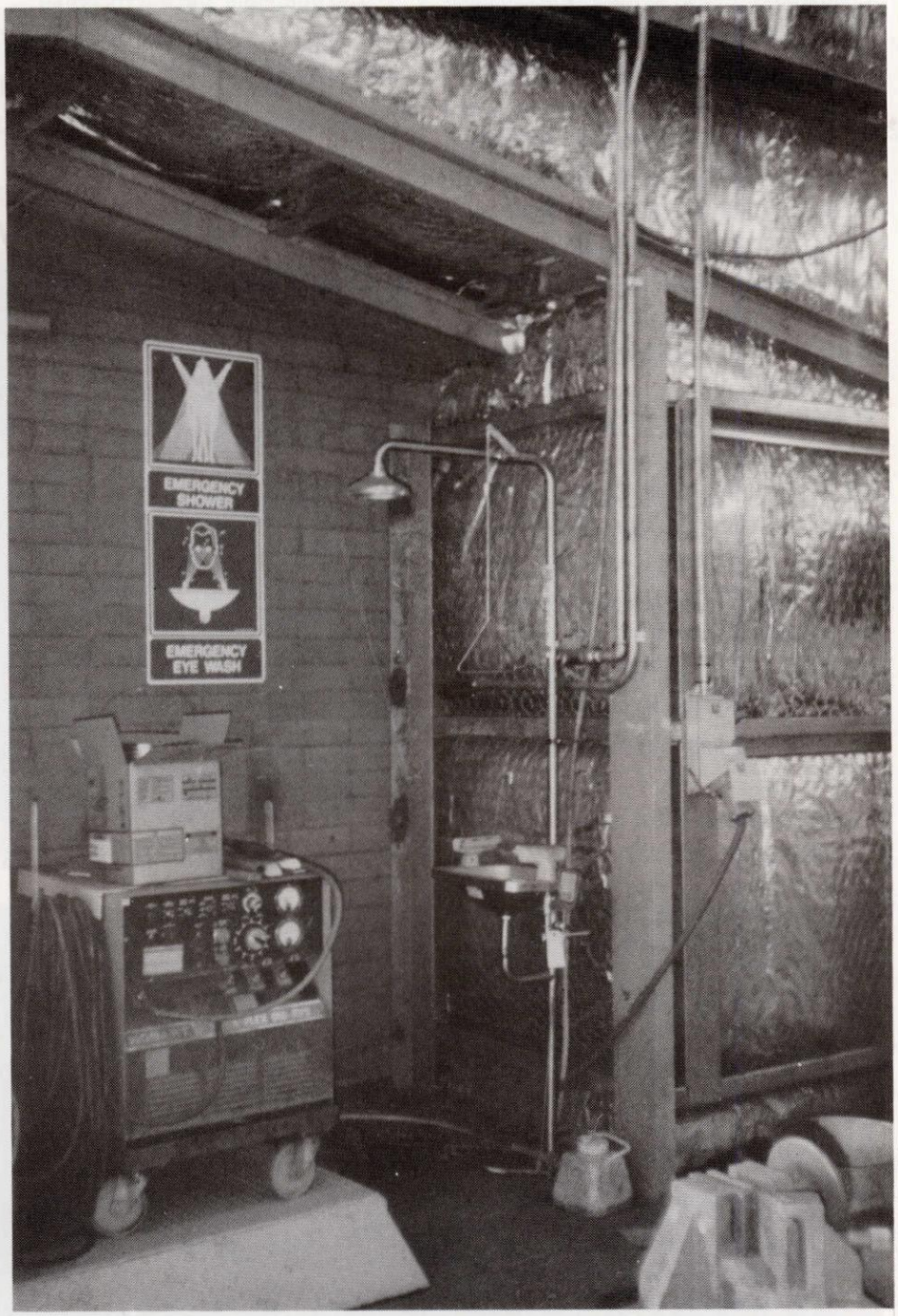
MINESAFE

ISSUED BY THE MINING ENGINEERING DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS AND ENERGY

WOULD YOU USE THIS SHOWER?



How long will it be before the good signposting becomes as "invisible" as the safety shower? Obstructions make safe access to this shower and eyewash difficult and dangerous. If a potential victim gets through the obstacle course while the welding machine happens to be operational, then electrocution is a definite possibility.

MINESAFE INTERNATIONAL 1993

The mining industry of Western Australia hosted the Second International Conference on Mining Safety in Perth, in March.

The Conference, which was organised by the Chamber of Mines and Energy and held at the Burswood Convention Centre, attracted some 550 delegates including representatives from 15 other countries.

The theme of MINESAFE 1993 was "From Principles to Practice"' and the content and presentation of papers, many by leading world authorities, was of a very high standard. Controversial and thought provoking points of view were put forward and discussed on a number of issues.

An outstanding feature of the Conference was the high proportion of CEO'S, general managers and line operating managers who attended some or all of the proceedings.

The feedback from interstate and overseas following the Conference, has been universally enthusiastic and it is expected that MINESAFE will continue to be held on a regular basis.

