



## **OHS Training Calendar 2011**

WorkCover NSW Accredited & Specific Purpose Courses ~ Vital Training for Effective Risk Management



## **JULY to DECEMBER 2011**

www.courtenell.com.au

## OHS Consultation

This is the WorkCover NSW Course in OHS Consultation. Under NSW OHS law all OHS Committee members and OHS representatives have to be trained on this course. It provides participants with the knowledge and skills to apply the principles of workplace OHS Consultation and to carry out their functions under NSW OHS law.

Wed 6 Thu 7 Wed 13 Thu 14 Hurstville HUR7

	July	Wed Wed	6 6	Thu Wed	7 13	Wed Wed	13 13 20	Thu Wed	14 14 27	Parramatta City	PAR7 CIT7
		Mon Mon	11 11	Tue Tue	12 12	Mon Mon	18 18	Tue Tue	19 19	Parramatta Rooty Hill	PAR72 RH7
		Thu Mon Tue Thu Thu	14 18 19 21 21	Fri Tue Wed Fri Thu	15 19 20 22 28	Thu Mon Tue Thu Thu	21 25 26 28 4	Fri Tue Wed Fri Thu	22 26 27 29 11	City City Campbelltown Chatswood Parramatta	CIT72 CIT73 CAM7 CHA7 PAR73
	August	Mon Mon Mon Wed	26 1 8 8 10	Wed Tue Tue Tue Thu	27 2 9 9	Mon Mon Mon Wed	2 8 15 15 17	Wed Tue Tue Tue Thu	3 9 16 16 18	Parramatta City Parramatta Chatswood Campbelltown	PAR74 CIT8 PAR8 CHA8 CAM8
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		Wed Wed Fri Mon Thu	9 9 11 14 17	Thu Thu Fri Tue Fri	10 10 18 15 18	Wed Wed Fri Mon Thu	16 16 25 21 24	Thu Thu Fri Tue Fri	17 17 2 22 25	Rootý Hill Hurstville Parramatta Parramatta Chatswood	RH11 HUR11 PAR112 PAR113 CHA11
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1		Mon Wed	5 7	Tue Thu	6	Mon Wed	12 14	Tue Thu	13 15	City Parramatta	CIT122 PAR122

Visit our website

www.courtenell.com.au

for information on our courses, editions of our publication 'Your Safety Matters'.

Call us on: 02 9516 1499

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Specialists in WorkCover NSW Accredited & Specific Purpose OHS Training

## **ON-SITE Training Courses**

The following courses can be delivered at your premises.

- Course in OHS Consultation (4 days)
- Intro to Return to Work Coordination (2 days)
- Senior First Aid (2 days)
- OHS Risk Mamt for Sups & Mars(1 or 2 days)
- Accident Investigation (1 day)
- Advanced Return to Work (1 day)
- Developing Workplace Safety Culture (1 Day)
- OHS Committee Chairperson (1 day)
- OHS Committee Refresher (1 day)
- OHS Risk Management (1 day)
- First Aid Recertification (1 day)
- Workplace Substances (1 day)
- OHS Induction for Employees (4 hrs)
- BackBasics Manual Handling Risk Mgmt (3.5hrs)
- BackBasics Manual Handling (2 hrs)
- BackBasics Workstation Set-up & M/H (2 hrs)
- OHS Law for Directors & Managers (2 hrs)
- OHS Responsibilities for Sups & Managers (2 hrs)

### ohs risk mgmt for supervisors & mngrs Course Fee: \$550 (\$605 incl. gst) Course Length: 2 days (9am - 4pm) Jul Mon 4 Tue 5 Parramatta PARS7 Aug Wed 3 Thu City Thu 15 Fri 16 Parramatta PARS9 Sep Nov Mon 28 Tue 29 Parramatta PARS11 ohs committee refresher Course Fee: \$320 (\$352 incl. gst) Course Length: 1 day (9am - 4pm). Parramatta PARF7

## ohs committee chairperson Course Fee: \$320 (\$352 incl. gst) Course Length: 1 day (9am - 4pm).

Jul	Mon 25	Parramatta PARC7	
Aug	Tue 16	City CITC8	
Sep	Thu 22	Parramatta PARC9	
Oct	Thu 20	City CITC10	
Nov	Wed 23	Parramatta PARC11	

## intro to return to work co-ord

Course Fee: \$570 (gst free) Course Length: 2 days (9am - 4:30pm) Mon 11 CITR7 Jul Tue 12 City Mon 22 PARR8 CITR9 Parramatta Aug Tue 23 Wed 7 Thu 8 City

### Sep Thu 27 PARR10 Oct Wed 26 Parramatta Thu 17 Parramatta PARR11

## advanced return to work co-ord Course Fee: \$340 (\$374 incl. gst) Course Length: 1 day (9am - 4pm

### Jul Thu 28 City CITE7 Tue 27 Parramatta PAREQ Sen

### construction general induction

Work Safely in the Construction Industry (CPCCOHS1001A) (a unit of CPC08 Construction, Plumbing & Services Integrated Framework training package).

