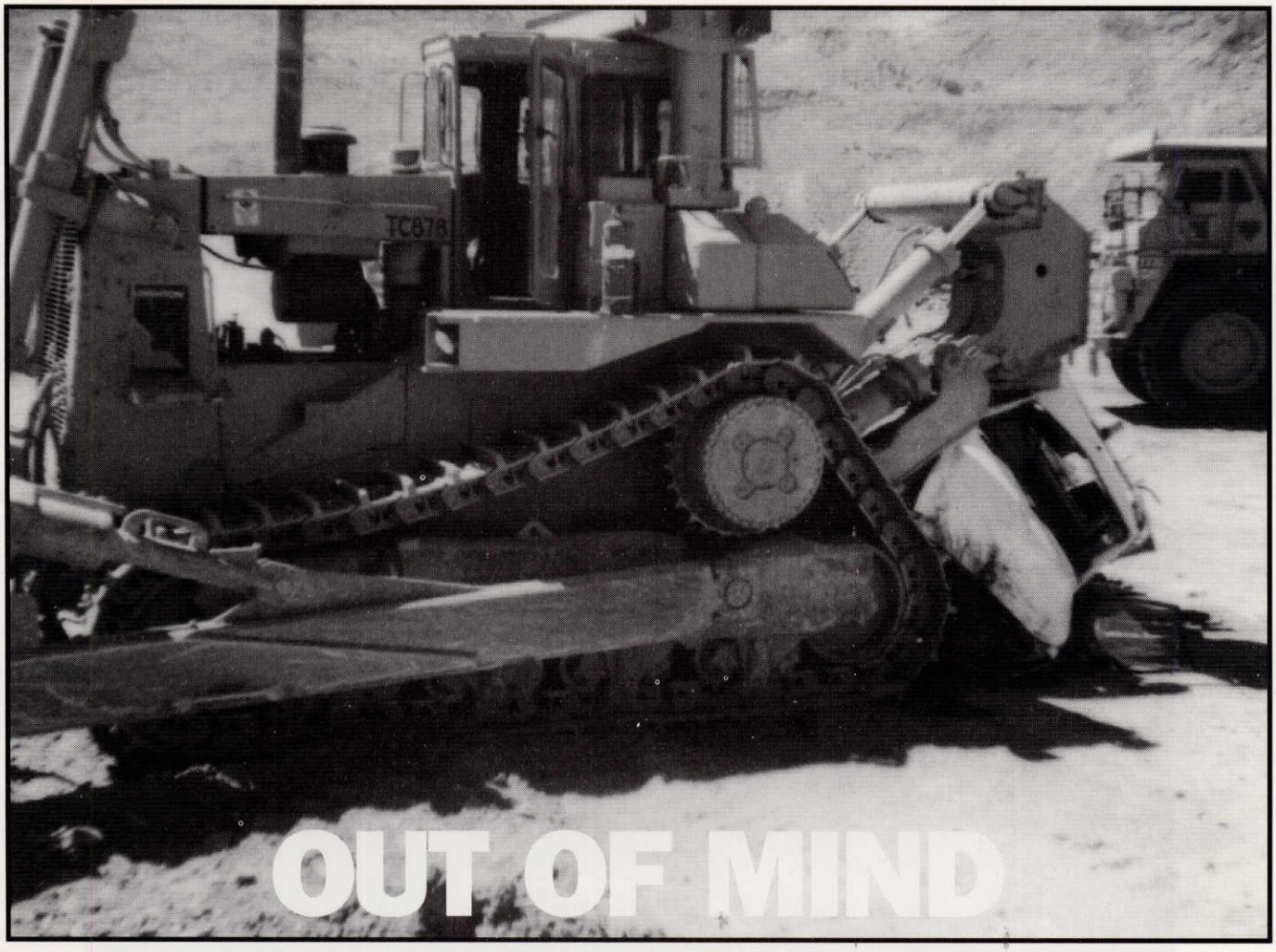
MINESAFE

ISSUED BY THE MINING OPERATIONS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS AND ENERGY (WA)



OUT OF SIGHT

The light vehicle was following the dozer down a ramp under the line of vision, in the "shadow" of the ripper and attachments.

The dozer stopped at the bottom of the ramp and went into reverse, unaware anyone was behind. Because the light vehicle driver did not have his microphone lead plugged into the radio, and was "off-air", he was unable to communicate his position to the dozer operator.

The light vehicle was pushed 25 metres up the ramp by the dozer.

There were no injuries thanks to an alert truck driver who radioed the dozer operator.

This incident highlights, yet again, the dangers of placing a vehicle within the blind spot area of another vehicle. Think about it!!!!

MINESAFE IS PUBLISHED BY

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MINESAFE is published four times a year by the Mining Operations Division in conjunction with the Surveys and Mapping Division. Articles and news items may be used freely, although we would appreciate acknowledgment, as well as a copy of any publication in which they are used.

MEDICAL TREATMENT INJURIES (MTIs) - GETTING A HANDLE ON ACCIDENTS

Lost time injuries tell one story, medical treatment injuries another, which mining contractor, ELTIN, decided was a company story worth listening to closely.

For the past eighteen months ELTIN has been putting as much emphasis on their MTI rate as on LTIs, and has actively encouraged site managers to use the services of doctors rather than guess the need for more than first aid. Medical treatments show an accurate picture from an internal management point of view, as they reflect each and every incident requiring treatment regardless of time or shift considerations. The MTI is a hard task master which highlights each and every deficiency no matter how minor, but the company takes the view that an MTI indicates a system failure, and correcting the failure is what is important. From January to April 1995 there were 49 MTIs, down from 81 during the same period in 1994.

