



Mining & Quarrying
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH &
SAFETY COMMITTEE

MAQOHSC

NEWSLETTER

Promoting Work Health and Safety in mining and quarrying workplaces

ISBN: 978-0-9941979-2-4

Issue 2, 2016



Presiding member's letter

Welcome to our second edition of the Mining and Quarrying Occupational Health and Safety Committee's (MAQHSC) Newsletter for 2016.

The Committee has had a very busy schedule during 2016, we commenced our five year fully funded Health Surveillance – Workplace Dust Monitoring program, funding was also awarded for the development of dedicated Quarry Mental Health Management and Workers Resources, new workplace education and training sessions have been developed and we will be releasing our new complete Work Health and Safety Resource Manual for mines and quarries that will provide workplace safety guidance, workplace audit tools, templates and checklists for a complete safety management system.

A dedicated key focus remains on the prevention of long latency occupational dust related respiratory lung diseases such as silicosis; I am pleased to announce our Prevention of Occupational Dust Related Diseases resources will be available to stakeholders in early 2017.

Additionally the Committee has fully funded 40 South Australian mine and quarry workers to complete Certificate IV in Work Health and Safety.

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Health Surveillance - Dust Monitoring

MAQHSC is commencing its fully funded mining and quarrying health surveillance - dust monitoring program throughout South Australia for 2017.

The generation of dust particles are a common occurrence associated with mining and quarrying activities. Certain types of minerals when drilled, extracted from the ground or processed, generate dust particles which contain silica. Exposure to silica can cause respiratory illness and/or occupational dust related disease such as silicosis.

Silicosis is incurable and can go undetected for many years as it can have a long latency period. Silicosis is the most common occupational lung disease worldwide; Silicosis resulted in 46,000 deaths globally in 2013 down from 55,000 deaths in 1990.

Monitoring exposure levels and workplace dust management strategies will allow MAQHSC to assess the current health risks and challenges the industry faces and will identify where MAQHSC can provide assistance and

support to stakeholders on the implementation of effective dust risk control measures to reduce dust exposure within the workplace.

The dust monitoring program will include the collection of workplace dust monitoring that include workers heart rate data and personal respirable dust monitoring which are collected within the breathing zone.

Additionally MAQHSC has value added to the program to include workplace noise monitoring, evaluation and review of the current workplace dust mitigation strategies, workers personal protective equipment including respiratory protective equipment fitment of use, all to further support and promote workplace health and safety.

MAQHSC Work Health and Safety Specialists are available to assist industry to facilitate workplace discussions or educational information sessions and provide advice and assistance.

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Presiding member's letter *continued*

This training project will have a direct successful safety outcome for the mining and quarrying sectors of South Australia. Workers gaining accredited safety qualifications will increase both workplace safety standards and also workplace safety awareness and knowledge. Current participants include workers new to industry, mature age and workplaces up skilling workers. We look forward to expanding this project in 2017.

All 2016 funded projects will protect workers and will directly benefit long term improved workplace health, safety and well-being of all South Australian mine and quarry workers.

The Committee continues its support for

- Youth - Student Safety Training through its Diamond Sponsorship of the Passport to Safety initiative providing key training for those entering the workforce.
- Continued sponsorship was also provided to 'Mining Family Matters' as they support and provide resources to Fly in Fly out workers and their families.

The Committees schedule remains strategically focused in 2017 to preventing injury, harm and death, with the continued dedication commitment to improving workplace safety for all workers in the States mining and quarrying sectors.

Yours sincerely

Martin O'Malley

Presiding Member MAQHSC



Passport to Safety new modules coming soon

MAQHSC Youth Safety Strategies

Two new online training safety modules for the youth safety program "Passport to Safety" have been developed by MAQHSC and will be released in 2017.

- Young Workers Introduction to Mining and Quarrying
- Young Workers Introduction to Work Health and Safety in Opal Mining

The educational program has been developed to provide pre-employment safety awareness training for young people entering the workforce.

Further information can be accessed via the website <http://passporttosafety.com.au>



Time to plan and prepare for working in the heat

Due to the exceptionally wet winter and spring we may be forgiven for forgetting what our hot summers can be like, especially for our workers who may be exposed to the extremes of heat. As we are entering in to the summer months and the temperatures will begin to rise, it is timely to plan and prepare for the heat that will inevitably come.

Heat illness can be caused by physical exertion in hot weather or in hot, cramped work areas and occurs when the body cannot adequately cool itself. Heat illness covers a range of conditions, such as:

- Heat Stress,
- Heat Exhaustion, and
- Heat Stroke, (a life threatening condition that requires immediate first aid and medical treatment).