Complete this course, then you apply



for a WorkCover Construction Induction Card to work on a construction site. Public courses 6 days a week.

Onsite courses when you need them.

Call us today for information & booking!

## ohs risk management

Looking for a WORK BASED AND FLEXIBLE program that will demonstrate competency in OHS Risk Management and OHS legal responsibilities?



This training contains 5 units from BSB41407 Certificate IV in Occupational Health and Safety



Call us today for information & booking!

National Provider Number: 91325

## WorkCover Assistance Service

Workplace health, safety, injury, management and workers compensation enquiries. Ph: 13 10 50

Subscription Enauiriės

Ph: 1300 799 003

## Advertising Enquiries

Ph: (02) 4321 5403

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## New online

## WorkCover resource

Your easy web access to successful WorkCover prosecutions details

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## Wind farming

WorkCover raises work health and safety awareness at Gunning wind farm near Goulburn.

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Design and Handling of Surgical Instrument Transport Cases.



by WorkCover.



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Chief among them has been the passing of bills to harmonise Work Health and Safety (WHS) legislation across Australia by the NSW Parliament.

NSW and Queensland are the first two states to introduce the harmonised laws that will:

- maintain the strong work, health and safety framework
- keep businesses accountable
- reduce red tape for employers
- simplify the laws for both employers and workers.

In another important initiative, we recently launched a new webpage to provide easy access for employers and workers to the court outcomes of breaches to workplace health and safety laws and workers compensation fraud.

The new webpage is a one-stop shop, making it easier to check whether employers or employees have breached WHS laws.

The new webpage:

- posts summaries of successful prosecutions
- provides a link to full court judgements
- gives information about WorkCover's prosecution guidelines
- shares links to support services for families of workers fatally injured as a result of a workplace incident.

WorkCover is also actively getting involved with budding sustainable industries.

Earlier this year I visited the Gunning wind farm near Goulburn as part of a work health and safety awareness day for workers.

By working with industry, WorkCover aims to ensure a number of important WHS systems, including induction, certification, safe work method statements, plant registration and working from heights. You can read more about that visit, and WorkCover's initiatives to ensure work health and safety within this growing industry, on page 16.

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of WorkCover News. Lisa Hunt

## WELL DONE!



## New injury management consultant guidelines

CEO for WorkCover, Lisa Hunt, said the updated guidelines provide clarity about the important role of injury management consultants in the NSW workers compensation system.

'Research by the Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine has found that work has a positive effect on a person's health and wellbeing, and that loss of work, whether from impaired health or for other reasons, is generally harmful,' Ms Hunt said.

'When differences arise between a nominated treating doctor, the employer, insurer or the injured worker about the return to work process, injury management consultants can be engaged to review the situation

'The consultant assists the worker's treating doctor to ensure that a worker does not become disengaged from their workplace and they facilitate the worker returning to meaningful work as quickly as possible.

'WorkCover consulted widely with medical professional bodies, employer groups, insurers and unions on the development of the updated guidelines,' Ms Hunt said. 'They aim to create a shared understanding of the role of injury management consultants in the NSW workers compensation system and to ensure there is no confusion about the role of an independent medical examiner, which many have struggled with.'

The updated guidelines, Guidelines on injury management consultants (catalogue no WC03053) take effect from 1 April 2011. A copy is available from workcover.nsw.gov.au

## WORKCOVER HAS PUBLISHED NEW GUIDELINES FOR INJURY MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS. KEY CHANGES INCLUDE:

- clearer definition of role of the injury management consultant
- referral process and responsibilities of referrer
- reporting requirements of injury management consultants
- selection criteria
- reappointment of injury management consultant
- revocation of appointment.

## \$7 million in worker rehabilitation assistance

Getting back to work after a serious workplace injury can be incredibly difficult but the NSW Government are providing incentives to help make the task easier.

Minister for Finance and Services, Greg Pearce announced \$7 million in increased worker rehabilitation grants to help injured workers back into the workforce sooner.

'Studies have shown that providing support and assistance for injured workers to get back to their job, or find another job suitable to their capacities, is extremely important for a person's confidence and happiness,' Mr Pearce said.

'The \$7 million enhanced vocational programs rehabilitation grants will help fund improved retraining and on-the-job rehabilitation, find new employment if they cannot return to their previous job and help pay for workplace modifications.

'WorkCover will increase the wage subsidies for employers to hire an injured worker from \$3600 per 12 week placement, to a possible \$27,000 for 12 months of employment,' he said. The new improved program will also provide funding for tools of the trade if the tool or equipment is essential for a worker to win the job.

'This could include for example purchasing a security belt worth \$1000 for a worker seeking new work as a security guard, or a specialised tool belt for an injured worker changing to a maintenance worker.

'The grants will also help fund three months or more of on-the-job experience to help an injured worker upgrade their work capacity, learn new skills and secure new employment.

'Funding assistance to help pay for formal study can also be made available.

'This Government also understands that transitioning to a new job can put a burden on the family. These grants can also be applied for to help pay for relocation, childcare travel and clothing costs,' he said.

'There are more than 3.2 million workers in NSW and with more than a third of the nation's total economic output, what we do in NSW to make our workplaces safer and more productive is vitally important.