The company commitment to eliminating the causes of MTIs is reflected by the fact that all company safety awards are based on a medical treatment injury record rather than lost time injuries.

The Kookynie "Kritter" - Rock art the goldfields style.

EDITORIAL

WRITTEN POLICY.. IT'S MORE THAN JUST A GOOD IDEA!

New legislation for the mining industry means that many companies will need to take a fresh look at the way they do things. While there is no legislative requirement to have written policies, in keeping with the spirit of the intent of the legislation, documenting procedures and processes make good sense.

A written policy is more than a statement of intent. It is a specific, measurable standard that can be used to monitor compliance with both legislative and corporate requirements, and as such provides a history of the reasons for the policy, how it is implemented, and where and when it applies.

Duty of Care provisions support active policy and in combination can define a corporate philosophy. As an example, it is not enough to have a written Alcohol and other Drug policy: the policy must also state the commitment to education and training, how often it is conducted as well as the mechanisms in place for control of hazards. A policy that states that any employee found under the influence will be dismissed is not adequate, for the simple reason that it gives no indication of how the company has attempted to control the problem on the site, and certainly gives no indication of what measures are in force to prevent further incidents. If a policy is in place on one site within an organisation, it should also be in place on all company sites.

Section 44(1) of the Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994 requires that persons with specific duties under the Act and Regulations must be provided with a "written summary of responsibilities and duties". In other words, a job description. It goes without saying that any duties or responsibilities stated must be specific, and that the person involved has received the training to carry them out. It is neither reasonable nor practicable to expect an individual to be responsible if they have had no training. Line managers appointed because of technical competence are a good example. Often they are placed in a position where upgrading their management and interpersonal skills is put on hold because they can't be spared, or the training comes months and even years after the appointment. If that is the case, and there is an incident in the interim, the onus of responsibility passes back up the line. It makes good sense to provide the education and training at the same time that the duties are imposed, if not before. Both examples make it imperative that companies review their policies and the responsibilities imposed on individuals under those policies, and correct deficiencies. Having them written down is a good place to start.

Catherine Stedman.

Catherine Stedman
EDITOR

CONVEYORS CAN KILL

On Friday 28 April 1995, a mineworker died from his injuries following an accident on a mobile crusher/conveyor.

It will be some time before the investigation is completed, but it is likely that the deceased was working on the operating conveyor. No one witnessed the accident.

Previous issues of Minesafe, Significant Incident Reports and Safety Bulletins have highlighted both the danger involved in working on operating conveyors and the number of injuries resulting from unsafe operating practices.

The Mining Operations Division has a pamphlet and poster available which can be obtained by phoning (09) 222 3310. Education and awareness about the dangers of conveyors is critical and employees' understanding of the dangers, as well as operating practices should be checked at every mine site across the State.

COST EFFECTIVE NOISE CONTROL - BUY QUIET PROCEDURES

PART 1

The mining legislation places legal obligations on manufacturers, suppliers etc to inform prospective buyers about any health risk associated with the operation or use of their products, including excessive noise. Complementary legal obligations have also been imposed on employers to ensure that any plant they purchase is as free as possible from health risks to employees. Noise information provided by suppliers can vary considerably if measurements are made in a different type of acoustical environment, and under different operating conditions from those in the workplace.

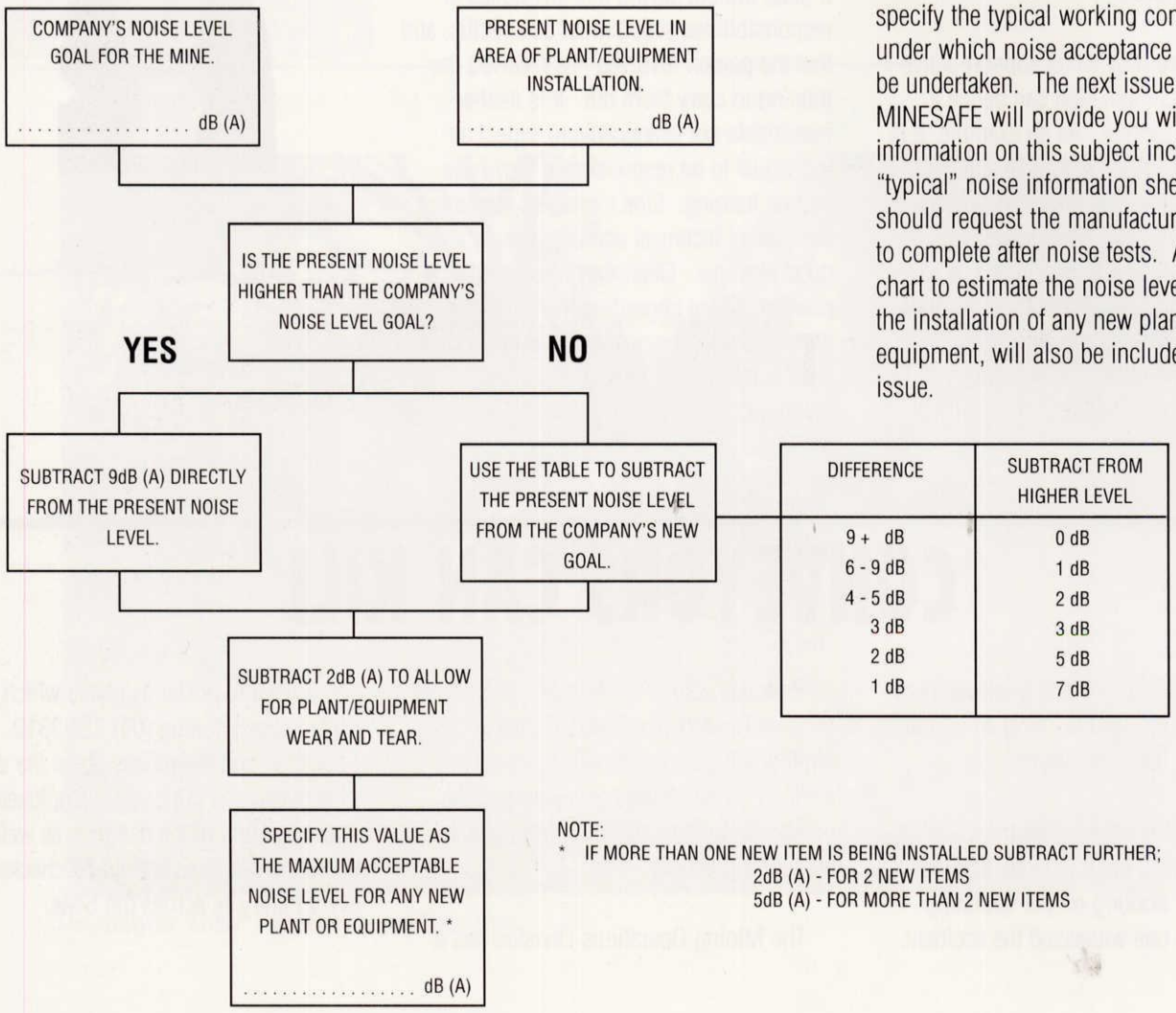
Properly handled, the purchase of new plant or equipment is an opportunity for cost effective noise control, and there are some basic rules which need to be followed:

