCover's publications catalogue and an extensive range of guidelines and training materials, WorkCover NSW is producing resources that have helped shape global benchmarks.

Most of these materials are protected by copyright. Many of these publications have achieved both national and international recognition, with WorkCover receiving an increasing number of requests for copyright approval each year.

WorkCover also provides access to materials for vocational and educational training.

A number of education institutes use WorkCover materials to educate students about workplace safety for example:

- Camden Haven High School in NSW is just one of a number of schools using WorkCover's popular Workwise and Workout publications as part of their curriculum.
- A Queensland TAFE has recently reproduced the resource Occupational Health and Safety – a resource for zoos and wildlife parks as a reference text for students studying animal care courses.
- East Gippsland TAFE has also reproduced sections of WorkCover's Cranes Guidelines as part of their course materials.
- The School of Law and Justice at Southern Cross University in Lismore, has been given copyright approval to reproduce sections from six WorkCover NSW publications. The information will be developed as part of the course materials for students studying the subject LAW00106 - EEO and OHS Law and Practice.

WorkCover NSW also works in collaboration with other government agencies and industry groups to develop content for a range of guidelines and publications.

Other OHS and workers compensation jurisdictions have also based some of their publications on a version produced by WorkCover NSW, incorporating appropriate legislative amendments.

With permission, ACT WorkCover have recently reproduced WorkCover NSW's Living with fibro publication as well as the Code of Practice: Work in hot & cold environments, tailoring the information for use in the capital.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SEEKING COPYRIGHT APPROVAL

In most cases, WorkCover NSW will grant individuals and organisations copyright approval to use published materials.

Copyright means that the contents of a published work is protected under law, and cannot be duplicated or reproduced without written consent from the copyright owner. When materials subject to copyright are reproduced, the work must also acknowledge the source of the information.

Breaches of copyright occur when information is taken from source material and inserted into other material without prior consent. Copyright breaches also carry the risk of litigation.

Material that has been reproduced without consent or acknowledgement from WorkCover may result in misinformation or even non-compliance with current legislation, having the potential to place lives at risk.

Use of the WorkCover NSW logo on any materials including websites also requires copyright consent. Through copyright approval, organisations can also arrange to have a direct link to the WorkCover NSW website from their site.

If you would like to use elements of any of WorkCover NSW published material, call **13 10 50** to lodge your copyright request.

Some WorkCover NSW publications have received global recognition with requests from countries including England, Ireland, Spain, Italy, Serbia, Switzerland and Canada for copyright permission to adapt material.

- The United Nations Mission in Kosovo recently requested WorkCover NSW materials on rigging, dogging and crane operations, having found there were no comparable publications available.
- A doctor from British Columbia, Canada also used material from the WorkCover NSW publication Health & Safety Guidelines for Brothels in NSW. Information from this publication was published in the academic journal The Lancet.
- A world-wide search for OHS guidelines for sex workers found that WorkCover NSW was the only statutory authority in the world to have produced educational materials to assist sex workers with safety issues unique to their industry.
- The publication Violence in Passenger Transport developed by WorkCover in collaboration with an Industry Reference Group committee is currently being used in Berne, Switzerland.
- WorkCover's Hairdressers Guide is also being used in Barcelona.

Young people and safety at work

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE LONG BEEN RECOGNISED as one of the most vulnerable groups in the workforce. With the huge growth in casual employment and the increasing numbers of people starting work while still at school, it is more important than ever to make sure that they are well-informed about workplace health and safety.

Young workers, particularly those who are still at high school and working part-time, have different needs and concerns to many of their full-time colleagues. Over the past 18 months, WorkCover has been involved in a number of youth forums to find out exactly what those needs are and to help develop the best ways of meeting them. In particular, WorkCover has been investigating what young people know about workplace safety, the types of places they are working, and how they would like to hear from us.

As part of this ongoing consultation process, WorkCover recently sponsored and took part in a number of activities for Youth Week 2005.

In an exciting first, WorkCover partnered with the Office of Industrial Relations (OIR), the Department of Community Services, and Community Technology Centres to run a videoconference on employment issues for young people. The seminar, *Your rights and Safety @ Work*, was launched by the Minister for Commerce, John Della Bosca, and presentations were given by young WorkCover and OIR representatives.