The organising committee is looking to 1996 for MINESAFE Number Three, with widespread assurances of support.

The final publication of the papers and discussions will provide a valuable reference document.

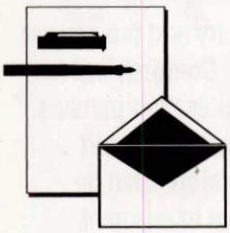
The interstate and international contacts established at this Conference are invaluable.

Beryl Ingleton
(Chamber of Mines and Energy)

Left-Right: Bob Hopkins (DOMEWA), Hon, George Cash MLC (Minister for Mines) and Jim Torlach (DOMEWA).

Conference Speakers and Chairman

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



I have recently received a copy of the 1992 December issue of Minesafe Magazine and feel that I must comment on one photograph on Page 7. In the top right hand corner, a ball valve is shown fitted with a minsup claw coupling, complete with safety clip to prevent the coupling coming apart.

We use the same type of couplings and safety pins on our site and it is a standard safety rule to use them. However, the jubilee hose clamp is not allowed on our site. They are considered dangerous and have been removed from all of our hoses.

We use air at 700kpa and fresh water at 1000kpa for washing out chutes and washing down spillage and build up. I find it hard to believe that jubilee clips are still in use in high pressure hose situations. I would be very interested to hear your comments on this matter.

V WILKINSON
BHP Minerals

In the case in question the hose was fitted correctly to a standard coupling tail and the hose clamp application was within its capacity. The operating pressure was 350kPa.

Your comments are appreciated and the findings of your company will be referred to in future, to advise other mining companies to select the heavier types of hose clamps available, so that if hoses set up for lower pressure duty are later used in a higher pressure application failure risk will be minimised.

Editor

Correction: In the March 1993 issue of Minesafe, we referred to the Golden Crown mine as AMC - Golden Crown. Golden Crown is now part of the Normandy Poseidon Group.

(Q) Mr Johnson from AWP - Meekatharra has suggested (quite rightly), that it would be beneficial to know what caused the fire on the truck on the front cover of Minesafe in the March issue.

(A) Where we can provide this information without breaching the confidentiality of the company concerned - we will. In this case, the intensity of the fire made an accurate finding difficult, although the most likely reason was a faulty hydraulic hose which sprayed hot oil onto engine parts.

EDITORIAL

A major theme of the accident prevention presentations being conducted by the Division, is the importance of reporting all "near miss" incidents, and in particular of thoroughly analysing events which fall into the **critical incident** category.

A critical incident is any accident or incident, (irrespective of whether persons were directly involved or injured), or of a nature which has the potential, if repeated, to cause serious injury to personnel, or loss of life.

The ratio of "near misses" to Lost Time Injuries is generally of the order of 100:1, and some of these will certainly include **critical incidents**. Any accident prevention program which does not include the strategy of critical incident analysis is seriously deficient.

Many mine workers are reluctant to report an undetected "near miss" because they believe that reporting the incident may result in their being disciplined or ridiculed by their workmates. Most mineworkers, however, believe that they should be reported.

It is up to management to improve communication lines with the workforce to rid their site of the "my way or the highway" myth, and to put systems in place where open discussion on and analysis of these incidents is not only encouraged but also seen as a necessary preventative measure.

One worker's near miss can easily be (or if it recurs) another worker's fatality or serious injury. A few seconds in timing can make all the difference. It is often good luck not good management when injury is avoided.

Division 4 of the Mines Regulation Act requires certain categories of incidents to be reported. A prevention orientated site will voluntarily expand those requirements, and share the information and experiences with others.

Any additional work load involved in putting a "near miss" reporting and critical incident analysis system in place should, in time, automatically be compensated for by a corresponding drop in reportable injuries.

An underlying cause of many incidents is the unfortunate error that management and workers both make about what they "assume" co-workers know. Critical incident reporting will immediately identify gaps in knowledge that can be corrected by education and training. That alone will save lives, prevent injury and save expensive and unnecessary equipment damage.

Catherine Stedman.
Editor

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES?

Amphetamines - Cannabis - Alcohol - Prescribed Drugs - They were all under the microscope during a one day seminar held in Kalgoorlie on 30th April.

The Seminar was opened by Hon. G Cash MLC, Minister for Mines, who emphasised the tragedy of substance abuse and its effect on individuals, their families, the workplace, health care provision and society in general.

Constructive intervention, particularly Employee Assistance Programs (EAP's), were widely discussed by the participants and several speakers, who see a good EAP as the key element in any workplace program that is going to be successful.

Alcohol and other drugs issues and Seminars have been published in previous issues of Minesafe. Rather than repeat essentially the same information, we are featuring an abbreviated article on EAP's which we hope will assist readers wanting to implement a program. The implementation of Assistance programs is endorsed by the Trades and Labour Council, employer groups and government.

The personal or work-related problems of employees can have a significant impact on the overall efficiency and productivity of an organisation. In recognition of this, many Australian mining companies are now going beyond 'traditional' staff support methods by putting in place Employee Assistance Programmes.