'For most people who need time off work, a few days rest is all that's required, however for some people injured more seriously we need to provide support and assistance so they can get back into the workplace as soon as possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE SERVICES VISIT **WORKCOVER.NSW.GOV.AU**, CALL **1800 801 905**, OR EMAIL **PROVIDER. SERVICES@WORKCOVER.NSW.GOV.AU** 

## Coverage

We look at the key issues in your WorkCover world

Government Action

NSW Parliament passes new Work Health and Safety Act and OHS Amendment Act

On 4 May 2011 the New South Wales Government announced its intention to introduce two work health and safety bills into the NSW Parliament. The Work Health and Safety Bill enacts the national model work health and safety legislation and will commence from 1 January 2012.

The OHS Amendment Bill amends the current NSW Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 (OHS Act) to align NSW law and practice to the national model framework.

The amendments to the OHS Amendment Bill will apply in NSW until the new work health and safety legislation is commenced in January 2012, then the OHS Act will be repealed.

Both Bills were passed through
Parliament on 1 June 2011. The OHS
Amendment Act will commence
soon. Both acts signify the NSW
Government's commitment to
harmonising work health and
safety laws.



1

## **Q.** So, what does the OHS Amendment Act introduce to NSW before 1 January 2012?

## REASONABLY PRACTICABLE

The general duties under the NSW OHS Act and regulations will be qualified by 'so far as is reasonably practicable'. This will remove the 'reverse onus of proof', where it is the defendant's responsibility to prove that it was not reasonably practicable to comply with particular provisions of the OHS laws, or it was

not reasonably practicable to address matters outside their control. The prosecution must now prove what was reasonably practicable for the defendant to have done to meet their OHS duties.

What is reasonably practicable is an objective test and will vary depending on the circumstances.

## TO DETERMINE WHAT IS REASONABLY PRACTICABLE, YOU MUST CONSIDER:

- the likelihood of the hazard or risk occurring
- the degree of harm that may arise from the hazard or risk
- what the person concerned knows, or ought to know, about the hazard or risk, and the ways of eliminating or minimising the risk
- the availability and suitability of ways to eliminate or minimise the risk

After assessing these matters, you might consider the costs associated with eliminating or minimising the risk, and whether they are grossly disproportionate to the risk.

## **GOING FORWARD**

WorkCover is currently working closely with Government agencies, unions and employer groups to ensure the effective and consistent implementation of the national model work health and safety framework



## **MORE INFO?**

WorkCover is here to help you and will provide various tools to assist and educate you on the new legislation.
Visit workcover.nsw.gov.au or call 13 10 50 for more information

## **DUE DILIGENCE**

A key part of the national reform agenda is removing the deeming of liability for directors and managers for a breach of the OHS Act. Officers of corporations are now required to demonstrate they have exercised all due diligence but will only be liable for their own acts or omissions. This amendment is a significant reform and

will require officers of corporations to show leadership with regard to health and safety in order to influence safety outcomes and the safety performance of their corporation. It requires officers of corporations to take reasonable steps to ensure the corporation complies with certain legal occupational health and safety obligations.

Due diligence is now the standard required of officers of a corporation in meeting their duty under the OHS Act. It includes taking reasonable steps to:

- acquire and keep up-to-date knowledge of WHS matters
- gain an understanding of the nature of the operations of the business of the corporation and generally of the hazards and risks associated with those operations
- ensure that the corporation has available for use, and uses, appropriate resources and processes to eliminate or minimise risks to health and safety from work carried out as part of the conduct of the business or undertaking of the corporation
- ensure that the corporation has appropriate processes for receiving and considering information regarding incidents, hazards and risks, and can respond in a timely way to that information
- ensure that the corporation has, and implements, processes for complying with any duty or obligation under the Act. This may include by way of example:
  - reporting notifiable incidents
  - consulting with workers
  - ensuring compliance with notices issued under the Act
  - ensuring the provision of training and instruction to workers about work health and safety
  - ensuring that OHS representatives receive their entitlements to training
- verify the provision and use of the resources and processes referred to in the preceding three points.



## OFFICER DEFINED

Generally, an officer of a corporation is a director or secretary of the corporation, or a person who makes, or participates in making, decisions that affect the whole or a substantial part of the business of the corporation. An officer includes those who have the capacity to significantly affect the corporation's financial standing.

An officer also includes receivers, liquidators, administrators and certain trustees of the corporation. The term 'officer' does not include a Minister of the Crown acting, a local government councillor, or a partner in a partnership.

## SUBSCRIBE AND GET PLUGGED IN!

2 Subscribe to Construction eNews

WorkCover's Construction eNews has been introduced to help keep you informed with the latest on workplace safety and workers compensation specifically for the construction industry. This includes safety alerts, new programs, rebates, uncoming workshops and other events

VISIT **WORKCOVER.NSW.GOV.AU** TO SUBSCRIBE TO FNEWS TODAY



## **Upcoming workshops**

## Introduction to the new Work Health and Safety Act

This free two hour workshop is for small and medium business operators and will introduce key features of the Work Health and Safety Act which commences 1 January 2012.