The videoconference featured live crosses and interaction between groups of young people in Cootamundra, Gilgandra, Gloucester, Khancoban, Kyogle, Lithgow, Port Stephens, Sussex Inlet, Warialda and West Wyalong. It also included a live feedback session where participants had the chance to speak about their concerns and interests and give ideas and suggestions that will be used to inform government decisions about the development of youth services.

“The more young people know about their rights, responsibilities and safety in the workplace, the more likely they are to find the start of their working lives a positive experience,” said Mr Della Bosca.



Matthew Ferguson and Hon John Della Bosca

At the videoconference the Minister also announced the launch of the Young People and Work Survey, 2005. The survey (which closed on 27 May) was distributed through schools across the State and was also available on the WorkCover and OIR websites. The objective of the survey is to gauge exactly how much young people know about their rights and safety at work. It is intended that the results of the survey will be used to improve understanding of young people's needs and concerns, and allow WorkCover and OIR to deliver services and information to young workers more effectively.

WorkCover's final activity for Youth Week 2005 was the co-sponsoring of the Spectrum Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Youth Conference, which was run by the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW. As part of the Social Policy and Activism stream of the conference, WorkCover hosted a workshop titled *Safety @ Work*, which was designed to run as a discussion group that could assist WorkCover in developing special information services for young workers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

WorkCover is committed to improving young people's awareness and knowledge of workplace health and safety issues and will be developing a range of youth education programs based on feedback from recent activities and the results of the Young People and Work Survey.

A unique perspective on workplace safety

Having experienced life changing workplace incidents, five paralympic athletes give a unique perspective on workplace safety. Through the WorkCover NSW Paralympian Sponsorship Program these inspirational athletes visit workplaces and talk to workers and employers about their experiences.

Each athlete gives personal insight into how their accident occurred, the measures that could have been taken to prevent them and the rehabilitation they underwent to return

to work. It enables workers to understand the impact and reality of working safely and the importance of collective responsibility towards maintaining a safe workplace.

If you would like more details on how you can raise the awareness of workplace safety by having an Paralympian athlete address your staff, visit www.workcover.nsw.gov.au.

You can book an athlete to speak by completing the form on the website or by calling Marketing Communications Unit on **(02) 4321 5344**.



JOHN MARSHALL was injured in a motorcycle accident while on duty in the NSW Police. He continues to work for NSW Police in the Marine Area Command Diving Unit. John says that he sees his speakers' role as "making people think about workplace safety and the consequences of an unsafe workplace."

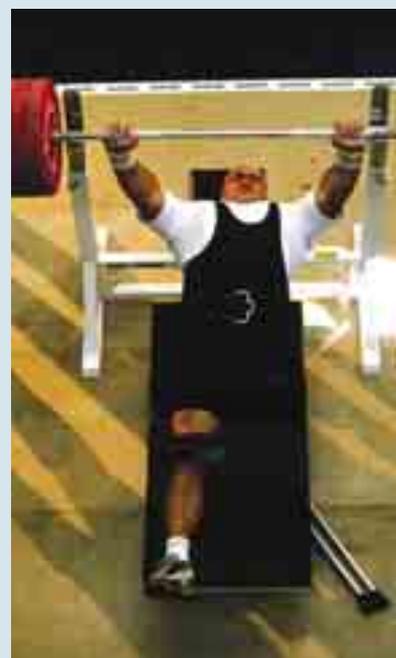


HEATH FRANCIS, youngest of the athletes, continues to study towards his Business degree and trains at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra. He was injured in a farming accident when he was seven years old. Heath enjoyed continued success in Athens and is already in training for the Beijing Games in 2008. "I find speaking at these events a very cathartic experience for me." Heath said.



NIGEL SMITH is currently enjoying spending time with his young and energetic family. In May he was invited to speak at a high school in Tamworth where he visited a student recently severely injured in a workplace incident. Nigel himself was injured in an industrial accident when he was 25. "Being involved [in the program] helps us with our recovery. If we can help one person to not go through what we have and are going through, then I've done my job."

