



**Mining & Quarrying**  
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH &  
SAFETY COMMITTEE

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# MAQOHSC

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 43: Summer 2013



### From the Presiding Member

The Mining and Quarrying Occupational Health and Safety Committee (MAQOHSC) had another productive year assisting the mining and quarrying industries within South Australia.

I'm pleased to start 2013 with this summer edition of our MAQOHSC newsletter.

As 2013 commences, I anticipate many mines and quarries have spent time preparing and now implementing the new WHS legislation. This can be time-consuming and at times confusing for OHS staff and owners alike; however I would like to remind all stakeholders of the valuable assistance which can be gained from utilising the free MAQOHSC field services.

In 2012 MAQOHSC continued its efforts to raise the profile of prevention-focussed safety as well as offering support through a broad range of programs that assist stakeholders to integrate safety systems and to understand and manage hazards and risks in the workplace.

Key features of the year for MAQOHSC included the following:

- The delivery of the field operations program by senior field officers increased our profile and provided a strong link between MAQOHSC and the industry.

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## South Australia has new work health and safety laws

**The Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA) and the Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 (SA) came into operation in South Australia on 1 January 2013, bringing our state into line with most other jurisdictions who have already adopted the nationally harmonised work health and safety legislation (Victoria and Western Australia being the only Australian jurisdictions that are now yet to adopt the national laws).**

The WHS Act aims to provide workers across Australia with consistent laws and the same standard of protection regardless of where they work or the type of work they do. The Act will also reduce red tape and compliance costs for businesses in South Australia that operate across state borders.

### Key features of the WHS Act

- It establishes health and safety duties, including the primary duty to protect any person from exposure to hazards and risks that arise from work.
- It provides for worker representation, consultation and participation including through health and safety representatives and health and safety committees.

- It retains SafeWork SA as the home of the Mines' inspectorate for oversight of mine and quarry workplace safety and health issues.
- It allows significant new regulations to have transitional periods to provide businesses and workers with time to prepare.
- It provides for the creation of regulations and codes of practice.

SafeWork SA encourages business and industry to make themselves aware of their obligations under the new work health and safety laws. SafeWork SA work health and safety inspectors will be visiting South Australian workplaces delivering work health and safety information packs and working through issues with persons conducting a business or undertaking, health and safety representatives and workers.

It is important to note that the nationally developed mining regulations, which will form part of the overall package of work health and safety laws, are still being finalised and will come into operation on 1 January 2014. In the meantime, South Australia's existing mining regulations continue to apply. MAQOHSC will continue to keep you informed about developments in this area.

For more information about the new work health and safety laws, check out the SafeWork SA website at [www.safework.sa.gov.au](http://www.safework.sa.gov.au). If you have any questions and would like to speak to someone or arrange a transitional education visit by a SafeWork SA WHS Inspector, you can call the SafeWork SA Help Centre on 1300 365 255.

**Fact sheets on the Act are available at [www.safework.sa.gov.au](http://www.safework.sa.gov.au)**

### SAFETY ALERT

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## 2012 – a busy year in the field for MAQOHSC

### From the Presiding Member

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- Our senior field officers undertook more site visits than the previous year, and the program of visitation is tailored to suit stakeholders' needs – whether a site needs one-off or ongoing assistance – and they can also identify where additional assistance or guidance is needed.
- We added the SAFE Toolbox DVDs to our website. The presentations can be used by industry to train staff and encourage team discussion.
- In conjunction with SACOME, we continued to provide emerging mines with 'start-up' safety support.
- We continued with the Health Assessments Program. This 60-minute screening assessment includes testing for blood pressure, blood cholesterol and glucose, body composition, aerobic fitness, nutrition profile, cardiac risk rating, back risk, vision, hearing, lung function, goal setting and counselling.
- In addition to the health checks, there are also MAQOHSC-funded skin checks for industry to detect possible skin cancers among the state's mining and quarrying workforce.
- We continued to monitor aspects of the new work health and safety legislation and regulations where it affects the mining and quarrying industries in South Australia.

I know that MAQOHSC, including the Committee itself, the Committee secretariat and our senior field officers are keen to continue the good work and make further advances in 2013.

**Margaret Sexton**  
Presiding Member MAQOHSC

**Field Operations continues to use the industry contact sheet *Help MAQOHSC to help you* to assess the needs of the mining and quarrying industry. The contact sheets enable us to keep your details up to date and help MAQOHSC to plan its Field Operations activities for the year.**

### Throughout 2012, MAQOHSC Field Operations was kept busy:

- engaging over 250 mines and quarries
- assisting approximately 150 sites
- providing information workshops for 692 participants
- conducting 13 workplace audits
- mentoring six OHS personnel on various sites
- completing and launching the SAFE Toolbox DVD.