EAP's are initiatives that provide confidential access for employees and family members to professional counselling services that can assist them with handling personal or work-related problems. Most organisations make use of an external agency, such as Indrad Services, paying an annual retainer based on the number of employees. The arrangement allows for counselling at no cost to the individual and without having to involve the organisation. Indrad also assists organisations develop their own EAP Policy, and ensures the smooth introduction of the programme through a process that includes work-place briefings and meetings with 'special interest groups', such as Health and Safety Committees and Union representatives.

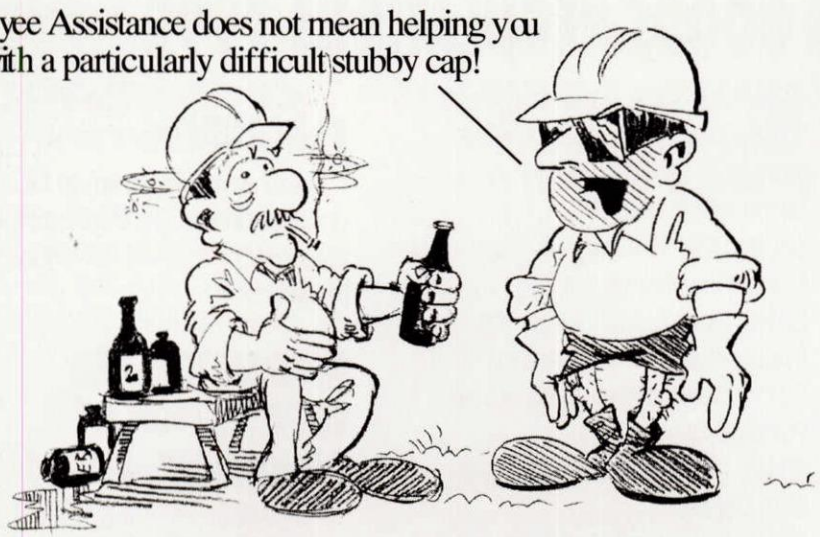
The potential benefits of an EAP, which range from decreased absenteeism, reduced wastage, and fewer accidents to a happier and more secure work force, are largely dependent on the organisation's own style and the degree of emphasis it places on the EAP. "We see our EAP as being similar to an ore-body" says Pan-continental's Steve Wood, "There's plenty of gold there, but how much you get depends on how effectively you treat it."

"We see our EAP as being similar to an ore-body. There's plenty of gold there, but how much you get depends on how effectively you treat it."

The potential cost of an accident caused by some employees with their mind on other things is enormous and it makes good sense to try and prevent the situation ever arising. Comprehensive EAP's, costing an organisation perhaps 1.5% of its occupational health and safety budget, are therefore seen by many to be an excellent investment.

However, the decision to implement an EAP does not suggest that people should not be responsible for looking after themselves. People are responsible for looking after themselves, but sometimes they need the expertise and support that others can provide. By offering the opportunity to have access to a non-stigmatic, free professional and confidential service, organisations are in fact encouraging self-help. It also means there is often a better chance of a problem being resolved before it impacts significantly on the workplace.

One significant side-benefit of an EAP is the support it provides for an organisation's supervisors. Although there is a high likelihood that not as many people will be bringing their problems to work, if someone does, the EAP also provides a way for the supervisor to deal effectively and sensitively with the situation. Essentially a supervisor is responsible for ensuring the completion of a task by his or her people but sometimes that text-book theory becomes difficult to put into practice in the workplace. A worker with (for instance) marital problems, may start spending too much time at the pub, coming to work late and taking frequent 'sickies.' The supervisor may know what the problem is, and may even sympathise with the employee, but he or she must also do something about the work problem. Often the supervisor is wary about getting involved - after all, he or she is no marriage guidance



counsellor, and concern may also be interpreted as interference in the employee's personal life. The tendency in the past has usually been to ignore the problem for as long as possible in the hope that eventually the situation will resolve itself. Other options such as 'sick leave', transfer or even dismissal may also be contemplated even though none really advantage either the organisation or the individual. The supervisors may rightly feel they are in a 'no win' situation.

Once an EAP is in place, with the opportunity it provides for confidential outside assistance, that dilemma is largely removed. The supervisor retains responsibility but he or she can now limit involvement to pointing out unacceptable work performance, allocating responsibility, and setting-in place a process to return performance to the accepted standard. Part of this process can include reminding the employee that support exists through the EAP. The supervisor is not expected to diagnose the problem, and most especially not to moralise on the issue. It remains up to employees whether or not they choose to make use of the counselling service - all counselling is entirely voluntary - and the supervisor does not even need to know whether the employee took the offer up. And whilst there will always be some supervisors who will initially baulk at what they see as 'passing a problem on' rather than 'helping their employee out' most realise that they lack the expertise, objectivity and time to deal with it themselves. As one burly supervisor, with a well-earned reputation for bluntness, put it: "I think it's an excellent idea because I no longer have to be Dorothy...(adjective)...Dix to you....(adjective)...lot!