- Standardise the noise testing information provided by suppliers so the noise performance of any delivery item can be properly assessed.
- Submit the noise emission data for optional noise accessories for assessment (if available).
- Establish a maximum acceptable noise level for delivery of any new item of plant and equipment.

These factors will be determined by the noise exposure level the company sets as its goal for working areas. To keep the workplace noise below a certain limit, the noise output of individual items will usually need to be well below that limit.

The flow chart can help you in establishing the maximum acceptable noise level for the equipment you intend to purchase. Once you have completed this simple procedure, write the value (dB(A)) obtained into a purchase specification and specify the typical working conditions under which noise acceptance tests should be undertaken. The next issue of MINESAFE will provide you with more information on this subject including a "typical" noise information sheet which you should request the manufacturers/suppliers to complete after noise tests. Another flow chart to estimate the noise level following the installation of any new plant or equipment, will also be included in the next issue.

FLOW CHART - Calculation of the maximum acceptable noise level for any new plant or equipment



DIFFERENCE	SUBTRACT FROM HIGHER LEVEL
9 + dB	0 dB
6 - 9 dB	1 dB
4 - 5 dB	2 dB
3 dB	3 dB
2 dB	5 dB
1 dB	7 dB

NOTE:
* IF MORE THAN ONE NEW ITEM IS BEING INSTALLED SUBTRACT FURTHER;
2dB (A) - FOR 2 NEW ITEMS
5dB (A) - FOR MORE THAN 2 NEW ITEMS

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH FILE:

HYDROGEN FLUORIDE

A fatal accident with hydrofluoric acid (HF) in October 1994 highlighted the dangers of working with such extremely hazardous chemicals. The accident occurred in a suburban Perth laboratory whilst an operator was sitting at a fume cupboard processing mineral samples. He accidentally spilt about 100 ml of HF on his thighs and received burns covering 10% of his body. Despite rapid flushing of the acid spill with water and emergency treatment at a nearby hospital, the victim died an agonising death 15 days later.

HF is sometimes used on minesites, mainly for the analysis of silicates in laboratories. It is sometimes also used to clean gold nuggets. HF is available commercially in solution form which is colourless and has a sharp irritating odour. When heated, it gives off highly corrosive and poisonous fumes.

HF is a very corrosive, highly irritating and poisonous chemical. Skin contact with the liquid can produce deep and extremely painful skin burns which take a long time to heal, as well as being capable of causing death where only 2% of the body is burnt with a 70% solution. Burns from strong solutions are felt immediately but weaker solutions spilled on the skin may not cause pain for several hours.

Breathing in high concentrations can cause severe burns to the lips, mouth, throat and lungs. Fluid may also accumulate in the lungs, causing death. Splashing in the eyes may also cause severe and irreversible injuries.

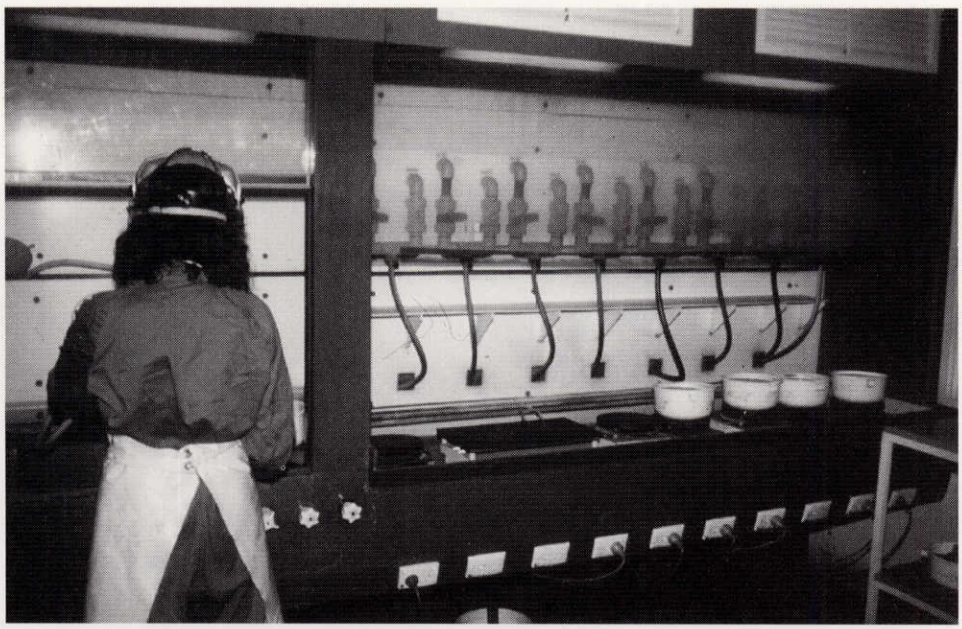
In all HF exposures, extremely quick response with first aid treatments is of the utmost importance. Any person who has been contaminated by HF must have immediate first aid, then see a medical practitioner as soon as possible. Even with minor accidents, the full extent of injuries may not be obvious for several hours.

