



Mining & Quarrying
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH &
SAFETY COMMITTEE

MAQOHSC

NEWSLETTER

Issue 44: Winter 2015



EVERYONE DOES IT TOUGH SOMETIMES.

LOOK OUT FOR YOUR WORKMATES.



Presiding member's letter

As the current Presiding Member of the MAQOHSC, I welcome you all to the first edition of our 2015 newsletter and hope you find it informative and interesting.

The Committee continues to focus on the prevention of injury and disease by providing industry with relevant, best-practice safety guides, assessment tools and support to ensure stakeholders understand and meet their work, health and safety obligations.

Workplace health and safety is paramount to every South Australian worker; unfortunately, all too often I see the physical and emotional downside to work injury.

The pain of work injury extends to work colleagues and the family of an injured worker and can result in the loss of workplace moral and family disharmony.

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Supported by
Government of South Australia

New program to help prevent suicide and promote wellbeing for workers

A new pilot program funded by MAQOHSC as a joint initiative with Wesley LifeForce and Mining Family Matters is now available to industry.

The Rock Solid Wellbeing / Suicide Prevention Pilot Program aims to assist South Australia's mining and quarrying organisations in promoting workers' wellbeing and suicide awareness within the workplace.

A 32-page guide book has also been created for mining and quarrying workers, providing vital practical strategies to boost emotional wellbeing and help prevent suicide.

Workplace workshops designed to assist key staff and supervisors with effective interventions that can make a real difference to workers will also be available.

This proactive approach by industry will reduce workplace stress and absenteeism and assist in reducing the devastating impacts of workers' stress and suicide.

Did you know?

- Suicide is the leading cause of death for Australians between the ages of 15 and 44.
- 2535 Australians died by suicide in 2012, more than the number of people killed in motor vehicle accidents.
- On average, seven Australians take their life each day (and it's believed that for every death by suicide, another 30 people attempt to take their lives).

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Presiding member's letter

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South Australia's mines and quarries are a great contributor to the state's economy and have employed thousands of workers over many years. But equally it has its share of preventable injuries and diseases.

When we consider that the cost of workplace injuries and disease nationally accounts for the staggering sum of billions of productive dollars, is it any wonder workplace safety should be considered in a different light?

Under the Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA) all persons involved in work-related activities in South Australian workplaces have a legal responsibility to not place their own health and safety or anyone else's at risk.

As each South Australian company is legally required under the Act to consult with its workforce, using elected health and safety representatives and committees can help to provide a wealth of knowledge and a broadening of the knowledge base, as well as providing a platform for information sharing/consulting within the workplace.

A key element of MAQOHSC's initiative remains in our work health and safety specialists, engaged to undertake on-site targeted activities with quarry and mine holders, operators and workers to help reduce workplace incidents, injuries and deaths.

Martin O'Malley
Presiding Member MAQOHSC



MAQOHSC Committee undertakes site visit to Hillgrove Resources

MAQOHSC Committee site visits are a key annual activity that enables the Committee a direct opportunity to view, first hand, mine and quarry operations of all sizes currently underway throughout the state.

The site visits further allow the Committee to consult, communicate and engage with mine owners/operators, site managers, supervisors, HSRs and workers alike on matters of high importance and emerging issues.

Hillgrove Resources, Kanmantoo Operation, hosted the most recent site visit and MAQOHSC formally thanks Hillgrove for the opportunity to tour the site and allowing the use of their facilities for the monthly MAQOHSC Committee meeting.

MAQOHSC Committee members represent bodies including Cement, Concrete Aggregates Australia (CCAA), South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy (SACOME), SA Unions, Government and Employers.

HSR SUPPORT PROFILE Ben Mooney



What's your job on site?

Mobile plant operator.

How long have you been a health and safety representative (HSR)?

About six months.

When did you do your training?

Three months ago.

How has the training helped?

It showed me what my role as an HSR is, how to perform my duties, and the powers I have in the role; and how the WHS legislation applies to a company.

How do you improve safety for your workgroup in your role?

I do workplace inspections at the start of a new shift cycle, run toolbox meetings and a safety topic, listen to people's safety concerns and follow up on them with supervisors and other relevant people, and I attend the monthly safety meetings.

What do you enjoy about the role?

Helping people look after their own safety within the crew, and helping improve things on site. I like being hands on – spending time and looking at things in detail, not just spending time in the truck. It gives a bit of variety to the role.