Information workshops typically consist of interactive presentations of 20 to 30 minutes – tailored to suit organisation/site requirements. For example a risk management presentation would involve field officers using the organisation's systems and documentation that local personnel are familiar with. Where possible practical components are included, and sometimes this activity has highlighted other areas of the operations where further MAQOHSC assistance is required.

Field Operations provided workshops on the following topics: plant isolation and lockout, manual handling and ergonomics, hazardous substances, PPE/dust/noise awareness, WHS responsibilities and OHS fundamentals, risk management, conducting a workplace inspection, and effective consultation.

### OHS audits have varied in their scope, with the focus on:

- achieving/maintaining accreditation or certification to a standard, regulation, Act or license
- satisfying a customer or contract requirement
- determining whether the business management system meets the overall objectives of the organisation
- verifying whether a process is being performed in accordance with written procedure and determining its effectiveness.

Audits of some of the smaller organisations have covered the total safety management system (SMS). For larger organisations, the focus has been to audit part of the SMS, for example emergency preparedness, traffic management, dangerous goods, or ergonomics.

Interventions by the regulator combined with broad publicity about the new WHS legislation over the past 12 months have also encouraged organisations to re-assess the risks in their workplaces. Where SafeWork SA inspectors have identified non-compliance, such as lack of policies and procedures, MAQOHSC field officers in their complementary role have been able to provide relevant assistance.

**For 2013 the Field Operations core business continues to be about providing practical WHS advice and assistance on site. For further information about these services contact [david.wakelin@sa.gov.au](mailto:david.wakelin@sa.gov.au)**



### Geoff Day retires

**After 21 years of service to South Australian mining, MAQOHSC bids farewell to Geoff Day. The outgoing representative of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) on MAQOHSC, Geoff is to be replaced by Mark Emmerson.**

Geoff is a quiet achiever, but vocal on safety and health issues at MAQOHSC meetings! This resulted from much of his working life spent in the mid north of South Australia and seeing close up the devastating effect of ill health, injury and death in our sector. This drove his organising of mining, energy and manufacturing workers. Geoff identified the need for, and created, a network of dedicated delegates who have worked tirelessly for the advancement of mine workers' wages and conditions.

Geoff started with the Federated Engine Drivers and Firemen's Association (FEDFA) in 1990 as an official, becoming secretary in 1991. Geoff has been the president of the CFMEU's Mining and Energy Division since 1993 up until last May, when they were amalgamated into the Construction and General Division. He retired from the CFMEU in July 2012.

MAQOHSC thanks Geoff for his hard work, and wishes him well in his new ventures.

### Help MAQOHSC to help you

*The Help MAQOHSC to help you* contact sheet has been rolled out again in 2013, and already the responses suggest it will be another busy year helping industry. An electronic version has been distributed to mine and quarry owners.

**If you have not received a contact sheet and wish to take advantage of these services, contact MAQOHSC on (08) 8204 9842.**



## New load-shifting certification proposal

**Currently in South Australia the assessment of load-shifting assessors, management of plant operator tickets, and administration of the registration of assessors is undertaken by SafeWork SA.**

Despite concerns raised by SA, NSW and QLD, the new nationally harmonised WHS Regulations make no mention of a mandatory requirement for operators of load-shifting equipment (LSE) to be assessed by registered assessors or to maintain log books in the operation of LSE. Under the new legislation, there is no requirement for registered assessors or specific licencing (Notice of Satisfactory Assessment) for LSE.

This will now come under a general duty-of-care requirement for a person conducting a business or undertaking to ensure operators have a satisfactory level of competency, training, supervision etc. to operate plant, based on complexity and level of risk of operating the plant and the environment it is working in.

In response to the lack of clear direction in this area, the SA Civil Contractors Federation (CCF SA) has developed a proposal to meet the need for employers and operators to ensure and demonstrate a satisfactory level of competence to operate mobile plant using an industry regulated model.

### The proposal

1. The aim of this proposal is to maintain an industry-wide minimum load-shifting competency standard set and maintained by the industry.
2. It is proposed that the existing standards for assessors be maintained.
3. It is proposed that the current plant assessment process be maintained.
4. That an independent overarching plant assessment committee (PAC) be formed to oversee the assessment process and act as an independent arbitrator.
5. Membership of the PAC would consist of a representative from CITB, Union, Employer, SafeWork SA and a senior LSE assessor.
6. That the assessment of load-shifting assessors be undertaken by an independent panel, in line with current SafeWork SA requirements.
7. The PAC recommends fees to be charged for registration of assessors and assessments.