Supervisors who lack the skills and the confidence to get involved can attend special training programmes as part of the EAP to provide them with an understanding of how to intervene constructively and sensitively should the need arise.

EAP's have already shown themselves to be a highly effective way of helping valuable employees maintain or regain their standing within the workplace, whilst at the same time significantly reducing the demands on the organisation's own resources. They now look set to become an even more established part of the Western Australian mining community, as the demand grows for a secure and stable work-force ready to take advantage of the opportunities ahead.

This article is an extract from Employee Assistance Programmes - effectively reducing problems in the workplace. Written by Ken McMullin - Indrad Services, 1993. Tel: (09) 481 6776 / 008 198191. Goldfield Centrecare also provide Employee Assistance Programs. Contact Greg Chidlow on (090) 218673.

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG POLICY SURVEY

In April this year, all registered managers received a questionnaire about alcohol and other drug policies on their site. Approximately 50% of the questionnaires have been completed and returned. If you have not yet completed the survey there is still time. The results of the survey will provide a valuable reference document for everyone concerned about substance abuse in the workplace. Your co-operation is appreciated.

KARRATHA NEWS

VALE PAUL BROWN

It is with sadness that we report the death, after a long illness, of Paul Brown, Workmen's Inspector of Mines in the north west. "Brownie" cared deeply about the welfare of miners and the Mining Industry, and his many friends across the state will miss his dedication, his companionship, his stories and his music. Goodbye Paul.

Paul Brown

DANGEROUS GOODS REGULATIONS 1992

The Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR) 1992 were proclaimed on 1 October 1992. This legislation addresses labelling of containers, placarding of premises and storage depots, and secondary containment around tanks and drums.

HOW WILL THEY IMPACT ON MINESITES?

Before 1 April 1993 minesites should have applied for a licence to store dangerous goods. Most minesites would already have had a licence to store flammable and combustible liquids and gases. As at 7 May 1993 some 24 treatment plants had not applied for a licence.

Authority in the Dangerous Goods Regulations 1992 is vested in the Chief Inspector of the Explosives and Dangerous Goods Division (E&DGD) of the Department of Minerals and Energy. Two inspectors from the Mining Engineering Division have been gazetted as Dangerous Goods Inspectors to administer the legislation on minesites, namely T. Robinson and M. Rowe. They will administer the DGR 1992 in addition to the Mines Regulation Act.

E&DGD have prepared a number of guidance notes which address various aspects of the Dangerous Goods Regulations 1992:

- S301: Licensing and Exemptions.
- S302: Placarding of Stores and Premises.
- S303: General Requirements for Licensed Premises.
- S304: Requirements for the storage of Packaged Flammable and Combustible Liquids.
- S305: General Requirements for Premises exempt from Licensing.
- S306: Compilation of Definitions.
- S307: List of Referenced Publications.
- S308: Tank installations for the storage of Flammable and Combustible Liquids.
- S309: DGR 1992 versus Flammable Liquid Regulations 1967.
- S310: Draft Guidelines for the Preparation of an Emergency Plan.
- S311: General Requirements for Package Depots.
- S312: General Requirements for Bulk Depots.
- S313: Requirements for the Storage and Handling of Solid Ammonium Nitrate.
- S314: Storage of Dangerous Goods in Transit.

WHAT DOES A MINESITE NEED TO DO TO OBTAIN A LICENCE?

S301 outlines some of the documentation required to obtain a licence and has an application form attached. Most minesites would have been contacted for additional information by Inspector of Dangerous Goods, T. Robinson who is initially assessing licence applications.

Regulation 4.2 does not apply to most minesites. It is valid for minor storage only.

APPROVAL OF TANKS

Regulations 2.7 and 2.8 require approval of bulk containers, or tanks. Some plants may be able to supply details of inspections and testing of tanks, whereby approval will be given under Regulation 2.10(b). Otherwise a condition of the licence will be to instigate testing under Regulation 2.13, and to obtain a statement from a Certified Engineer on the structural integrity of the tanks and foundations. (outlined in S312).

PLACARDING

Most minesites seem to have understood the requirements for placarding. This will be verified by inspection.

SEPARATION AND SEGREGATION OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Regulations 4.7, 4.8, 4.22, 4.33 and 4.34 address this. Advice will be given during the licence assessment.

Note that a number of sites store sodium hydroxide and hydrochloric acid in a manner which does NOT satisfy regulation 4.34(f).

BUNDING

THIS DOES NOT HAVE TO MEAN A WALL AROUND THE TANK

Regulation 4.10 essentially requires secondary containment in case of a catastrophic failure of the tank. For many existing tanks it would not be practical to build a wall. An effective solution would be to build a slope around the tank directing spillage to a drainage channel and a lined pond.

Regulation 4.12 does not specify the materials of construction of a bund. Exemption to part (iv) of this may be possible in some cases, ie. the angle requirement.