What do you think are the key things that make an HSR successful in the role?

Open and honest communication with everyone, and having a supportive management team and general manager.

Celebrating operational excellence at the CCAA dinner and awards

Each year, Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia (CCAA) hosts the Construction Materials Industry Dinner with the support of the Institute of Quarrying Australia (IQA). This is the CCAA's Gala event for the year and in 2015 will be held at the spectacular Adelaide Oval on Friday 17 July.

A heavy focus of the evening is the awarding of our Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Awards. There are two awards presented: Environmental Innovation, and Health and Safety Innovation. Both of the awards are focused on showcasing innovation within the industry, allowing all CCAA members to participate on an equal footing.

The Health and Safety Innovation award recognises excellence in developing and implementing a solution to an identified health and safety issue. Entries for this award may include a product solution, engineering innovation, a training program, an awareness raising activity or other risk control measures that reduce the risk of work-related injury and illness.

The awards are open to all CCAA Members and Associate Members and are a great opportunity to demonstrate and celebrate operational excellence to colleagues, peers, regulators and other stakeholders.

More information about CCAA, the Construction Materials Industry Dinner and EHS Awards are available at www.ccaa.com.au





MAQOHSC guide to principle mining hazards

As most mine and quarry operators are aware, new Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulations came into effect in South Australia on 1 January 2014.

The mines regulations are part of the broader Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 (SA) (WHS Regulations) and operate in addition to the obligations that apply to all workplaces.

The most obvious difference to the old regulations is the requirement for a safety management system (SMS).

This requirement for a documented SMS provides the basis for managing all risks to health and safety associated with mining.

One of the major components of a SMS for a mine or quarry will be the Principal Mining Hazard Management Plans.

While the general risk management process is intended to provide a mechanism for addressing safety issues across the mine or quarry, it is widely recognised that there are some hazards on a mine or quarry site which can present very significant risks to workers and others.

These are collectively referred to as principal mining hazards.

A principal mining hazard, as defined in regulation 612, is any activity, process, procedure, plant, structure, substance, situation or other circumstance relating to the carrying out of mining operations that have a reasonable potential to result in multiple deaths in a single incident or a series of recurring incidents concerning any of the following:

- ground or strata failure
- inundation or inrush of any substance
- mine shafts and winding operations
- roads or other vehicle operating areas
- air quality or dust or other airborne contaminants
- fire or explosion
- gas outbursts
- spontaneous combustion
- a hazard identified by the mine operator of a mine under regulation 34.

Regrettably, incidents involving principal mining hazards can have catastrophic outcomes.

The Pike River Mine incident in New Zealand where 29 workers lost their lives is an example. For this reason, a mine or quarry operator must identify any hazard that could be classed as a principal mining hazard.

The mine operator must then prepare and document a plan which describes how the various risks arising from the hazard will be controlled.

Given the higher risk factor associated with these hazards a higher level of planning and control is required.

Schedule 19 of the WHS Regulations lists additional matters that need to be considered in relation to the examples at Regulation 612 and these will also form part of the plan.

In preparing a principal mining hazard management plan the mine operator must address these additional matters so it is important to be familiar with Schedule 19.

To assist mine and quarry operators with principal mining hazards and principal mining hazard management plans, MAQOHSC has developed a Principal Mining Hazard guide.

The guide explains the regulatory requirements and provides an extract of Schedule 19 and an example of a Principal Mining Hazard Management Plan.

The Principal Mining Hazard guide is available for download from the MAQOHSC website:

www.maqohsc.sa.gov.au



As we enter into the winter months, many workplaces change their attention from production to maintenance due to wet weather. Although there is less chance of fire due to grinder and welding sparks at this time of year, it does not remove the risk completely.

It should be remembered that, when it comes to fire, the dangers are not just in our surrounds but also in the clothing we wear – prolonged exposure to grinding sparks onto clothing can and does cause the fabric to burn. Even if made from cotton drill, work clothing can become contaminated with solvents oils and fuel.

Oil based products do not always wash out and residues left in the material are combustible when exposed to heat, so care should always be taken and where possible – when doing extended grinding and welding tasks – a leather apron or chaps should be worn. Also remember to hydrate and take regular breaks and always have an extinguisher and water near the work area.