Where HF is used, the following precautions are to be followed:

- safe procedures and work practices in accordance with the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) are to be developed, maintained and supervised;
- fume cupboards should be used wherever possible to minimise exposure to fume;
- workers must be aware of the hazards associated with HF, safe work procedures, personal protective equipment and first aid/emergency procedures;
- safety showers, eye wash facilities and calcium gluconate gel (neutralising cream) must be available;
- workers must NEVER work alone with HF;
- whenever possible, HF should be replaced with a less hazardous substance.

As well as being used as a laboratory chemical, HF may be contained in other chemicals. In particular, cleaning agents for metals or glass, paint strippers, rust removers and anti-slip treatments should be checked for HF content.

For further information contact Jenny Oosterhof, Occupational Hygienist
Tel: (09) 222 3091.



It is mandatory to use HF in a good fume cupboard. This operator who was handling HF had good personal protection equipment, including gloves, faceshield and acid resistant apron in case of spills.

'WHIP POLE' MAKES A RETURN

The original 'Whip Pole' structures used for accessing mine shafts, were common during the early part of the century. These early structures were constructed from either sawn timber and steel pipes, or light bush poles. Hoisting on these original 'Whip Poles' was generally by means of horse or vehicle.

In recent years this original concept has been used to design a modern steel 'Whip Pole' structure, generally used for accessing abandoned mine shafts. Two of these modern structures are now being used successfully in the Western Australian goldfields. These latest 'Whip Poles' consist of a computer designed structurally efficient steel space frame mounted on a steel skid base frame. The units are completely mobile, quickly erected and do not require concrete foundations for safe use. The designs have been accepted by the Mining Operations Division of the Department of Minerals and Energy.

The modern 'Whip Poles' were introduced following industry requests for an alternative to the traditional 'Tripod' structure. The 'Whip Pole' is generally considered to have significant advantages over the 'Tripod' because it does not require concrete foundations and is therefore quicker and easier to erect.

In addition to being used for accessing abandoned mine shafts these 'Whip Poles' are also considered suitable for general underground duties where safe access into winzes and rises is necessary.

Any enquiries may be directed to Mark Butson Tel: (09) 222 3607.

A modern steel 'Whip Pole' used to access an abandoned mine shaft in the Western Australian goldfields.

An original 'Whip Pole' built from sawn timber and steel pipes used over a mine shaft during the early part of the century near Kalgoorlie.

SOURCE: 'Technological Survey of the Golden Mile' by the Western Australian School of Mines.

INDUCTION - IT'S ONLY THE FIRST STEP .....

Does induction training given to an employee fulfil an employer's obligation to training under Duty of Care? The answer is definitely NO! However there are still many who mistakenly believe that once an employee has been inducted in accordance with policy, that the responsibility has been discharged.

There are also many who have not yet come to terms with the reality that self-regulation imposes a far greater responsibility on employers and employees than prescriptive legislation ever could. By its nature, prescriptive legislation is reactive - a minimum standard is imposed as a result of accident and injury experience. Self regulation is all about anticipating hazards and removing the source BEFORE employees are exposed to them in the workplace. It is also about continuously monitoring, assessing and evaluating practices and procedures, of which induction is only one.

The traditional approach to induction often involves gathering new employees in a room with an overhead projector, subjecting them to information overload, providing them with a booklet and asking them to sign saying they have attended and understood the information presented. An obvious flaw in that system is that there is no guarantee that the employee's understanding bears any relationship to the information given. Another is that the process does not fulfil an employer's responsibility to employees so far as providing a safe place of work and protecting them from hazards. All it does is alert the employee to the fact that systems exist, and that the employee is expected to follow them.