8. Appeals and mediations to be overseen by the PAC.
9. Current plant assessors will maintain their certification for five years, after which they will require reassessment.
10. RTOs to issue certification and Notice of Satisfactory Assessment (NSA) LSE tickets.
11. NSA tickets to have photo ID and be valid for five years, after which a re-assessment will be required (as per High Risk Work Licence requirements).
12. That the administration of the registration of assessors be undertaken by the CCF SA.
13. That the current NOHSC 7019 be the minimum acceptable level used.
14. That certification to National Training Package competency is a long-term aim for all operators.

The South Australian Construction Industry OHS Committee (SACIOC), which is represented by the major construction industry peak employer and union bodies in SA, has indicated its support for this new proposed model in an effort to maintain and further improve our industry standards, which are at risk of being undermined if a suitable replacement scheme cannot be developed. This proposed model also has the support of SafeWork SA.

CCF SA have also proposed that a communications plan be developed and led by SafeWork SA that will influence all civil contractors and plant operators to support an industry-led framework. The communication plan will also include all current RTOs and plant assessors. The eventual aim of this model is to be applied across all states of Australia.

This model has also been presented to the national CCF board and has been given in-principle support. Should this model be rolled out at a national level it will result in an Australia-wide plant operation ticket, accepted across all borders of Australia; something that has never been achieved before.

### More information

**This article has been written and authorised by John Bowden, HSE Senior Adviser Civil Contractors Federation SA. For more information, please call John on (08) 8111 8042.**



## Failure to implement controls: blast exclusion zone

### What happened?

A D10 dozer was destroyed and a 996 digger severely damaged when they were hit by rocks from an overburden blast. There were no injuries to workers.

The aim of the blast was to 'just lift' the material and drop it back down. It was not designed as a cast blast. However, the shot, which contained 400 tonnes of explosive, moved the large block material more than 90 m.

### How did it happen?

The preliminary investigation found that equipment was not excluded from the blast zone in line with the mine's safety and health management system. As a result of this failure to enforce equipment exclusion zones, the unplanned and uncontrolled movement of blasted rock damaged the machines.

### Recommendations

All mines review their principal hazard management plan and standard operating procedures on blasting and explosives usage to ensure their systems will prevent this type of incident.

All mines develop a pre-firing check sheet to help shot firers ensure all required controls are in place, especially those related to where people and equipment are relative to the blast exclusion zone.

All mines review blast design plans to ensure they meet the intended outcome of the blast.

All mines review the effectiveness of the pre-firing control check list and the blast plan after blasting.

Where communications are part of the final pre-blast controls, ensure there is a positive feedback mechanism (ie, not just one-way communication).

## Fatality involving front-end loader

### What happened?

A worker on foot was struck and killed by a 988H Cat front end loader which was trampling forward. The worker was found on the ROM pad.

### How did it happen?

Pedestrian-vehicle interaction is a major hazard at mines. This incident has been recognised as pedestrian and mobile equipment interaction, but the investigation is still ongoing.

### Recommendations

All sites should review their procedures, practices and plans to manage the risk of mobile equipment-pedestrian risk.

The review should include these points:

- Designing operations, tasks and activities to eliminate or reduce the possibility of interaction between pedestrians and mobile equipment.
- Maintaining positive communication between pedestrians and equipment operators.
- Recognising the equipment operator's blind spots and the location of pedestrians or plant.
- Developing clear and concise rules for the interaction of mobile equipment and pedestrians in all parts of the operation, including restricting pedestrians from areas where mobile equipment is operating.
- Considering implementation of proximity sensing technology to limit equipment operation when persons are in the vicinity of mobile equipment.

### More information

Full details of these and many more safety alerts are available from [http://www.maqohsc.sa.gov.au/safety\\_alerts.cfm](http://www.maqohsc.sa.gov.au/safety_alerts.cfm)

SafeWork week took place in South Australia in October 2012, with many presentations being delivered on subjects relevant to all industries. As many mine sites are in remote areas this does pose some problems for operators to attend or free up staff for short periods throughout a swing.

As an Inspectorate we are aware of these restrictions and offer the availability of presentations to be delivered either by arrangement or during our scheduled visits to sites; if you are interested in such arrangements then simply contact the inspector who normally visits your location or the Mining & Hazard Management team at SafeWork SA.