All bunds require a sump.

An exemption to Regulation 4.10 for solid cyanide has been granted for most gold minesites.

GENERAL

Housekeeping is addressed in Regulation 4.25.

Regulation 4.27 refers to emergency response equipment.

Regulation 4.28 requires an emergency plan. Draft guidance note S310 addresses this, however the

Mining Engineering Division has issued Emergency Preparedness and Response Guidelines.

Regulation 4.29 requires material safety data sheets for all dangerous goods. The HAZMAT database issued by the Chamber of Mines and Energy satisfies this.

Regulation 4.30 requires an annual assessment of training.

Regulation 7.2(3) requires colour-coded identification of pipes. Australian Standard 1345 has resulted in cyanides being assigned violet. Safety yellow will be utilised for cyanide with violet for acids only. Alkalis will be identified by labels only.

CYANIDES

Regulations 4.49 to 4.65 apply to cyanides, although 4.57 to 4.65 are really applicable to liquid cyanides only. Some flexibility will be allowed with this part of the Dangerous Goods Regulations 1992.

FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Part 5 of the Dangerous Goods Regulations 1992 addresses this. It will be assessed on inspection.

NON-DANGEROUS GOODS

Some common chemicals will be addressed under Mines Regulation Act Regulation 4.8,eg.:

Copper Sulphate
Sodium Carbonate
Slaked Lime

T. Robinson
Special Inspector of Mines
(Chemicals)
Inspector of Dangerous Goods

A deceptive surface within a cyanide bund caused this mishap to T. Robinson, Special Inspector of Mines (Chemicals).

SAFE PRACTICE WITH SIGNAL TUBE INITIATION SYSTEMS

Two unusual occurrences involving signal tube initiation have been reported in the North American market over the past year. Both involved the accidental initiation of a signal tube by an unknown mechanism.

Both occurrences reported the breaking of signal tube under tension, caused by pulling and snapping the tube, followed by a flash and detonation. One incident happened during the attempted removal, by force, of an incorrect delay detonator while loading a blasthole, the other during the attempted recovery of a misfire. Both incidents occurred in underground mining applications.

It is known that when enough energy is delivered to a signal tube either via a detonating cord or a detonator it will fire. The two incidents referred to above did not involve either of these methods, and do not appear to have included a high level of energy. Despite extensive testing, it has not been possible to reproduce this initiation process in any laboratories worldwide. Samples of signal tube are also broken under tension on a routine basis during Quality Assurance testing, and none have ever been initiated during this process.

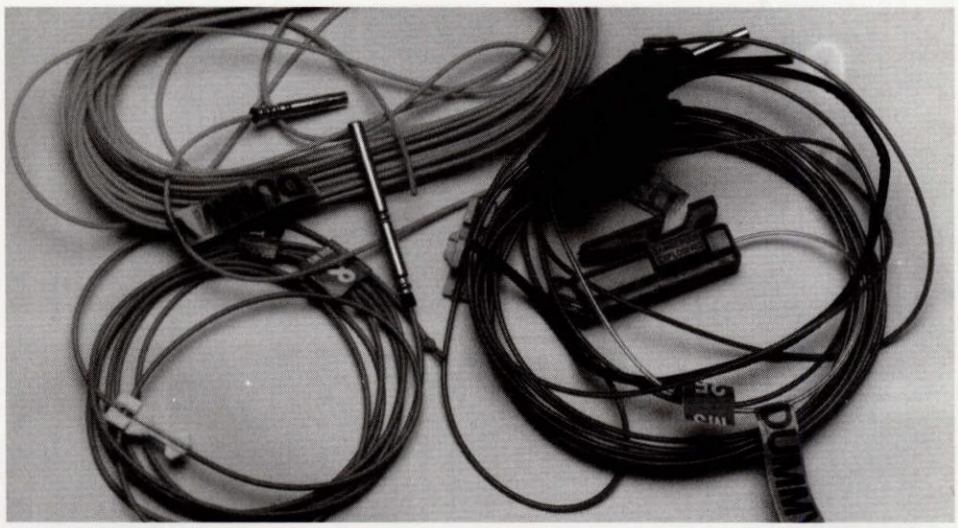
Accidental initiations of signal tube have occurred during the manufacturing process, including two incidents on the I.E.S. EXEL extrusion line at Helidon (QLD). However, in these cases the exposed end of the signal tube was flung against an adjacent metal surface at high velocity. After process modifications, no further incidents have been recorded.

WARNING

The HMX/Al coreload contained within the signal tube is a sensitive composition, and every care should be taken not to expose it by snapping or otherwise damaging the signal tube. Nonelectric detonator assemblies should be treated with the same care as **ALL** explosives. While such incidents as those referred to above may be very rare, their occurrence can have lethal consequences if the unit detonates.

For further information contact your local ICI or I.E.S. Representative.

Source: ICI Information Sheet on "Safe Practice with Signal Tube Initiation Systems".



Signal tube delay detonators.