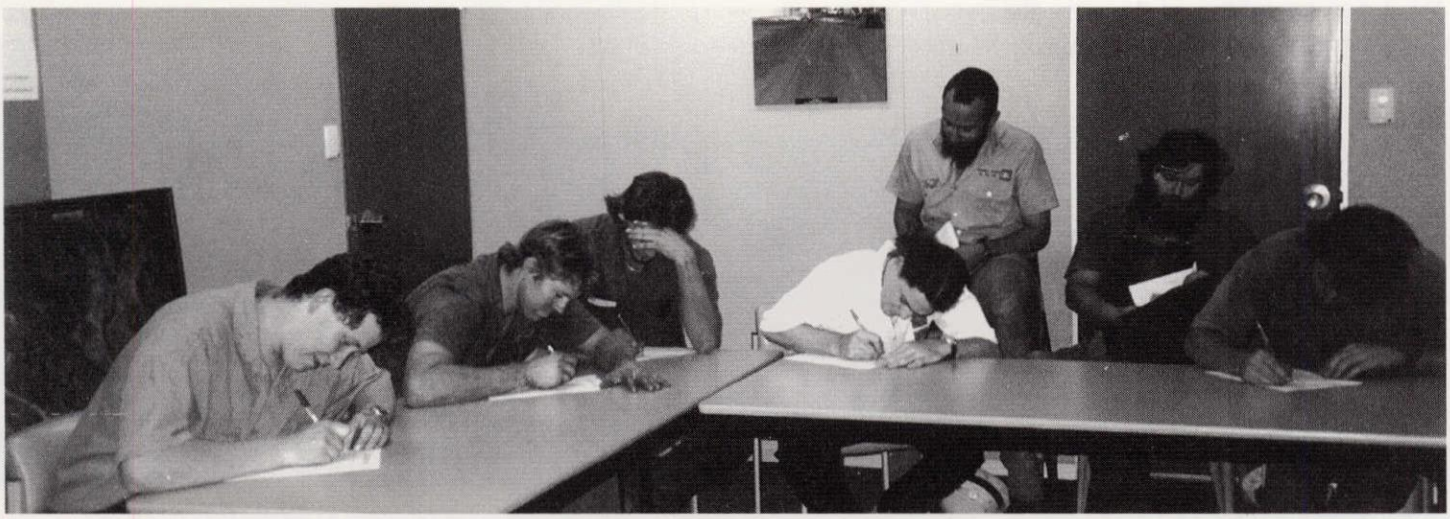
Every new employee on a minesite goes through the induction process. Many have also been through a re-induction, often when some infringement indicates that the employee either did not understand or ignored a procedure. For many, induction is the only formal instruction to which they are exposed other than job specific training - a situation that has the potential to leave substantial "gaps" in knowledge. Both the workplace and the systems of work are subject to change, and it is critical that persons are regularly retrained and updated on changes. "Quality Assurance" and "continuous improvement" are two of the most commonly heard phrases in industry today. The best way to make the words a reality is to ensure that involved employees see it as their responsibility to work safely to a standard that reflects high quality and best practice. **In summary, employees must be provided with ongoing training, and induction is only the first step in the continuous cycle of improvement.**

The Mining and Resource Industry Contractors Association (MARCSTA) has developed a "generic" mining induction for employees of contractors who are required to move from mine to mine in the course of a year.

Many companies have required that such persons complete their own site specific induction upon arrival to work on that site, even if for only a few days or two or three weeks, and irrespective of all previous inductions. They have done so in the mistaken belief that this is essential to discharge the company's duty of care.

This has resulted in the absurd situation where a person may be "inducted" a dozen or more times in a year. The reality is that a lot of valuable time is wasted, and the victim of the multiple induction process will probably miss the one or two special points that may be different and important, (being specific to that site), through boredom and multiple induction fatigue.

The "generic" induction, which will have a limited currency after which a refresher is required, will avoid the need for repeated full inductions at each new mine. All that will be needed for a person having current "generic" induction status will be a short briefing on any special issues which may be specific to a new site.



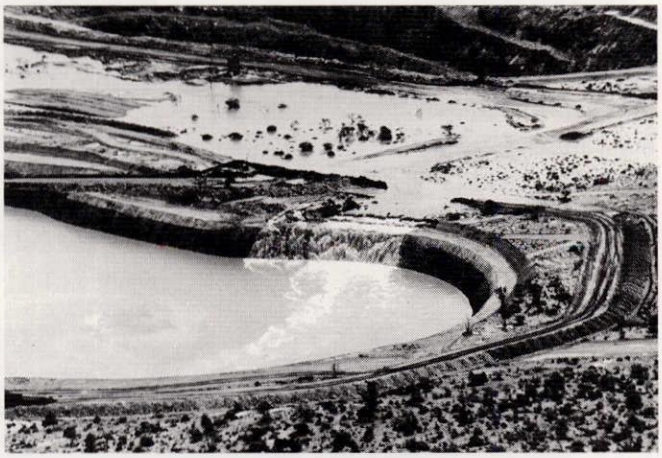
Now let me see.....Contractors production induction. Mt Whaleback.

GOLDFIELDS AWASH

Within weeks of rains from Cyclone Bobby setting the goldfields awash, it was business as usual for most operations. Some fared better than others, but everywhere people responded with a spirit that got everyone through an uncomfortable time. At Orient Well, 30 kms west of Leonora, the usually unremarkable Dingo Creek was transformed into a raging river, cutting off the mine and the camp for three days. Most personnel had already been evacuated before the creek roared into life, but for those that stayed behind, it was three days of cards, trivial pursuit and watching TV in the wet mess which housed the only set that worked. Flood water swirled through the camp, and it was a case of "water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink" ...or wash! Pumping water from the pool for the showers solved one problem, and renewal of contact with the outside world, the other. Resident Manager, Gerry Stokes said that spirits remained high, and people responded to the situation magnificently.

Access road convoy at the height of the storm.

At Bannockburn, the riverbeds filled. A 14 km river with over six metres depth of water surged across the flats, and destroyed the mine. The mine was evacuated at 4 am, and by 6.30 am water was running into the pit. Production Supervisor, Dave Bartley, expressed the sadness that everyone felt at the loss of the mine. "Three and a half years work... gone in half an hour". The mine had a 100 year flood bund wall, but it didn't help. Approximately two and a half billion litres of water filled the pit in two hours, creating a waterfall that would have been remarkable even in a rainforest. The force of the water stripped rock and exposed the orebody, and the "lake" is approximately 65 metres deep. The aftermath is still creating a few problems for those closing down the mine, as trees festooned with the webs of white tailed spiders are creating a hazard. Two employees have been bitten. Stink beetles abound, and frogs have taken squatters rights in the sewerage system. While most buildings on the site are elevated, the store was flooded. A couple of employees tried their hand at fishing from the verandah - one of the few light-hearted moments during what was a sad time for all employees at Bannockburn.