KAHI PURU has just competed in hand cycling at the Australian Championships in Perth. He came tenth after competing in only his second competitive event in this sport. Kahi was injured in a forklift accident when he was 29. "We all have to work together. If someone isn't pulling his or her weight, the whole team loses. It is the same at work; if you're not watching out for your work mates and doing your best, someone could get badly injured and then the whole team suffers," he said.



TERRY GIDDY became a paraplegic in a tree felling accident when he was 15, while working with his grandfather. He represented Australia in field athletics in the Paralympic Games of 1972, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1996 and 2000.



safety with us

WorkCover Assistance Service – frequently asked questions

WHAT IS THE WORKCOVER CONSTRUCTION INDUCTION CERTIFICATE?

The credit card sized occupational health and safety (OHS) Construction Induction Certificate is issued by WorkCover to participants on completion of the OHS General Induction for Construction Work in NSW course.

The certificate has been introduced to provide a single, consistent and portable proof of safety induction training. It is compulsory for each person trained after 29 March 2004.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

If you received training after 29 March 2004 in the OHS General Induction for Construction Work in NSW course, you will receive a new Statement of Training valid for 30 days and a WorkCover Construction Induction Certificate will be mailed to your home address within 30 days of the training.

If you received training prior to 29 March 2004, and you have a Statement of Training from WorkCover, an Approved Provider or a Green Card with the appropriate information on it, you will be able to convert this proof of training to the WorkCover Construction Induction Certificate free of charge.

IS THERE ANY COST FOR OBTAINING THE CERTIFICATE?

WorkCover will provide the Construction Induction Certificate free of charge for persons trained after 29 March 2004, as well as those persons trained previously who have a valid Statement of Training.

HOW OFTEN WILL I HAVE TO DO TRAINING?

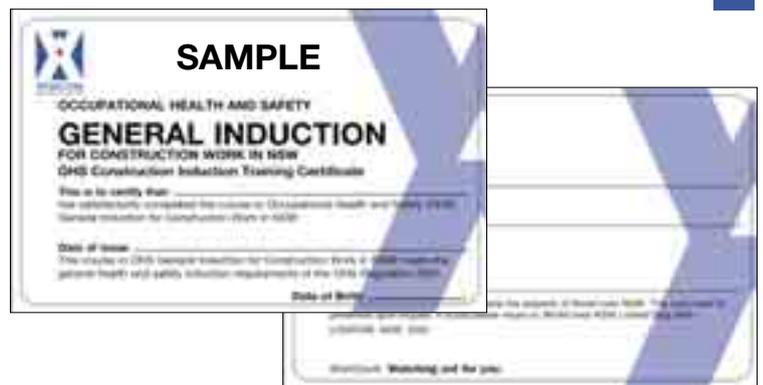
Your OHS induction training ceases to be current if you have not carried out construction work for any consecutive period of two or more years, since completing training.

Work activity based health and safety induction training is required whenever there are changes to the construction work activities undertaken or when you re-enter the industry after an absence of two or more years.

HOW DO I CONVERT MY EXISTING STATEMENT OF TRAINING OR GREEN CARD TO THE WORKCOVER CONSTRUCTION INDUCTION CERTIFICATE?

To convert your existing proof of training (WorkCover Statement of Training, Approved Provider Statement of Training or Green Card) you will need to complete the application form (Conversion to a WorkCover Construction Induction Certificate, Form No CI 2) and provide it to WorkCover with proof of training and identification details.

Valid identification includes a driver's licence, passport, Medicare card or birth certificate (minimum of two forms to be provided, one of which must be a photo-ID eg driver's licence or passport).



Application forms are available from any WorkCover NSW office and www.workcover.nsw.gov.au.

Applications can be lodged with any WorkCover NSW office, or by posting the completed applications for to:

WorkCover NSW
The Licensing Processing Unit
Locked Bag 2906
Lisarow NSW 2252

If these documents are being mailed, they will need to be certified by a Justice of the Peace.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Visit www.workcover.nsw.gov.au under the FAQ's section or call **13 10 50** and speak to one of our representatives.