Find out what you can to do to better manage your workplace safety under the new Act.
Small Business operators who attend may be eligible for up to \$500 cash back for implementing a safety improvement at their workplace.

Register for a workshop near you today. FOR WORKSHOP DATES AND LOCATIONS CALL **1800 624 097** OR VISIT

WORKCOVER.NSW.GOV.AU/EVENTS



## **eNews**

WorkCover eNews regularly provides small to medium sized businesses with practical tools to address workplace health and safety concerns as well as topical information on upcoming WorkCover events.

**400+ FARMERS TRAVEL A COMBINED** 

## 140,192kms

TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE



## Out in the field

NSW Inspectors and advisory officers have been attending Agricultural Field Days across the state for over 40 years.

General Manager of WorkCover's Work Health and Safety Division, John Watson, says that these field days are a great chance for farmers to discuss agriculture safety with WorkCover face-to-face.

'A team of work health and safety experts from WorkCover will be on hand at the field days to talk with agriculture workers and to provide information on farm safety issues including farm machinery, quad bike safety and the latest initiatives,' said Mr Watson.

Come and visit us at your nearest field day – we're here to help answer enquiries about a wide range of workplace safety, workers compensation and injury management issues to improve safety and reduce injuries.

## **UPCOMING FIELD DAYS:**

- MUDGEE
   15<sup>TH</sup> 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY
- AGQUIP IN GUNNEDAH 16<sup>TH</sup> - 18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST
- HENTY MACHINERY FIELD DAY IN HENTY 20<sup>TH</sup> - 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER
- AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FIELD DAY IN ORANGE 19<sup>TH</sup> - 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER

## NSW Farmers Association Annual Conference

The 2011 NSW Farmers Association annual conference is being held at Sydney Olympic Park 19-21 July. WorkCover will again be a major sponsor of this event.

The annual conference is a valuable opportunity to strengthen and extend ties between WorkCover and the Farmers Association. Both parties continue to work together to drive improvements to farm safety in NSW. NSW Farmers' Association President Charles Armstrong welcomed WorkCover's sponsorship of the conference. 'WorkCover has been the major sponsor of our annual conference for the past three years, and we are delighted to welcome them back on board,' said Mr Armstrong. The theme for this year's event is Food...Fibre...Future 'The conference is one of the biggest 'city meets country' events of the year, with over 400 farmers travelling a combined 140,192kms to debate the big issues facing farming,' said Mr Armstrong.

We invite all NSW Farmers Association members to visit our stand to have a chat about how we can work together to make farms and farming safer.



## **EMPLOYMENT INJURIES**New South Wales Workers Compensation Statistical Bulletin 2008/09

Total = 42,858 (Male 27,982 / Female 14,876)

Fatalities =

(Male 119 / Female 20)

## **Critical incidents**

The following is a list of workplace fatalities in New South Wales since those listed in edition 83 of WorkCover News. This covers traumatic incidents that resulted in a fatality, occurring from 1 July 2010 to 31 March 2011 inclusive.

## **FATALITIES**

- A worker was advised that a cutting and creasing machine was not working properly. It appears that the worker has inspected the machine and sustained fatal crushing injuries.
- It appears that a farmer was using a tractor to pull his bogged ute from a creek when his tractor slid down the embankment hitting the farmer into the back of his ute. It is suspected that the incident knocked the farmer unconscious face down into the creek.
- A truck driver was hit by a van from another courier company outside the delivery receiving area to his workplace.
- The injured person received fatal head injuries when a returning assembly mounted on the front of a hay wrapping machine caught them. It is believed that the injured person left the cabin of the tractor and entered the area directly in-front of the inlet to the wrapper. It appears as though the returning rollers assembly and in-feeder arm crushed the injured person when the bail was removed.
- The man was mowing a golf course when it appears that he has gone over the edge of the green and the mower has landed on him with the ROPS landing on the back of his neck.
- The man was found laying on the ground with his head resting on the shelf below the sink. He was fitting at the time. When the deceased stopped fitting, first aid was administered. The deceased then stopped breathing and CPR was administered while the ambulance was called.
- It's believed that the deceased was walking across the worksite when he fell due to his poor mobility and the operator of a Bobcat did not see him fall and has driven over him causing fatal injuries.
- The man was undertaking some roof repairs at which time it appears as though he has come into contact with an electrical source. It appears as though the cause of death was electrocution.