LET YOUR FINGERS DO THE WALKING

During 1990/91, workers' compensation payments resulting from injuries sustained in the Western Australian mining sector, totalled approximately $6.5 million out of a total cost of $232.2 million for all industry sectors. However, according to HBF Occupational Health and Safety Manager, Brian Galton-Fenzi, the true cost of an industrial accident is often triple the amount paid out, due to factors such as downtime, damage to equipment, overtime rates for stand in workers and administration costs.

Bearing in mind the enormous financial and human costs resulting from industrial accidents, it is not surprising that occupational health and safety is a high priority for the mining industry. Many of the larger mining companies have the financial resources to provide in-house safety training, pre-employment medicals, hearing tests and treatment of work related injuries. Unfortunately, many small to medium size businesses cannot afford to do this and rely on outside occupational health and safety consultancies, to help develop accident prevention and health promotion schemes.

The advantages of using outside consultants are that they can formulate the guidelines and strategies, which can help a company reduce the incidence of accidents and resulting costs, as well as assisting companies interpret and apply the various Acts and regulations relating to occupational health and safety.

For those companies choosing to seek outside help on occupational health matters, there are a number of occupational health and safety specialist consultancies operating in Perth, most of which can be found in the Telecom Yellow Pages (pages 1560-1561).

Sources:

Business Directions, Issue 42, pp21-22.

State of the Work Environment: Occupational Injuries - Western Australia 1990/91, pp 23 and 31.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES AND COMMITTEES

Health and Safety Representatives and Committees in the mining industry are not new, but since the proclamation of the Mines Regulation Amendment Act in January this year, there has been a noticeable increase in formalised arrangements on sites around the state.

State Mining Engineer, Jim Torlach, is keen to see management, HSR's and Committees take full advantage of the opportunities and benefits realised by participation in the consultative process.

From an inspectorate standpoint, one way of developing understanding and participation is to encourage HSR's to accompany divisional staff on inspection tours in the workplace.

The inspectorate is here to dispel any lingering ideas that Inspectors are on site to "catch people out" in surprise swoops on minesites. It is far more constructive to the aims and aspirations of Safety programs if management, contractors and their HSR's and Committees know the Inspector is on site - that way questions can be asked and answered, problems discussed and resolved, and information exchanged. The beneficiaries of this approach are mine workers themselves who are, after all, the reason why the system exists in the first place.

This direct approach in no way impedes an inspector from carrying out his statutory function, but rather enhances his ability to identify hazardous situations before the event. Realistically, site personnel who are in the workplace everyday are in a much better position to identify and remove hazards as they occur. An inspector is another pair of eyes - an advisor on statutory requirements, a confidant and a source of information.

In the coming months, as individual sites develop the role of HSR's and Committees, inspectorate offices across the state will be doing everything they can to assist, including attending Safety Meetings when possible and if invited.

Many HSR's have attended training courses, some either by the TLC, and IFAP (both accredited) or the TAFE course (awaiting accreditation), and these courses will continue to run on a regular basis. Many representatives have asked for training on how to carry out their function - an area related more to interpersonal skills, communication and problem solving. Many operators are providing that training on site, but a more formalised approach may need to be initiated, if confusion and misunderstandings over the function and duties of an HSR are to be avoided.

Fill/Preparation crew after tool box meeting at Long Shaft.

HSR's and Departmental Information Exchange, Worsley Alumina. Left - Right: Back Row: Jim Torlach, Mark Taylor, Brian van der Hoek, Kim Mason.
Front Row: Susane Pedofsky, Catherine Stedman, Glen Suckling, Doug Austin.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES

Before and since the MINES REGULATION Occupational Health, Safety and Wefare Regulations (No. 3) 1992 came into operation on 1st January 1993, Health and Safety Representatives have been carrying out their duties.

Any person who is prepared to accept the position must be a responsible person prepared to do a responsible job which can be at times both onerous and frustrating. To date most elected Representatives fit this description.

It is encumbent on everyone concerned with the operation to assist and encourage these people in their duties in order to promote and improve the health, safety and welfare of all.

WORKERS should ensure that issues raised by them relate to health, safety and welfare and do not overlap into the award or industrial arena. Frivolous issues are not appreciated by anyone.

COMMITTEES should discuss the issues raised by the Representatives in a rational and constructive atmosphere.

MANAGEMENT should ensure that recommendations from Representatives and committees, which are adopted, be implemented within a reasonable time frame. Representatives, in particular, should be kept informed of progress of implementation so they can report to their fellow workers.

Finally 'Resolution of Issues' procedures should be adhered to in good faith by all sides to ensure problems are solved amicably. A safer, more efficient workplace will be the result.