Last time.....

At other operations it wasn't water in the pit that stopped production but water on the road! Access was cut off from the north and the south, and at Tarmoola, in April, they were still having problems bringing in big equipment on waterlogged roads. Most operations, as a matter of course, plan on keeping a two week supply of reagents and fuel on site but this time it wasn't enough to get them through. Tarmoola kept one mill operating from the low grade stockpile, and had minimal numbers of people on site. On the 27th February, Station Creek on the Leonora road flooded, which hampered the evacuation of personnel. The 2 metre deep creek stopped light vehicles from crossing,

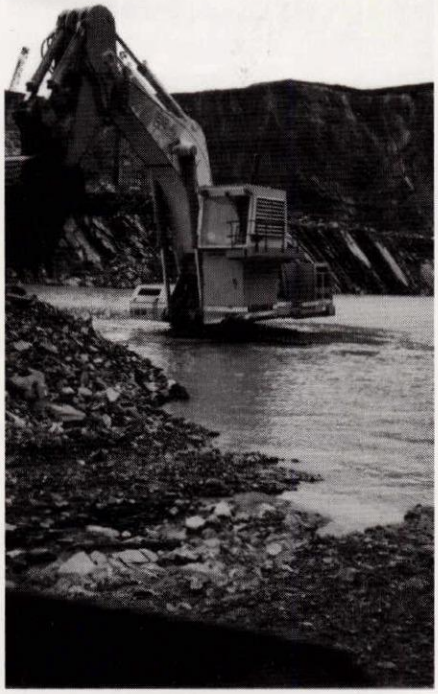
A room with spa bath and shower. Two unlucky individuals spent a cold wet night on the roof before they were rescued by a samaritan with a jet ski.

..... *This time.*

but the 769C watertruck from the mine successfully stood in as a ferry getting people out. Getting them back after it was all over, also proved to be a problem, and the start-up took another three days. Day shift crews were able to catch up on all the odd jobs around the site, but one more day would have been enough to force the mine to shut down completely.

It was much the same story over at Sons of Gwalia, which is that much closer to the Lake Raeside causeway. Problems moving people and equipment, haulroads that turned into rivers, and just the sheer logistics of dealing with a situation that no one really expected. Mine Superintendent, David Vascoe, commented that they had no idea that there was going to be so much rain, but if there was something good about it, it was the way the situation brought people together. Morale was excellent, despite the nervousness many felt at being isolated. Supplies were flown in, and the town water supply being cut meant that the laundry was bolted shut, but other than that, there were few problems for which a solution could not be found. The state of the road was the issue on everyone's mind, and was seen as the most important remedial action to ensure that the same situation did not happen again.

In the interim, the water in normally dry lakes, has done much for the status of the odd surfie working "inland". They will be in hot demand when the wind surfers and wave skis on order arrive in camp.



Identity Crises - dirt or dugongs! An excavator looking for a reason to be.

The SS Soot - Built by Roche foreman, Steve Routledge to ferry urgently needed parts.

"IF I FALL, WHAT'S GOING TO STOP ME HITTING THE GROUND?....."

That was the question that KCGM personnel who repaired and maintained conveyor systems wanted to answer. So did Engineer, Greg Stannard and Safety Officer, Peter Tink.

It was time to sit down with the safety committee and other involved employees and work out the best way to install a fall arrest system.

The group sat down and looked at the options and drew up plans. Peter Tink firmly believes that if the people who will be using a system aren't involved in developing it, they probably won't use it, and KCGM employees are no exception. The "group think" resulted in designing an overhead safety line using fall arrest safety harnesses that allowed freedom of movement and did not create new hazards from tripping or stumbling. Employees were trained to fit and use the harnesses and educated about the mechanisms that make the systems work. As the users, they will now teach others.

KCGM bought harnesses in all three sizes to ensure that users would be sure of a correct fit. The harnesses are always available, including the back shift, and employees keep a sharp lookout and report damaged equipment. Employees usually know the best way to do things, says Peter Tink, and by using their skills, and involving them, everyone wins.

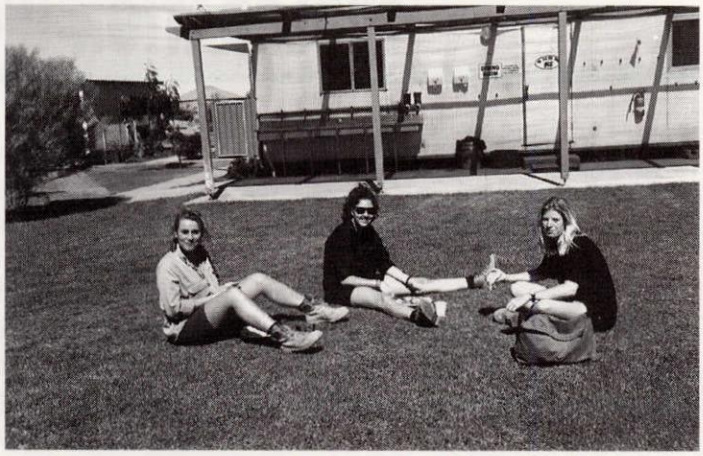
The fall arrest installation has been so successful, employees are now taking a close look at other equipment they use at work. By working together, and sharing their skills and knowledge, safety becomes a very personal issue, and the result is a commitment to a safer workplace by everyone at KCGM.