Issues that are coming to our attention at this time are the incidence of fires on plant, these can either be attributed to worn or damaged hydraulic hoses or fuel lines due to no preventive maintenance programs, broken support brackets not being picked up during pre-start checks or regular scheduled services. It is also recognised that some smaller plant such as generators and compressors, being portable, are being mounted on vehicles and hence are becoming mobile plant. Due to the varying ground conditions, this subjects the plant to vibration and stresses they were not designed for, and accordingly inspections and maintenance become a priority, especially around switches and wiring which may wear through and cause electrical shorts, and fuel lines or fuel spills which come into contact with hot parts or ignition sources.

Another factor is poor maintenance or lack of fire suppressant systems on heavy plant. Although South Australian legislation does not dictate how or where these systems should be installed, the need for a risk assessment for the plant and its environment would indicate that in most areas installation and maintenance of a fire suppressant system would lower the risk of property damage and injury to operators.

With the introduction of the WHS Regulations there is no longer a requirement for operators of load-shifting equipment to be assessed by a registered assessor. However there will be a requirement for the Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking to ensure operators are deemed to be competent to operate the types of machinery used within the workplace, and any new machinery introduced to the workplace, with records kept of competencies achieved and training conducted.

Machine guarding continues to be an issue for workplaces, especially around crushing plant and conveyors, an assessment of the plant, existing guards and identification of nip and trapping points by operators usually identifies problem areas. When guards are installed the use of electrical zip ties to hold them in place is not an approved method; guards are to be fixed so that removal requires the use of a tool, in more sensitive areas, where access is required on a regular basis then the use of interlocks may be more suitable.

The use of suitable lock-out systems when access is needed beyond guarded areas is also required, and other permits such as hot work may be appropriate; the de-energising of hydraulics due to stored energy also needs to be considered.

With the warmer weather now approaching other issues need to be considered such as sunscreen, hydration and additional rest breaks when working in extreme temperatures. With the hot weather comes storms which may give extreme changes in rainfall and road conditions; operators need to be aware of sudden changes and adapt driving for these types of events.

The NSW Coroner recently found that the death of a young worker was as a result of hyperthermia which arose from working in very high temperatures without adequate hydration. The NSW Coroner recommended a publicity campaign be undertaken and that WorkCover NSW documents make specific reference to the dangers of hydrating solely with soft drinks and caffeinated drinks. WorkCover NSW has just released the *Working in Heat Fact Sheet* modifying it to read "Providing cool drinking water near the work site. During hot weather, workers should be encouraged to drink water (about 200 mL) every 15 to 20 minutes, and not rely on soft drinks or caffeinated drinks".

This serves as a timely reminder that we need to be aware and to look out for our workmates and ensure we do not endanger them or that they place us at risk. Enjoy the New Year and the warmer weather.

**Chris Spinks**  
Principal Inspector OHS  
Inspector of Mines  
SafeWork SA



## Safe Work Awards – don't miss out!

**Every year, South Australian businesses, industries and individuals have the opportunity to be recognised through the Safe Work Awards.**

These awards showcase best practice and highlight the creative thinking and innovation South Australians bring to occupational health and safety development.

At MAQOHSC, we have seen many examples of excellent practices to prevent injury and disease in the mining and quarrying industry. We encourage you to start thinking about nominating for an award and being recognised for your accomplishments in occupational health and safety.

The awards – which are awarded in each Australian state and nationally – are designed to highlight the work of those who go above and beyond the norm to create safe workplaces and work practices.

In 2013, the Safe Work Awards will be awarded in the first week of November. Nominations will open in April, and we encourage you all to review the award categories and start preparing your application.

Why enter? The Safe Work Awards are an opportunity to get recognition from your peers in the state and even across the nation; build your reputation; and help spread the safety message.

The winners of South Australia's Safe Work Awards become finalists in the national awards, with a chance to show all of Australia their best practice in creating safer, more productive workplaces.

### The categories:

- Best Workplace Health and Safety Management System (private and public sector awards)
- Best Solution to an Identified Workplace Health and Safety Issue
- Best Workplace Health and Safety Practice/s in a Small Business
- Best Individual Contribution to Workplace Health and Safety
- An employee, such as a health and safety representative
- An outstanding contribution by an OHS manager or a person with responsibility for OHS as part of their duties
- Health and safety representative of the year
- Augusta Zadow Scholarships Two \$10,000 scholarships to assist with OHS improvements undertaken by, or for the benefit of, women in South Australia

**This year, don't forget to nominate your workplace or an employee. Check with MAQOHSC or the SafeWork SA website ([www.safework.sa.gov.au](http://www.safework.sa.gov.au)) in April for nomination forms.**

## Contact us

If you wish to comment on the information provided in this newsletter we would appreciate your views.

We are also pleased to receive contributions – including photographs if possible – on better approaches to improving the safety of standard industry operations.

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