PCBU's have a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of workers and others, while at work. This includes illness from working in heat. Air temperature alone should not be used to determine the level of risk associated with heat illness. Other factors that should be taken into account include:

- Air movement
- Humidity or lack of
- Radiant heat, from the sun or other sources, such as fixed plant, engines, etc
- Reflective heat, such as from quarry floors
- The work load of workers, such as heavy physical tasks
- The physical fitness of workers.

Some possible control measures that may be implemented to minimise the risks of heat illness could include:

- Modifying work loads
- Modifying start and finish times
- If possible arrange for work to be done in a different, shaded, cooler area
- Provide extra rest breaks
- Reduce time spent doing work in the heat, such as rotating workers through tasks
- Reschedule work so that heavy work and hot tasks are conducted in the cooler part of the day.

Other important factors to consider are:

- Where possible allow workers to acclimatise
- Ensure adequate cool drinking water is provided. Workers should be encouraged to drink about 200ml every 15 to 20 minutes (this is a guide only)
- Ensuring first aid facilities and trained first aid personnel are available
- Providing personal protective equipment such as wide brim hats or wide brims for hard hats, sunscreen, sunglasses, etc and
- Ensuring workers are provided with information and training on the risks associated with working in hot environments.

Further information in relation to heat illness is available from:

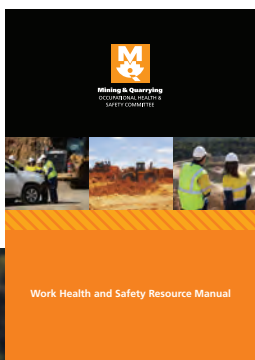
SafeWork SA: www.safework.sa.gov.au

Code of Practice – Managing the Work Environment and Facilities, Fact Sheet – Working in Hot Conditions.

St John Ambulance: <http://stjohn.org.au/first-aid-facts> *Fact Sheet – Heat-induced conditions.*



New Work Health and Safety Resource Manual



MAQHSC has developed a South Australian compliant complete Safety Management System for mines and quarries that provides workplace safety guidance, workplace audit tools, templates and checklists as well as example policies and procedures.

The complete Safety Management System will all be available soon on our Resources page of the website at <http://www.maqohsc.sa.gov.au/resources.cfm>



Fully Funded Training for South Australian Mine and Quarry Workers



MAQHSC continues to proactively promote best practice in safety and hygiene with the aim to prevent injury, death and occupational related dust diseases in all South Australian mines and quarries.

This is accomplished through producing dedicated safety resources and developing and supporting safety initiatives with a core focus and commitment to safer mine and quarry workplaces that contribute to protecting workers and create stronger workforces.

MAQHSC now offers fully funded training for Certificate IV in Work Health and Safety. High quality skills at certificate level is widely acknowledged as integral to creating workplace safety knowledge, which assists to maintain workplace safety standards and creates a stronger South Australia's workforce.

This MAQHSC funded training makes training fully accessible to people who do not hold a qualification, or who want to gain a higher level qualification than they already hold. Numerous advantages can be gained in upskilling qualifications, it allows participants to increase workplace productivity and provide greater job satisfaction, and could also lead to career advancement.

The WHS Cert IV course is delivered on an online platform over a 12 month period, if required face to face training assistance can also be provided. The online platform delivery method offers a very flexible learning option and ensures all our stakeholders in rural and remote regions of South Australia will also have full access to this fully funded training opportunity.

MAQHSC Proud Tier 1 Sponsor of CCAA EH&S Awards for 2016



MAQHSC is pleased to announce its ongoing commitment to safety by once again being a proud sponsor of the Cement and Concrete Aggregates Australia (CCAA) annual Environment, Health and Safety (EH&S) Awards for 2016.

The Awards provide the cement and aggregates industry with the opportunity to promote and showcase their innovative ways of managing environmental, health and safety issues and how they strive for best practice and show leadership within the community. MAQHSC was again invited to be a part of the judging panel for these awards.

Judging was extremely close this year with submissions received ranging from engineering design, traffic management strategies, waste recycling, land rehabilitation, hazardous manual tasks, culture changing programs, training programs and more...

The submissions were judged against specific criteria to determine innovation, creativity, problem solving, cost effectiveness and whether the consultation process had taken place.

And the successful winners are...

The **Environmental Innovation** award was presented to **Hallett Concrete** for recycling slag, as a replacement fine aggregate source, in a concrete mix specifically designed for the Nyrstar Transformation project.

The **highly commended award for Health and Safety Innovation** went to **Holcim Australia** for their in-house Active Choice Behaviour Based Safety Program.