Incidents of fires on machinery due to split or abraded fuel and hydraulic lines continue to happen regularly – despite MAQOHSC's reminders in this newsletter. Checking for leaks or sweating of fuel on lines should be part of pre-start inspections of all plant and equipment, and when servicing takes place, all holding clamps clips and restraints should be inspected and replaced where worn.

Shut downs for maintenance of plant often means the introduction of numerous contractors to a site with multiple tasks being undertaken simultaneously; this increases the risk of workers being exposed to objects falling onto them or the area they are working in. Contractors and their workers often do not know the hazards around the work area, therefore inductions are paramount and should also be area-specific if additional hazards exist.

Some confusion also exists with the requirement to notify SafeWork SA of notifiable incidents, serious injury or illness and dangerous incidents. These are contained in the WHS Act, part 3 sections 35, 36 and 37, and penalties apply for not notifying of an incident. If you read the relevant sections of the Act and are still unsure, then the best way is to notify and we will determine if further investigation is required – you cannot be penalised for over reporting and our Help Centre staff will advise you if a report is not required.

Christopher Spinks
Principal Inspector WHS-Mining
SafeWork SA

MAQOHSC offers the following support to the South Australian mining and quarrying workplaces.

Audits and Inspections:

- 4801 WHS Management System Audit
- 14001 Environmental System Audit
- WHS Regulations Chapter 10, Mines - Gap Analysis
- General Site Inspection
- Conveyor Inspection

Assistance with / Development of:

- WHS Management Systems
- Policies & Procedures
- Plant / Task Risk Assessments
- SOP, JHA, SWMS
- Emergency Response Plans
- Principal Mining Hazard Management Plans
- Traffic Management Plan
- Injury Management
- Integration of Management Systems
- Training Needs Analysis
- Mentoring those with WHS Responsibilities
- WHS Mining & Quarrying Legislation

Information Workshops:

- WHS Responsibilities
- WHS for Supervisors
- Effective Consultation
- Communicate Information
- Principal Mining Hazards
- Hazard ID & Risk Management
- Hazardous Manual Tasks
- Hazardous Chemicals
- Isolations and Lockout
- Confined Spaces
- Accident / Incident Investigation
- Dust / Noise in the Workplace
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

If you would like support with any of the following topics, please download the WHS Support Request form from our website, complete and email back to: maqohsc@sa.gov.au, or call to speak with one of our WHS Specialists.

Future Events 2015

Mining & Quarrying Work Health & Safety Seminar

13 May Mt Gambier

MAQOHSC is pleased to announce that the Mining & Quarrying Work Health & Safety Seminar will be coming to Mt Gambier on Wednesday 13 May 2015 at the Commodore on the Park, 1 Jubilee Highway East, Mount Gambier SA 5290.

Attendees of the seminar will be presented with a range of short, industry-specific information sessions from MAQOHSC, SafeWork SA, NB&A Rehab and Health Safety Environment Australia (HSE).

Topics covered include the following:

- Introduction to MAQOHSC
- Overview of Chapter 10 of the WHS Regulations 2012 (SA)
- SafeWork SA – Assessing and Treating Notifications
- Management of Principle Mining Hazards
- Dangerous Substances
- Principal Mining Hazard – Roads & Other Vehicle Operating Areas
- Passport to Safety
- Dust Monitoring
- Mental Health

To register for this free event, please contact MAQOHSC at www.maqohsc.sa.gov.au.

CCAA – Construction Materials Industry Dinner EH&S Awards

17 July Adelaide Oval

MAQOHSC Work Health & Safety Seminar

July Riverland

Location and date to be advised.

SACOME – SA Mines Emergency Response Competition

28-30 August Broken Hill

Location to be advised.

05 February 2015 Mercury and work - dangers rise together

With high temperatures across South Australia from tomorrow, SafeWork SA is reminding employers and workers that heat is a workplace hazard.

27 January 2015 Fall from height at mobile screening plant

A supervisor lost his balance and fell 6.5 metres whilst inspecting the head-chute of a mobile screening plant.

14 January 2015 Rollover incidents involving load shifting plant

Over the past several years there has been an increase in the number of rollover incidents of load shifting plant.

13 January 2015 Uncontrolled movement on mine roads involving skidding and sliding

A recent increase in incidents involving uncontrolled vehicle movement on open-cut coal mine roads is raising serious concerns.

You can view these Safety Alerts at www.maqohsc.sa.gov.au.

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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