▲▼ *Conveyors showing the overhead safety line at KCGM.*

Operators contribute to the safe systems of work.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

"C'mon....I'll trade two Wildcats cards for the name of your barber.." Les Pearce and Luke Gmelig (Sons of Gwalia).



"What do you mean... There's still five hours left on the shift?" L-R Nicole McKnight, Shvaughn Shaw, Vicki Butler (AWP).

Bob Leggerini (Workmen's Inspector of Mines. Kalgoorlie) out on the job.

The Melita Bunch do Lunch (Orient Well).

"OK...so what if it isn't the Magic Eye.. there's got to be something here". Russell Bailey, Dave Bartley, Doug Rey, Paul Holly (Bannockburn).

EXPLORATION UNDER THE NEW ACT

When the Mines Safety and Inspection Act is proclaimed it will cover exploration activities, other than remote sensing.

This has very important implications for exploration companies and also for drilling and other contractors who carry out exploration work for those companies.

The exploration company, as the principal employer, will bear the primary responsibility under the Act for control of safe performance of exploration activities which are carried out by its own direct employees and by contractors.

The Act requires the appointment by the exploration company of a manager for the State, who will be the reference point for the inspectorate, and who will appoint persons to be responsible for activities on any site.

The authority for control of any site may be delegated to a contractor and the responsibilities assigned must be given in writing and made clear to the person appointed.

The contractor is an employer under the Act and carries the normal responsibilities and obligations of the duty of care to his employees.

The principal employer (exploration company) retains the overall responsibility for the activities of all contractors engaged to carry out the exploration activities.

Where the work is taking place on mining tenements, or adjacent to such tenements where mine operations are carried out under a registered manager, the principal employer may place those operations under the control of that manager.

In all other cases, the nominated exploration manager for the State, will be ultimately responsible as an agent of the principal employer, for the equivalent functions of a registered manager, although the sites under his control may be several and widely distributed. His authority will in such cases be delegated to, and control exercised through, appointed persons in direct charge of the work.

A guideline is being prepared to provide a more detailed understanding of what is required of the exploration sector under this Act.

It is also intended that a seminar be held in Perth in July 1995 to inform exploration companies and contractors of the requirements.

The inspectorate will act with due diligence to ensure that exploration activities are carried out to as high a standard of safety performance as in the general mining sector.

Any queries on the requirements should be directed to the district or senior inspector in your region, or to the State Mining Engineer.

Exploration diamond drill rig.

THE OTHER SHIFT

I WANT TO TELL YOU BOSS, I'VE MINED
FOR TWENTY YEARS OR MORE,
IN ALL THIS TIME I'VE NEVER SEEN
A MESS LIKE THIS BEFORE.

JUST TAKE A LOOK AT THAT AIR LINE,
IT'S BROKEN PLUMB IN HALF.
YOU SEE, THE OTHER SHIFT WALKS OUT
AND THEN WE STAND THE GAFF.

THEY DIDN'T COVER UP THE HOSE
WE CAN'T FIND ALL THE TOOLS.
NO ONE CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS!
I GUESS THEY THINK WE'RE FOOLS.

HOW ANYONE IN EIGHT SHORT HOURS
COULD GET SO LITTLE DONE!
THEY REALLY TORE THE PLACE APART
AND NEVER GOT A TON.

UNLESS THEY TEACH THESE FARMERS HOW
TO TIMBER AND TO DRILL
I'LL TURN MY PICK AND SHOVEL IN
AND GO ON DOWN THE HILL.

ABOUT THAT OTHER SHIFT THAT WORKED -
WHAT'S THAT? YOU'RE SURE YOU'RE RIGHT?
THE HELL YOU SAY, HOW COULD THAT BE?
THERE WAS NO SHIFT LAST NIGHT?

NEW PUBLICATIONS

USE OF HIGH PRESSURE WATER JETTING EQUIPMENT

The ever increasing use of high pressure water jets for cleaning, descaling and even cutting by many industries, including the mining industry, has prompted Standards Australia to produce an interim Standard AS/NZS 4233 (Int) 1994 entitled "High Pressure Water Jetting Systems - Safe Operation and Maintenance".

This Standard which is readily available from Standards Australia Office in West Perth deals with the minimum safety requirements, when using this highly hazardous process, and includes Sections dealing with:-

- General Requirements
- Inspection Care and Maintenance
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Pre-Operational Procedures
- Operational Procedures
- Operational and Training Requirements
- Permanent Cleaning Areas
- Incident and Accident Reporting

This Standard has been developed by an expert committee with many years experience in high pressure water jetting systems and is endorsed by the Inspectorate for application in the WA mining industry.

If your company is utilising high pressure water jetting processes then reference should be made to the Australian Standard to ensure that the processes are carried out safely.

HANDBOOK FOR SAFE MINING - COMING SOON!

In all Australian States and New Zealand, the move away from prescriptive legislation has placed a greater responsibility on individuals and companies to provide and promote the use of the necessary tools to ensure that health and safety standards and practices are developed and maintained at all minesites. The Handbook for Safe Mining will be such a tool and is being compiled following widespread consultation with regulatory authorities, industry bodies and workforce representatives. The Handbook, due for release late in 1995 is the culmination of 18 months of intensive work, and will be a comprehensive guide for a practical approach to hazard identification and risk management in the workplace.

The Handbook is divided into sections which cover the concepts of hazard identification, risk assessment and control; the mining sequence; generic safety issues, specific hazards and an index of references. Appropriate graphics will be a feature of the Handbook.

The final draft of the Handbook will be approved by the Australian and New Zealand Minerals and Energy Council, before it is released. It is intended that the Handbook will be updated periodically, after its initial edition is distributed. It will be a valuable guide and reference to mine operators, health and safety committees, the workforce, regulatory authorities, tertiary institutions and the wider community.