Gordon Meiklejohn
District Inspector, Kalgoorlie

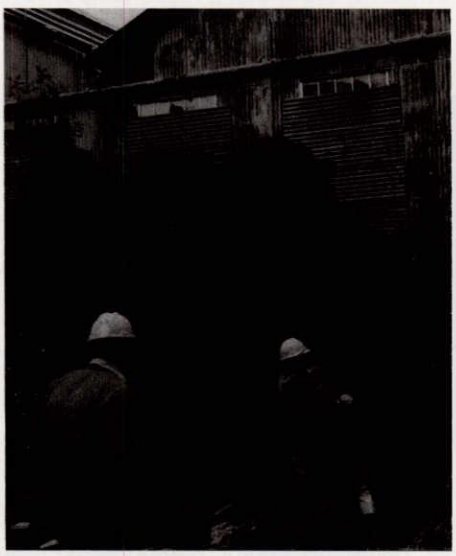
1993 KALGOORLIE SURFACE MINE RESCUE.

The skies opened - the mud flowed - the temperature dropped, and Mine Rescue teams participating in the 1993 open cut Goldfields Rescue Competition, responded magnificently to the challenge of appalling weather conditions.

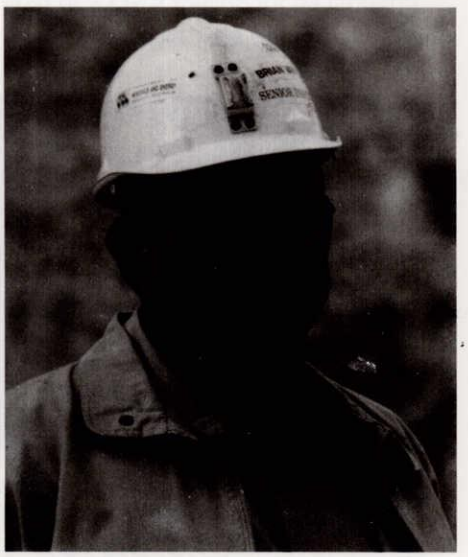
Teams from Burmine, Bounty, Granny Smith, KCGM, Wiluna, Kambalda, SECWA (Collie-Muja), Telfer, Hamersley Iron and Leinster took part in the two day competition.

At the end of the competition, the sodden troopers gathered at the Kalgoorlie Racetrack for the presentations. Kambalda was awarded custody of the trophy for 1993 with SECWA (Muja) in second place. Kambalda won the first aid, theory, breathing apparatus and the team safety section. SECWA won the team skills section, Asacro - Wiluna won the hazard section, Telfer won the special rescue section and WMC (Leinster) won the fire fighting section.

Preparing for a rope rescue



Calming the witness



Brian van der Hoek

WELL DONE!!!!

Congratulations go to Eltin Open Pit Operations, who on May 11, 1993, reached the enviable figure of 700 000 Lost Time Injury free hours. The total is even more amazing considering that it was achieved with a workforce of 750 spread over 11 different mine sites.

The star performer for Eltin was the Boddington Gold Mine Site, which on the same day achieved 431 Lost Time Injury free days, or the equivalent of 450 000 hours, and was still, according to Greg Harris, "shooting for the big time".

STAFF CHANGES

Brian van der Hoek has retired as the Regional Mining Engineer for the Perth Inspectorate. His successor is Martin Knee, who was previously the Regional Mining Engineer for the Karratha Inspectorate. Peter Garland has, in the meantime, been appointed Acting Regional Mining Engineer for the Karratha Inspectorate.

Elections were held in the Karratha Inspectorate on June 3 to fill the position of Workmen's Inspector of Mines, left vacant by the death of Paul Brown.

Alan Bradley is Acting Manager of the Environmental and Rehabilitation Section, while Keith Lindbeck is on leave in the United States.

Mark Butson has been appointed Structural Engineer for the Research and Technical Services Branch.

OUT WITH THE OLD IN WITH THE NEW.

Vander is gone and the sixth floor corridors of Mineral House are almost silent.

After 21 years of service with the Department, Brian van der Hoek has swapped his pen for a golf club, his telephone for a fishermans hat and taken himself, and wife Olive, off to Busselton to enjoy the easy life.

Enjoy your retirement Vander.