Be Safe. Not Sorry.



WORKCOVER NSW'S LATEST ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN titled 'Be Safe. Not Sorry.' proved to be a highly effective method of communicating the need for workplace safety.

Aimed specifically at workers and employers of small to medium sized businesses, the campaign featured a series of five graphic posters which were displayed in bus shelters, train stations, TAFE Colleges and shopping centres. This outdoor advertising was placed around the metropolitan hubs of Sydney, the Central Coast, Wollongong and Newcastle.

A series of radio commercials was also developed as part of the campaign. These aired throughout the state and on ethnic radio, running during key 'drive time' periods, when workers and employers were on their way to and from work.

The scripts used in these commercials were emotionally powerful scenarios to convey the wider consequences of a workplace incident on family, friends and the business.

The hard hitting images and strong messages were designed to help people relate to their own workplace environment and remind them to take safety precautions and follow occupational health and safety (OHS) procedures at all times. The injuries and incidents chosen for the campaign are representative of the major categories reported in NSW.

Due to the high demand for copies of the posters, WorkCover produced a limited series of the images and distributed the posters to hundreds of people wanting them for display at their worksites, break rooms, laboratories and classrooms.

Feedback from businesses, government agencies, high schools and TAFEs has been favourable, with people making a direct link between the images and the potential for similar incidents happening in their own workplace.

Peter Lowe, a Safety and Environment Coordinator at Railcorp said, "We use a lot of earthmoving plant on our worksites. We also work adjacent to live tracks and there's a risk of being hit by a train, so I think [the campaign] is very relevant."

Mr Lowe said the posters had been well received at Railcorp, adding, "I think they're very effective. It just shows what can happen."

Carlton United Breweries Manager of Operations and Support, Timothy McKinnon, said the campaign is particularly effective for new staff who are not yet familiar with the workplace.

"I see the posters as stark reminders of what can happen. They're especially useful for when we're using contractors who aren't familiar with the workplace.

"They're not overly gory but they send a powerful message," Mr McKinnon added.

Joe Brunner, Technical Officer at the Department of Primary Industries ordered a number of posters featuring an eye injury to display in his laboratory, where he works with dangerous chemicals. "The poster is a wake-up call for people to use eyewear in the lab. It's easy to walk into a lab and forget to put them on," he said.

To order your copy of the posters call WorkCover on **(02) 4321 5330**. (see page 21).

University of Sydney develops

Online Chemical

Inventory Database

In consultation with the Government Administration and Education Industry Reference Group (convened by WorkCover), the Faculty of Science at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) has developed a simple software program for the management of chemicals. The software program is designed to make it easy for staff to fulfil legal obligations under relevant NSW occupational health and safety legislation.

The Online Chemical Inventory Database (OCID) was developed by David Lloyd-Jones from the UTS Environment, Health and Safety Branch in consultation with laboratory staff from the UTS Faculty of Science.

Features of the database:

- A simple web-accessed database that holds chemical inventory.
- Centrally located information.
- Password protection.
- Data access from any Internet connected computer.
- Search facility to check chemical stock levels preventing build-up of old chemicals.
- Compliance assistance with requirements of the NSW Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001.

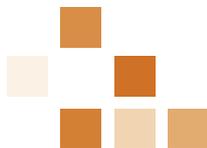
- Provides information for emergency services as required by legislation.
- Assists users in performing simple risk assessments.
- Facilitates and stores risk assessments for the use of chemicals.
- Enables managers of chemical stock to be responsible for maintaining their own inventories within the database.
- Can be used by students as a teaching tool to conduct risk assessments on the use of chemicals.

Everything needed to set up OCID and access the data has been put onto the CD. Users only require web browser and Internet access..

Also included with the CD is a useful online First Aid Officer tracking system. It allows the user to keep track of First Aid Officers' locations, kits and their First Aid Certificate expiry dates.

This software program has been shared with the Deans of Science at all Australian universities in an effort to increase the sharing of information within the industry.

If you think this software may be of use in your workplace contact Environmental Health and Safety UTS by e-mail at ehs@uts.edu.au. Use of the software program is free.