This world-class initiative is having a positive impact on Holcim's safety and health performance.

The **winner of the Health and Safety Innovation Award** went to **Southern Quarries and Direct Mix Group**, for a series of Safety Leadership workshops which was implemented in order to facilitate the cultural change required to further improve health and safety across the business.

For the very first time in SA, CCAA presented an award for **Community Leadership**, which went to **Adelaide Brighton Cement** for their community engagement and development of a community park, adjacent to the Birkenhead kiln.

MAQHSC congratulates all winners and looks forward to continuing its ongoing support of this CCAA event.

Corrosive, flammable, explosive, toxic, spontaneously combustible, oxidising or water-reactive dangerous goods have the potential to impact the environment and lead to large-scale property damage, serious injuries and/or death.

With dangerous goods widely used in industry it's critical that they are stored, handled and transported safely and that emergency services have ready access to the type and amounts stored on worksites so that in the event of an incident they can best respond to the situation.

A detailed list of dangerous goods should form a key element of emergency management plans and now is the time to make sure you're bushfire ready ahead of the fire danger season.

Your bushfire survival plan should detail how you:

- evacuate workers
- contact emergency services
- identify and contact your workers as well as suppliers and others, including after hours telephone numbers
- are equipped to deal with emergency incidents including site containment.

In preparing your plan, check existing fire prevention measures including firebreaks as well as potential ignition points and schedule rectification works as necessary.

Many fires start from machinery exhausts, hot work and lightning strikes every year so if you store dangerous goods be particularly vigilant about how you maintain your storage area to reduce the risk of fire.

Following heavy rain across South Australia checking the integrity of explosive magazine mounds for erosion damage and addressing identified issues is important.

If you store dangerous goods or explosives, you can contribute to SafeWork SA's review of the laws that regulate the safe handling and management of dangerous substances and explosives in South Australia.

The review aims to modernise and simplify these laws and how they are administered, while maintaining safety standards that protect workers and the public. SafeWork SA is seeking contributions from industry, the business sector and unions as well as workers before Friday 23 December 2016.

Head online to read the consultation paper that includes a summary of key issues and anomalies with questions throughout to capture the experience of people managing and working with dangerous substances and explosives.

For information about the secure and safe handling of dangerous substances and explosives and to make a submission visit safework.sa.gov.au or call 1300 365 255.

Chris Embery

Inspector of Explosives
SafeWork SA



New website coming soon

MAQHSC is proud to announce our new and improved informative website coming soon.

The website will continue to provide a wealth of safety resources dedicated to improving workplace work health and safety standards for all our stakeholders with an emphasis on prevention of occupational dust related diseases, and injury and harm in the mining and quarrying industry within South Australia.

The new website will have increased functionality and navigation offering a range of new dedicated menu options including:

- **Health Surveillance – Fully Funded Workplace Dust Monitoring**
Workplace Dust Management Guide
Dust Management Plan (Dust mitigation – site management audit tool)
Workers Respiratory Protection Guide
Workers Best Practice Dust Guide
- **New Resources**
Work Health and Safety Resource Manual (Complete Safety Management System)
Quarry Mental Health Management Guide
Quarry Workers Mental Awareness / Resilience Guide
- **A total of 90 guides, tools, checklists, templates, policies and procedures**
- **Training and Education presentations promoting and educating your workforce of the importance of Work Health and Safety in all aspects of your mine and quarry operational activities**
Hazard Identification
Work Health and Safety for Supervisors
Emergency Management
Incident Management, Reporting and Investigation
(Full list available on our website)
- **New Research and Grant Funding Opportunities**
- **Safety for Young Workers**
An Introduction to Mining and Quarry
An introduction to Work Health and Safety in Opal Mining

MAQHSC's interactive and engaging site will allow online event bookings to all of our events including regional safety seminars giving you more ways to connect with us, to get advice and workplace support.

Join our email subscriber list at maqohsc.sa.gov.au to keep an eye out for the new MAQHSC website coming soon!



25 November 2016 Sudden failure of feed hopper

A plant operator heard an unusual noise coming from the run of mine (ROM) feed hopper. On inspection, the plant operator found the feed hopper had collapsed onto the plant feed conveyor.

9 June 2016 Another worker injured in IT work basket crush incident

A worker has been seriously injured after being crushed in an integrated tool carrier work basket incident underground.

30 May 2016 Working near slopes in quarries

This alert highlights the risk of working near the crest and toes of slopes in quarries and provides advice on how to reduce the risk of slope failure.

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

Our 2017 Upcoming Events will be available shortly on our new website.

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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