MINESAFE

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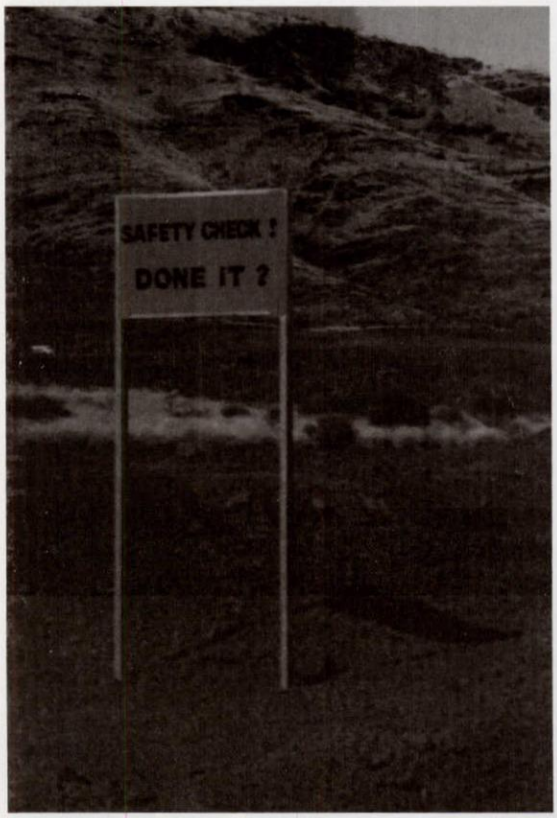
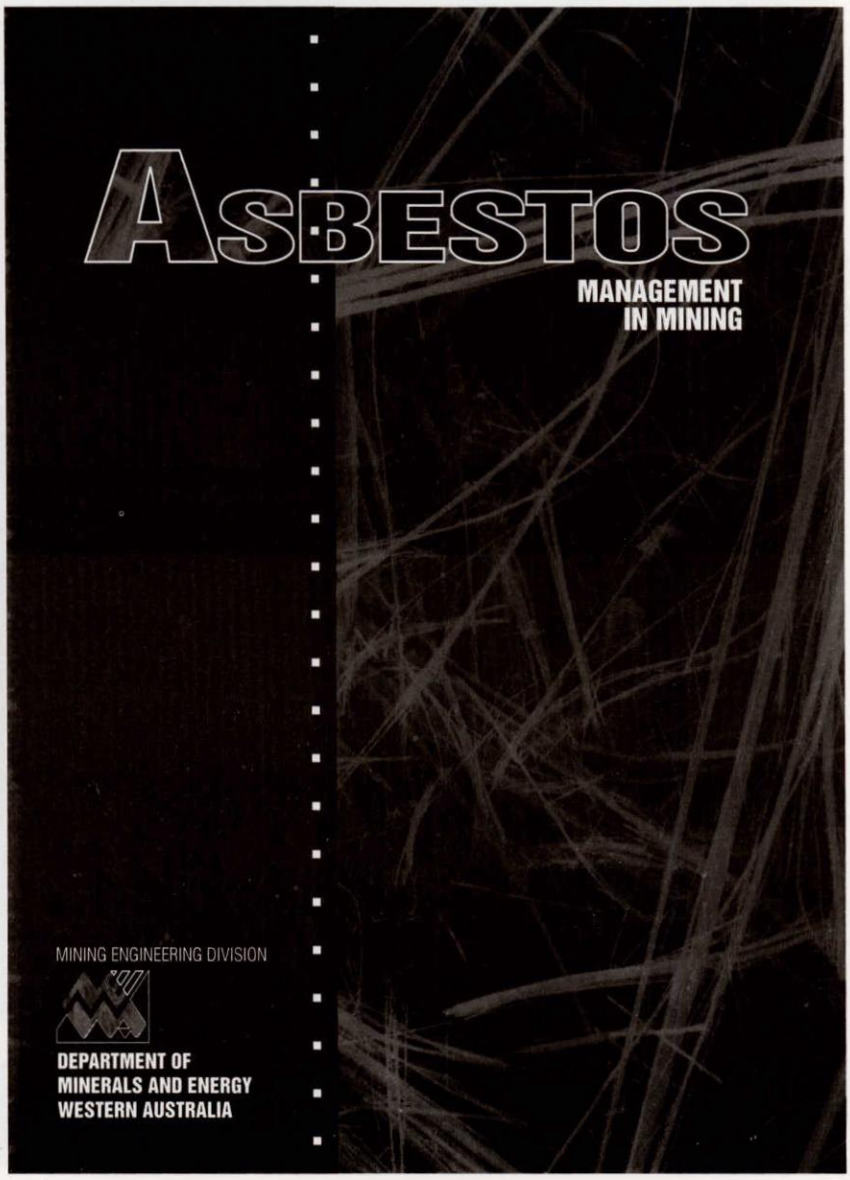
GIVE ME A SIGN!

- ▶ *Even in the Pilbara rocks are safety conscious*
- ▼ *Reminders are preventative action — **use them.***



NEW PUBLICATIONS

- Guideline: Management of asbestos in mining - November 1992.
- Interim guideline: Management of exposure to arsenic in mines - May 1993.
- Interim guideline: Management of exposure to inorganic mercury in gold plants - November 1993.



ACCIDENT ALERT

INCIDENT

A Kato Rockbreaker was being loaded on a 'float' when it slipped sideways and landed on the ground.

RESULT

The cabin of the rockbreaker was damaged, but the operator was not injured.

The 'float' was not equipped with loading ramps and the operator had attempted to load the rockbreaker directly onto the rear of the 'float'.

Thrust was applied to the hammer located on the ground to lift the tracks.

PREVENTATIVE ACTION

The procedure of loading the breaker without ramps involved unsafe practices.

The rockbreaker hammer was of a small cross section and did not provide sufficient load bearing area on the ground.

It is recommended that for loading an excavator or rockbreaker, a truck with ramps should be used.

Properly designed loading sites or temporary ramps made from broken rock can also be used safely.

It should be ascertained that the width of the float / truck is adequate for the machinery to be loaded.