Webwise

THE WORKCOVER WEBSITE – A VALUABLE RESOURCE LIBRARY

DID YOU KNOW?

Each month around 45 000 visitors visit the WorkCover NSW website. These visitors conduct over 15 000 searches for information and resources relevant to OHS and Workers Compensation in New South Wales.

These searches result in thousands of WorkCover publications being downloaded each month making the WorkCover website a valuable resource library for workers, employers, industry, service providers and insurers.

WorkCover's many publications can be easily accessed from the Publications link, which is located on the left hand side of the WorkCover homepage or via the Advanced Search function, which is located at the top of the homepage.

TOP 11 PUBLICATIONS

Following is a list of some of our most popular downloaded publications:

- The Community Services Safety Pack
- Summary of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001
- Summary of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2001
- Code of Practice: OHS Consultation - Effective Decision Making and How to Establish Workplace OHS Consultation Arrangements
- Small Business Safety Checklist - Checking out your Workplace
- The Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001
- Subby Pack - OHS Contractor Management Tool
- Safe Working at Heights Guide
- Application to Convert Existing Documentation for Training Received to a WorkCover Construction Induction Certificate (C12)
- Your Guide to Working with Asbestos
- Electrical Equipment Inspection Checklist.

Diary

WORKCOVER BUSINESS ASSISTANCE UNIT WORKSHOPS

WorkCover's Business Assistance Unit is conducting a series of free workshops throughout the state to provide practical assistance and advice to small and medium sized businesses on how they can make their workplaces safer and comply with their occupational health and safety (OHS) and workers compensation responsibilities.

Places are limited so bookings are essential and can be made by phoning **1800 624 097** or emailing to **businessassist@workcover.nsw.gov.au**.

Check your local paper closer to the date for more information about the workshops. The workshop held in Newcastle, 'Managing injured workers', is being run in conjunction with the Office of Industrial Relations (OIR). Booking arrangements can be made for the workshops by phoning the OIR on **(02) 9020 4611**.

Further workshops are being run throughout NSW during the rest of 2005. If you would like information about these workshops, please visit the WorkCover website at **www.workcover.nsw.gov.au** and click on the Business Assistance Unit icon.

Location		Workshop	Date
Bomaderry	Bomaderry Bowling Club, 154 Meroo Rd, Bomaderry	Working safely with chemicals and hazardous substances	Wed 1 June
Liverpool	The Fontainebleau Inn, 467 Hume Hwy, Liverpool	Introduction to OHS & workers compensation	Thur 2 June
Drummoyne	Drummoyne RSL Memorial & Community Club, 162 Victoria Rd, Drummoyne	Introduction to OHS & workers compensation	Wed 8 June
Harbord	Harbord Diggers Memorial Club - Freshwater Room, Evans Street, Harbord	Working safely with chemicals and hazardous substances	Wed 8 June
Blacktown	Main Event Function Centre, Level 1, 107-109 Main Street, Blacktown	Working safely in construction	Tues 14 June
Newcastle	Capri Plaza Hotel, Cnr King and Steele Streets, Newcastle	Managing Injured Workers	Tues 21 June
Albury	Sundowner Hovell Tree Inn, Crn Hume Highway & Hovell Street, Albury	Introduction to OHS & workers compensation	Wed 22 June
Albury	Sundowner Hovell Tree Inn, Crn Hume Highway & Hovell Street, Albury	Working safely with chemicals and hazardous substances	Thur 23 June
Harbord	Harbord Diggers Memorial Club - Freshwater Room, Evans St, Harbord	OHS and workers compensation for community services organisations	Thur 23 June
Mayfield	Phoenix Sports Mayfield, Industrial Drive, Mayfield	Working safely in construction	Thur 23 June
Penrith	Panthers World Of Entertainment, Mulgoa Rd, Penrith	Introduction to OHS & workers compensation	Wed 29 June
Parramatta	Crowne Plaza, 30 Phillip, Parramatta	Working safely with chemicals and hazardous substances	Wed 29 June
Mangrove Mountain	Mangrove Mountain Memorial Club Ltd, 18 Hallards Rd, Central Mangrove, Mangrove Mountain	Farm safety	Thur 30 June
Harbord	Harbord Diggers Memorial Club - Freshwater Room, Evans St, Harbord	Working safely in construction	Thur 30 June

Prosecution Highlights

CENTRAL COAST FIRM FINED FOR FIREWORKS OFFENCES

Company: Western Pacific Import/Export Pty Ltd
(trading as FairDinkum Fireworks)

Fine Amount: \$10,000

Date of Judgement: 3 March 2005

A Central Coast company and its director have been fined \$10,000 and ordered to pay \$15,000 costs by the Chief Industrial Magistrate's Court for fireworks offences.