- **The man** attended a residential premises to install solar panels. While accessing the roof of the two storey dwelling he fell. Over subsequent days his condition declined and he passed away.
- **The man** was repairing a submersible pump in the river on his property. After removing debris from the pump, the deceased asked his father to turn on the power while he remained in the river. His father returned after turning on the power and could not locate his son. It appears at this stage that there was an electrical fault with the pump and that the deceased suffered an electric shock which either killed him or rendered him unconscious and he has gone under water.
- A male resident returned to hospital after day leave and was assessed by a psychiatrist. For unknown reasons the resident attacked an assistant nurse with a knife. Another resident and the deceased went to the nurses assistance. The deceased was stabbed in the chest and arm.
- The man and an apprentice were undertaking maintenance work on a wood chip and drying machine with an enclosed auger. A build up of wood chips needed to be cleared so as not to cause a fire hazard whilst using an oxy torch. On attempting to start this work the machine would not power up. The apprentice then left to visit the bathroom and upon his return a short time later he found the deceased entangled in the auger.
- The man was situated in the bucket of an elevated work platform (EWP), painting the exterior of a block of units. It would appear that the EWP over balanced and toppled over, with the deceased falling with the EWP.
- The man was involved in assessing a problem tree on the fire line on private property when a tree fell on him inflicting fatal injuries.
- The man appears to have been felling a 27 metre long Tallowood tree. It appears that this has fallen through a number of saplings. One sapling appears to have broken off and travelled back towards the main tree that the deceased was cutting and has struck him.

Disclaimer: This report should be considered a preliminary estimate of work-related fatalities since it is based on initial reports from authority inspectors. The number of notified fatalities and/or the circumstances involved may change after further investigation.



'WorkCover data indicates that over the past two years in New South Wales there have been 377 employment injuries in the forestry and logging industry costing the Workers Compensation Scheme more than \$6.7 million'

JOHN WATSON

GENERAL MANAGER - WORK HEALTH & SAFETY DIVISION

## Forest NSW Agreement

Forests NSW and WorkCover NSW have launched a joint initiative to reduce injuries across the forestry industry. Both agencies are working together to develop more effective approaches to work health and safety and injury management in this high-risk sector.

General Manager of the Work Health and Safety Division John Watson, said the agencies had entered into a partnership agreement to drive safety compliance in forest harvesting.

'WorkCover data indicates that in the past two years in NSW there have been 377 employment injuries in the forestry and logging industry costing the Workers Compensation Scheme more than \$6.7 million,' Mr Watson said.

'Common injuries in this sector include body stressing, slips, trips and falls, and being hit by moving objects.'

Forests NSW CEO Nick Roberts said the partnership would engage and support forest harvesting industries to better manage health and safety risks.

'The forest harvesting industry is diverse, mobile and segmented. With more than 12,700 workers employed in the State's 26.5 million hectares of forests, this partnership will help deliver real improvements and drive a sustainable safety culture across the industry,' he said. The partnership builds on the work done under the Forest Industry Safety Improvement Program, which aims to resolve key safety issues and more closely meet the needs of forestry operators. Under this program, a series of advisory visits to forestry sites and consultation led to the development of the Forest Industry Safety Tool (catalogue no WC02110), a comprehensive publication to assist forest operators develop stronger safety management systems.

FOR A COPY OF THE TOOL OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL **13 10 50** OR VISIT **WORKCOVER.NSW.GOV.AU** 





## Averting catastrophes on hazardous work sites

A major accident at a MHF can have catastrophic consequences.

A review of safety report plans, provisional emergency and security arrangements at oil refineries, chemical processing plants, LP Gas depots and chemical warehouses that store, handle or process large quantities of specific hazardous materials is being carried out by The Major Hazard Facilities (MHF) Team.

The MHF Team is giving feedback to operators and helping them develop safety reports, emergency and security plans that must be lodged by February 2012. The review is critical as a major accident at a Major Hazard Facility can have catastrophic consequences. Chapter 6B of the OHS Regulation focuses on preventing major accidents at MHFs, and protecting the health and safety of workers and the public. Operators are required to minimise the likelihood and consequences of a major accident by having additional safety controls in place. Initially, operators were required to submit notification to WorkCover. The MHF Team verified the information to ensure facilities were correctly identified, and identify neighbouring MHFs that were required to coordinate their safety reports. A total of 340 MHF notifications have been assessed. After notification, operators were provisionally registered and required to submit safety report plans, and provisional emergency and security arrangements to show their progress in developing compliant safety reports, emergency and security plans. Neighbouring MHFs needed to coordinate their safety reports and emergency plans. Councils have also been advised of MHFs located in their area for consideration in their strategic planning and land use safety planning.

REPUENIER! ATION

SafeWork

10 - WORKCOVER NEWS





The SafeWork Awards recognise and reward organisations and individuals who have gone the extra mile to make their workplaces safer. Two of the WorkCover NSW SafeWork Awards winners in 2010 went on to win the National Awards. See their stories over the page.







NATIONAL WINNER

# BRENDON LUKE SAFETY MANAGER BALLINA BYPASS

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

When it comes to winning a SafeWork Award, simplicity is often the key. This formula has reaped rewards for the Ballina Bypass Alliance, with their simple but effective project core value – Safety first, every time.

The Ballina Bypass was formed with the RTA, Leighton Contractors, AECOM, SMEC and Coffey Geotechnics to design and construct the Ballina bypass section of the Pacific Highway upgrade.

The team worked together to build 12 kilometres of dual highway on the Pacific Highway. A comprehensive work health and safety management system was implemented with significant results that addressed specific site challenges – from high rainfall to heavy traffic. Since the inception of the project, the Ballina Bypass worked to implement Safety first, every time – a project core value designed to be the guiding behavioural principle for the entire project.