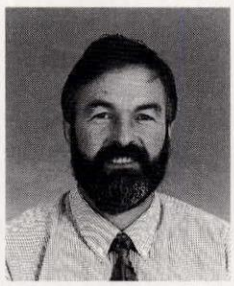
STAFF CHANGES

The Perth office welcomes **Bill Biggs** who joined on 1 May 1995 as Manager, Environmental & Rehabilitation.

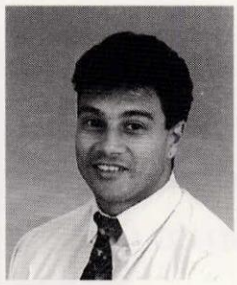
Wayne Bonjour has joined us from the Chemistry Centre and will be taking over the position of Finance & Purchasing Officer as Ngaire Kempton has taken maternity leave.

Julian Davey has recently been appointed to the position of Technical Officer (Occupational Health). He will be based in the Collie office.

Congratulations to the two **Kims**; **Anderson** and **Williams**. Kim Anderson has been promoted to the position of Senior Environmental Officer to replace the recently departed Chris Mills and Kim Williams to the position Secretary to the Boards of examiners.



Bill Biggs



Wayne Bonjour

Julian Davey

WHAT'S ON

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR GEOMECHANICS

VENUE: 9th Floor, Theatrette, Department of Minerals & Energy, Perth.

PROBABILITY ANALYSIS IN GEOTECHNICAL DESIGN 20-21 JULY 1995

Specific areas include: basic probability relevant to geotechnical engineering, computational methods; interpretation of results and judgement; evaluation of risk in mine design; review of case studies.

OPEN PIT SLOPE STABILITY 7-8 SEPTEMBER 1995

Designed for operators and consultants on the theoretical and practical application of pit slope design principles.

VENUE: Room A004, University of WA, Civil Engineering Department.

AN INTRODUCTION TO SOIL MECHANICS 27-29 SEPTEMBER 1995

Designed to help bridge the gap between soil mechanics principles and their application to practical solutions such as occur during the management of tailings structures.

For further information on the above courses contact Christine Neskudla:

Tel: (09) 380 3300
Fax: (09) 380 1130

NOISE OFFICERS COURSE

A Noise Officers Course organised by Curtin Consultancy Services will be held from 3rd to 9th July 1995.

For further information contact Sandy Caporn Tel: (09) 351 3291.

MINE SAFETY ELECTRICAL INSPECTIONS

To coincide with the termination of SECWA as of 31 December 1994, the Department has secured arrangements for mine safety electrical inspections to be undertaken by the newly formed Office of Energy (OOE).

Included in the arrangements are provisions for one OOE electrical inspector to be located at each of the Department's regional offices in Karratha, Kalgoorlie and Collie. An inspector will be located in Geraldton, and several will operate from the OOE office in Perth. As previously inspectors will deal with electrical matters both on and off minesites.

Except for the Karratha posting, all positions have been taken up and inspectors can be contacted as follows:

Kalgoorlie	-Mick Hayhow	(090-219 418)
Collie	-Bob Anderson	(097-341 222)
Geraldton	-Bob Lawrence	(099-645 133)
Karratha	-to be advised	(091-868 243)
Perth	-Ken Adey	(09-422 5268)
	-Roy Wallis	(09-422 5267)
	-John Watson	(09-422 5269)
	-Roger Parrin	(09-422 5266)
	-Peter Johnston	(09-422 5270)
	-Peter Wright	(09-422 5265)

A special thank you is extended to officers R Kerr, G Higgins, T Halley, R Lucas, K Kennedey, B McCormack and N Boyce in recognition of their service to the Department prior to the new arrangement.

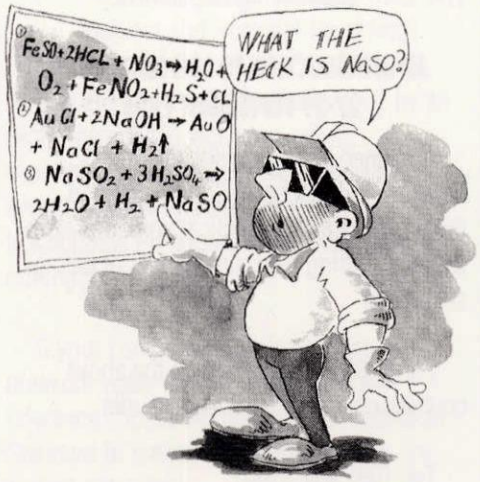
For further information contact
D Brown (Electrical Engineer) Tel: (09) 222 3546

INCIDENT ALERT

BEWARE THE WRONG CHEMICAL!

An employee received a serious injury after being splashed while mixing a two part epoxy resin. The minesite had lent some resin to another company who subsequently replaced the tins. Unfortunately a different accelerator was returned, which was corrosive and far less viscous than the correct one for the particular resin being prepared.

The splashes soon began to burn and water washing was applied as first aid treatment, while the material safety data sheet (MSDS) was being consulted. However, the supplied MSDS was for a different product, namely a two phase decarboniser generally used in a sealed dip tank. The splashes were dressed, but the resulting lessions suppurated.



Among the lessons from this incident are:

- maintain adequate supplies on site;
- Avoid interchanging chemicals between sites;
- Ensure the chemicals received are the ones requested;
- Ensure chemicals have the correct MSDS.
- Ensure appropriate personal protective equipment is worn.
- Ensure correct first aid treatment is known.

In this incident safety glasses prevented serious eye injuries.

For further information contact Mike Rowe, Principal Occupational Hygienist. Tel: (09) 222 3050.