Western Pacific Import/Export Pty Ltd (trading as FairDinkum Fireworks), of West Gosford, and sole director, Keith Schofield, were found guilty of nine offences under Regulation 56 of the Dangerous Goods Regulation 1999.

The charges involved failure to record fireworks displays; failure to audit and record fireworks sales, and attempting the illegal sale of fireworks.

In imposing the fines, Magistrate Reiss said: "The defendant's actions — committed over a considerable period of time — were deliberate to exploit loopholes, and the offence was not an isolated one."

WorkCover NSW CEO Jon Blackwell said that record keeping requirements for fireworks under the regulations form an essential component of the fireworks permit and licence system, which underlies the Dangerous Goods Act.

"Licence holders have a responsibility to operate under the provision of the law ensuring that the sale of fireworks is conducted legally, and in a manner which does not place the community at risk," Mr Blackwell said.

INTEGRAL ENERGY FINED AFTER WOOD CHIPPING INJURY

Company: Integral Energy

Fine amount: \$150,000

Date of judgement: 25 February 2005

Integral Energy has been fined a total of \$150,000 by the NSW Industrial Relations Commission following serious injury to a worker using a wood chipping machine.

Integral Energy Australia pleaded guilty to three charges brought by WorkCover NSW arising from breaches of Section 15(1) and 16(1) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 1983.

On 17 May 2001, Integral Energy was conducting clearing and chipping of vegetation near overhead powerlines at Bargo when the glove of a contract worker feeding branches into a woodchipper became entangled in a branch, and was dragged into the machine.

The man suffered injuries to his right hand, arm, body and head, which required 118 stitches in total.

Evidence submitted by WorkCover demonstrated that the feed chute of the woodchipper was too short, and presented a foreseeable risk of an operator becoming entangled and dragged into the machine.

In handing down the penalty, Justice Staff said: "The seriousness of the breach of the Act is demonstrated clearly by the seriousness of the injuries suffered by (the worker)."

Justice Staff also ordered Integral to pay a moiety of the fine to WorkCover.

WorkCover Chief Executive Officer, Jon Blackwell, commented: "This case illustrates the importance of ensuring a safe workplace."

COMPANY FINED FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH WORKERS COMPENSATION LEGISLATION

Company: Top Value Furniture Pty Ltd

Fine amount: \$48,824

Date of judgement: 31 March 2005

A St Mary's company, Top Value Furniture Pty Ltd, and its sole director, Frans Lourens Poppeliers, has been found guilty of non-compliance with workers compensation legislation.

The company has been ordered to pay \$48,824 and the director has been placed on a one-year good behaviour bond by NSW Chief Industrial Magistrate George Miller.

The premium avoidance was uncovered when an employee of the company suffered a back injury in January 2003, and was taken by ambulance to Mt Druitt Hospital for treatment of lower back muscular strain.

The injured worker complained to WorkCover's Claims Assistance Service after the company failed to provide him with details of his workers compensation insurance.

After failing to comply with two WorkCover notices to provide the information, the company was issued with a \$200 penalty notice and ordered to produce wage records.

Wage records revealed that the company had employed at least 24 employees, and had avoided paying \$24,412 in workers compensation premiums.

The court ordered the employer to pay double the avoided workers compensation premium of \$48,824 under Section 156 of the Workers Compensation Act 1987.

WorkCover NSW CEO, Jon Blackwell, said employers who attempt to avoid paying their workers compensation premiums disadvantage all employers by increasing costs to the Scheme.

"WorkCover is committed to detecting and prosecuting any employer who attempts to cheat the Scheme," he said.