The project saw them win Category
1: Best workplace health and safety
management system at the WorkCover
NSW SafeWork Awards as well as the
6th annual SafeWork Australia Awards.
Of the alliances' national win, Ballina
Bypass Safety Manager Brendon Luke
said the recognition had put safety
under the spotlight.

'Well it's everyone's primary business focus isn't it, health and safety?'
Brendon said following the national awards.

'Profits are great and production is great but when we injure someone that's the thing we remember, so it's very important that health and safety takes the forefront of every single industry in the country.'

Brendon said the state and national awards had boosted the reputation of the Ballina Bypass Alliance and had given credibility in a competitive market.

'From a project perspective it means that the rest of the industry recognises that we are the leaders, and that to me is personally satisfying and the best achievement we'll achieve on the job,' Brendon said.

'In the eyes of the clients, it gives them the reassurance they are getting a very professional outfit if they choose us.

'I've even had competitors call up and ask how can they do the same.'

Although the Ballina Bypass project still has approximately eight months until completion, Brendon now has his sights set on future SafeWork Awards.

'I'm determined to win the Individual achievement award, so that's the next thing to work towards,' he said.



ENTERING HAS ITS REWARDS

Although quite different, all entries in 2010 had one thing in common: the aim of reducing risk and harm to workers in their workplaces. One story stood out in particular, Barry Murphy's personal experience and the reason why safety is now a number one priority for him.

# BARRY MURPHY

## MANAGER **BRIDGEWORKS ALLIANCE**

There's no denying the title of highly commended in the 2010 SafeWork Awards has boosted the credibility of Bridgeworks Alliance.

But for Alliance Manager Barry Murphy, the rewards run far deeper.

After having lost a close friend in a workplace accident, Barry's reason for promoting workplace safety completely changed.

'I lost one of my good friends. He died in a significant accident on a building site. Unfortunately the circumstances surrounding that was somebody taking a risk,' Barry said.

'He was a giant of a man – very full of life. 'You sit back and think it's not really worth it – it's not worth taking the risk. It Made up of the RTA, Baulderstone, Freyssinet Australia and Aurecon, Bridgeworks Alliance won highly commended for Category 2: Best solution to an identified workplace

The Alliance worked to deliver the safest methods to carry and transport steel on the Sydney Harbour Bridge as part of a recent bridge upgrade - a project that had the potential to cost lives if steel fell from the top of the bridge onto traffic passing underneath. Barry said the success of the project had now led to further work

opportunities. 'The greatest reward for the team was client recognition. So we've got

on, I believe, our safety performance more than anything,' he said.

If you have come up with an innovative solution that reduces workplace injuries or illness - or if you've developed a program or driven an activity aimed at improving work health and safety - we want to hear from you!

repetitive work out of that project based







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of care







Earlier this year WorkCover joined training and support organisation OzHelp Foundation at ACCIONA Energy's Gunning wind farm near Goulburn as part of a work health and safety awareness day for workers.





Constructing each wind turbine requires the use of a 1200 tonne crane, which is the largest in Australia for this type of work

involved discussing with both wind farm operators and construction teams how working from heights procedures, electrical and crane safety, certification and safe work method statements are implemented. ACCIONA Energy has recently constructed the 31turbine Gunning Wind Farm, located on the Cullerin Range, 15km north-east of Gunning in the Upper Lachlan Shire. Once fully operational, the Gunning Wind Farm will produce clean, safe, renewable energy which offsets 135,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year.

ACCIONA Energy Director – Generation, Mr Brett Wickham said ACCIONA Energy had maintained a strong safety record during construction of the wind farm thanks to a comprehensive focus on work health and safety

'ACCIONA is a global leader in the development and management of renewable energy, infrastructure and water projects,' Mr Wickham said.

'We value our relationship with WorkCover and OzHelp Foundation, and have worked closely with them to ensure we maintained high levels of work health and safety during the construction process.' Constructing each wind turbine requires the use of a 1200 tonne crane, which is the largest in Australia for this type of work. A number of other cranes are also used of various sizes including a 500, 140 and 100 tonne crane.

Each wind turbine is connected to one of six individual circuits via 100mm diameter underground power cables. The circuits collect at an on-site substation which increases the voltage from 12,000V to 132,000V and feeds the energy into a new 15km transmission line and finally the power grid. The turbines are undergoing final commissioning and testing, and are expected to be fully operational in coming weeks.

The Gunning Wind Farm has the capacity to provide 46.5MW of power and is expected to meet the energy needs of approximately 30,000 NSW households each year.

When the work health and safety awareness day was held, 25 workers were on site. About 100 workers were involved during construction of the



\$147million wind farm. Seven full-time workers are now employed on-site in operational and maintenance roles.

The work health and safety awareness day involved WorkCover inspectors meeting with ACCIONA Energy staff and sub-contractors and discussing work health and safety systems at the wind farm. The day also featured OzHelp Foundation's Tradies Tune Up Program.

The OzHelp Foundation is a training and support organisation providing services in the areas of health and wellbeing, mental health and issues associated with suicide. The Tradies Tune Up Program involved workers completing physical health checks as well as answering questions about lifestyle habits and stress. At the completion of the checks workers were given a report which provides a 'snapshot' of their health and well-being, as well as recommendations for further assistance if required.

Mr Watson thanked ACCIONA Energy for their support of the Wind Farms Safety Project.

'All wind farm industry workers deserve to return home safely to their families at the end of a working day,' he said. 'I commend ACCIONA Energy for their

'I commend ACCIONA Energy for their commitment and leadership towards work health and safety in the wind farm industry and encourage other wind farm operators to support the groundbreaking work of the Wind Farms Safety Project.'







# Paying it forward from mentee to mentor

When Owen Bladen decided to participate in WorkCover's 2009 Mentor Program as a mentee, he never imagined that down the track he'd become a mentor himself.

I have noticed that the transport and construction industries often need help in addressing safety issues

Owen Bladen

Since those early days, the manager of Traffic Control Services - a company providing traffic management, labour hire and training services for the construction industry - has gone on to mentor other construction company employees, passing on his own knowledge.

'What I enjoy most about mentoring is helping mentees to grasp and implement new ideas in work health and safety,' he said.

Owen's current mentee, Amanda Jones, is the administration manager of Mobile Plant Operator Training Services. The company provides training in work health and safety and traffic control, as well as the use of forklifts and other high-risk equipment.

Given the safety challenges in her industry, Amanda joined the program to continue her company's commitment to work health and safety. 'Because the unsafe use of a

high-risk machine can endanger its operator and those near it, it's important for training organisations such as ours to focus on quality training,' Amanda said.

This common interest in health and safety has not only helped the pair to address issues in their own workplaces, but has also fostered a greater awareness of the requirements for making workplace safety improvements.

As Owen points out, there needs to be a genuine desire in an organisation for a positive change to be made in its health and safety practices.

'When it comes to taking measures such as updating equipment or changing safety precautions, it's essential for a company to be prepared to go the hard yards. There's simply no other way to do it,' he said. Amanda agrees, adding that the mentor program encourages its

participants to make such changes by giving them the opportunity to learn from another company's experiences. But one of the more personal rewards of the program is, as Owen points out, the opportunity to pass on one's knowledge and experiences to others. 'I've worked in the transport and

construction industries for most of my life and have noticed that these industries often need help in addressing safety issues,' Owen said.

'By starting out as a mentee, the mentor program has given me a good grounding in understanding how that help can be given. And now, as a mentor, I can see how other companies are very grateful for that help.'
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST IN THE MENTOR PROGRAM VISIT

WORKCOVER.NSW.GOV.AU/ MENTORPROGRAM OR CALL **13 10 50.**  'Winning the award has enabled me to establish great networks within my community and industry, and provided many outstanding opportunities.'

# WorkCover helping to recognise our state's brightest young stars

WorkCover NSW will this year continue to make young workers a priority by recognising excellence among the State's trainees.

WorkCover NSW will this year continue to make young workers a priority by recognising excellence among the State's trainees.

WorkCover has secured its place as sponsor of the Trainee of the Year category for the 2011 NSW Training Awards.

The Awards, hosted by the NSW Department of Education and Training (DET), recognise the achievements of students, training organisations, employers and small business in the NSW vocational education and training sector.

The Trainee of the Year Award

recognises the highest achieving trainee from a NSW Registered Training Organisation based on their career and study achieving.

NSW workplaces occur among the State's young workers and although workplace injuries in NSW are at their lowest levels in 20 years, the reality is that in the 12 months to December 2010, 14 young workers were injured each day at work and 15 were killed.

WorkCover's sponsorship of the award is part of a comprehensive program to work with employers workers and industry to reduce injury and illness.

2010 NSW and Australian Trainee of the Year, Gabriella Morona said the NSW Training Awards were a fantastic event.

Gabriella completed a Rural Skills-

Agriculture Certificate lll traineeship while working on her family's farm in Deniliquin.

'Winning the award has enabled me to establish great networks within my community and industry,' Ms Morona said.

Gabriella is now studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics. Since winning the award, Gabriella has received the Conargo Shire Young Australian of the Year Award as well an Australian Rice Industry Scholarship

'Being safe and preventing incidents in the workplace is a significant and important aspect of all traineeships, and WorkCover's sponsorship of the Trainee of the Year award plays an important part in raising awareness of workplace safety among young people,' Ms Morona said.

people, Ms Morona said.
WorkCover has developed and funded a range of resources for employers and young people, including the elearning tool Hazard a Guess, found on WorkCover's Young Workers website

youngworkers.com.au.

The NSW Training Awards presentation dinner will be held on 15 September 2011. NSW winners will enter the Australian Training Awards and compete against winners from all states and territories. For more information visit training.nsw.gov.au/training\_awards

FOR MORE INFO ON YOUNG WORKER SAFETY CALL **13 10 50**, VISIT **YOUNGWORKERS.COM.AU** 



## Safety alerts

WorkCover has issued the following safety alerts since the last edition of WorkCover News. To receive early notification of these alerts, subscribe to WorkCover eNews at **workcover.nsw.gov.au.** Control measures listed below are not comprehensive – visit the WorkCover website for full details.