Fatalities

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF FATALITIES occurring in New South Wales workplaces since those listed in Vol 60 of WorkCover News.

FATALITIES

- A man was trapped and crushed under earth-moving equipment while involved in the construction of a dam.
- A worker was electrocuted while working on an electrical circuit board at a residential construction site.
- A worker suffered fatal head injuries while undertaking maintenance work on a tractor.
- A fisherman drowned after falling overboard in rough conditions.
- A worker sustained fatal injuries when struck by a falling branch during tree-felling operations.

- A man involved in cement rendering sustained fatal head injuries when he fell from the platform he had been working from.
- A farmer suffered fatal injuries when an explosion was triggered in the shed in which he was working.
- An arborist died after falling during tree removal operations.

Disclaimer: These reports are of a preliminary nature and are based on initial reports from WorkCover Inspectors. Full details of incidents will be available after the completion of coronial and other processes. No liability on the part of any parties referred to herein can be inferred from these reports.

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Fax (02) 4325 4145
Postal Address:
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OHSE0505	June 22,23,29,30	Arncliffe
OHSE0605	Jul/Aug 28,29, 1,2	Cammeray
OHSE0705	August 9,10,16,17	Parramatta
OHSE0805	September 14,15,21,22	Sydney CBD
OHSE0905	October 12,13,18,19	Cammeray
OHSE1005	Nov/Dec 29,30, 6,7	Parramatta

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OHSE1505	July 21,22	Sydney CBD
OHSE1605	August 25,26	Parramatta
OHSE1705	September 22 (awareness program)	Cammeray
OHSE1805	October 27,28	Arncliffe
OHSE1905	November 24,25	Parramatta

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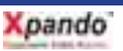
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2005 TRAINING CALENDAR

OHS Risk Management for Supervisors and Managers

- > 6-7 June > 11-12 July > 3-4 August
- > 8-9 September, > 12-13 October
- > 9-10 November

OHS Consultation [for Committee Members and OHS Representative]

- > 16, 17, 23, 24 June
- > 19-22 July > 5, 12, 19, 26 Aug
- > 3, 12, 13-16 Sep > 10, 11, 17, 18 Oct
- > 4, 11, 18, 25 November > 6-9 December

OHS Committee Refresher Training

- > 18 July > 5 October

Writing Workplace Documents

- > 25-26 August > 16-17 November

Introduction to Return to Work Coordination

- > 2-3 June > 10-11 August
- > 6-7 October > 1-2 December

OHS Committee Chairperson

- > 8 June > 7 Sep > 30 November

Senior First Aid

- > 14-15 June > 7-8 July
- > 17-18 August > 20-21 September
- > 19-20 October > 16-17 November

Senior First Aid Recertification

- > 15 June > 8 July > 18 August
- > 21 September > 20 October
- > 17 November

Manual Handling Employee Awareness

- > 24 May > 27 June
- > 26 July > 23 August > 27 September
- > 31 October > 22 November

OHS Developing and Implementing OHS Management Systems

- > 9-10 June > 29-30 September
- > 28-29 Nov

How to Conduct an OHS Audit

- > 5-6 July > 27-28 Oct
- > 12-13 December

Accessing & Using OHS Information

- > 15 July > 7 November

OHS & Managing Human Resources

- > 6, 13, 20, 27 July
- > 4, 11, 18, 25 November

Accident/Incident Investigation

- > 1 June > 12 September

Hazardous Substances

- > 1-2 September

Construction Induction [Green Card]

- > 30 May > 20 June
- > 4, 25 July > 15, 29 August
- > 19 Sep > 24 Oct > 14 Nov > 5 Dec

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- > Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace Training [BSZ40198]
- > Managing Occupational Violence
- > Managing Contractor Safety
- > OHS Workplace Committee Refresher
- > OHS Employee Induction
- > OHS Employee Induction- Construction
- > Noise in the Workplace
- > Accident Investigation
- > Planning for Emergencies
- > OHS for Labour Hire - Companies
- > Site Safety Induction
- > Emergency First Aid
- > OHS in the Office

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- > OHS Newsletters
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