WC03043

## WC03093

## WC03042

## PREVENTING THE COLLAPSE OF EXCAVATIONS

This safety alert was issued to remind employers and principal contractors to ensure the stability of excavations before workers enter them. It follows an incident where one worker was killed and two injured while constructing a 'bungy' pool for exercising horses. The soil of an unsupported trench wall gave way and, together with a steel beam, collapsed onto the workers.

WorkCover reminds employers and contractors that trench and excavation collapse poses a significant risk and can occur with little or no warning. Before you start excavating, do the following to prevent collapse:

- complete a site-specific risk assessment
- develop emergency procedures for excavation collapse
- ensure excavation work is regularly inspected and supervised by a competent person
- consult with workers on the control measures to be used.

## MAINTENANCE OF BLAST FREEZERS

This alert reminds employers and those in control of workplaces to ensure the safety and stability of plenums (a space inside a building used for airflow), ceilings and other associated structures by having effective and appropriate inspection maintenance programs. This follows the death of a worker when a plenum collapsed while he was working in a blast freezer. A gradual build-up of ice on top of the plenum resulted in a number of panels collapsing under the weight.

To ensure all components of a refrigeration system are operational and compliant, the employer or controller of the workplace should:

- ensure inspection and maintenance regimes are in place
- monitor conditions to detect equipment failure or deterioration
- review records of all work performed on, or associated with, the refrigeration plant and other equipment
- provide appropriate training to those undertaking inspection, maintenance and repair.

## OVERTURNED BOOM-TYPE ELEVATING WORK PLATFORM

This safety alert follows the recent death of a painter who fell about 10 metres when the boom-type elevating work platform (EWP) that he was working in overturned. While painting the gutters of an apartment block, the painter moved the EWP's boom onto a slope with a gradient greater than that recommended by the EWP's manufacturer. The EWP overturned and flung the painter from the basket.

WorkCover reminds employers and principal contractors to ensure that competent people operate 'fit for purpose' plant that are suitable for specific site conditions.

Use the following control measures to prevent EWP's from overturning:

- select an EWP that is suitable for the task and site conditions
- ensure that an EWP is operated by a competent person who follows the EWP manufacturer's instructions
- check ground conditions to ensure that terrain is level and free from obstructions
- ensure that level indicators, where fitted, are used and monitored at all times.



## BESAFE 9636 7140

 $\mathsf{R} \; \mathsf{E} \; \mathsf{S} \; \mathsf{O} \; \mathsf{U} \; \mathsf{R} \; \mathsf{C} \; \mathsf{E} \; \mathsf{S} \; \mathsf{Making It} \; \mathsf{Safe} \; \mathsf{Ahead}$ 

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## **CSSD National Guide:**

Design and handling of surgical instrument transport cases

WorkCover NSW is currently managing a national working party, which has developed a National Guide for the d esign and handling of surgical instrument transport cases. As part of this process, a sub-group was formed in April 2011, which was facilitated by WorkCover NSW and included representatives from Central Sterilising Services Departments (CSSD) across

Australia. The group met over two days with the aim of preparing an action plan to develop a harmonised training package designed specifically for CSSD areas that identified the new processes involved in the safe use and handling of the redesigned transport cases and associated equipment.

## We developed an action plan and timeline to complete the training package, which will include:

- safe operating procedures (despatch and receipt)
- checklists (including environmental, equipment, competencies and discomfort survey)
- a CD / DVD
- workshops
- an e-learning program
- workplace training material templates (including evaluation and assessments).





Petrol retailers and gas suppliers had the chance to test drive a compliance verification tool under development by WorkCover, which will improve general knowledge about the safe storage and handling of dangerous goods.

The group met last November at a forum to discuss the key findings of the recent WorkCover Verification Program into the service station industry. The main discussions focused on the learnings on the safe storage and handling of dangerous goods, particularly as they relate to the safe operation of service stations.

operation of service stations.
The forum was attended by representatives from Budget Petroleum, Caltex Australia, Coles Express, Dib Group Pty Ltd (Metro Petroleum), Liberty Oil Corporation Pty Ltd, Motor Traders' Association of NSW, Strasbourger Enterprises (Properties) Pty Ltd (7 Eleven), 7 Eleven Stores Pty Ltd, The Shell Company of Australia, UNIGAS, United Petroleum Pty Ltd, Woolworths Petrol, Australian Institute of Petroleum and Australasian Convenience and Petroleum Marketers Association.

Emerging issues touching on the proposed National Work Health and Safety Legislation were also discussed, as was the potential for robbery and violence and the safety challenges associated with franchiser/franchisee arrangements.

WorkCover representatives offered to meet individually with organisations to discuss the program's findings as they relate to individual businesses.

Attendees also had the opportunity to share ideas and provide input into the development of a compliance verification tool.

The group will reconvene and WorkCover will provide an update on the findings from the planned Regional Verification Program, clarification on cross jurisdictional issues, and the finalisation of the compliance verification tool.

ATTENDEES HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE IDEAS AND PROVIDE INPUT INTO A COMPLIANCE VERIFICATION TOOL





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