



What's News?

Occupational Health & Safety

28 July 2010

Latest News

- Scrap company owner fined for oxy cutting explosion
- Farm accidents cost \$1b per year: research
- Coal dust is far from settled at Xstrata mine battle
- BHP Miner fined over worker's death

Latest News

Scrap company owner fined for oxy cutting explosion

23 July 2010

The owner of defunct Scrap Action (Aust) has been convicted and fined after an employee was burned while using oxy-cutting equipment to cut up an air conditioner, fined \$11,250 on 22 July by the Magistrates Court of South Australia for failure to take reasonable steps to ensure that the company complied with its obligations under s 19(1) of the Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act 1986. [More...](#)

Farm accidents cost \$1b per year: research

23 July 2010

A national farm safety researcher says farm accidents and deaths are costing the agricultural sector more than \$1 billion per year. John Temperley from the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety, says quad bike accidents are the most common cause of deaths on farms with 140 quad bike related fatalities over 10 years associated with their use. [More...](#)

Burns incident highlights dangers of flammable liquids

21 July 2010

Workcover NSW says an incident at South Windsor on 15 July served as an unfortunate reminder of the dangers of working with flammable liquids. WorkCover NSW has reminded employers of the dangers of flammable liquids after a workers sustained burns to 40 per cent of his body while decanting a flammable liquid when a spill ignited. [More...](#)

Union bans slings at desal plant

21 July 2010

The CFEMU has put a ban on the use of 'soft slings' at South Australia's desalination construction site after a 35-year-old worker was crushed to death and another injured on July 16. According to the CFMEU the company was using slings instead of chains to avoid scratching the beams, avoiding the need for any rework and cutting costs. [More...](#)

Safety worries addressed at desal site

23 July 2010

Construction work has resumed at the site of Adelaide's desalination plant. A joint safety audit between three unions and project managers identified about 300 issues to be addressed at the site. [More...](#)

Audit failed to prevent death: union

19 July 2010

The construction union will conduct a full safety audit of Adelaide's desalination plant site following the death of a worker. A full safety audit of the site by the federal Safety Commission gave a green light to operations just a day before the accident. [More...](#)

Coal dust is far from settled at Xstrata mine battle

20 July 2010

The Construction Forestry Mining & Energy Union yesterday "unequivocally condemned the alleged threat to the personal safety of an Xstrata staff member" and called for full public co-operation with a police investigation. [More...](#)

Death at Appleton Dock: ports shut down for 24 hours

19 July 2010

The National secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia says there are inadequacies in state and federal safety legislation covering the nation's wharves, especially in bulk and general operations, after another death on the waterfront. The MUA had already called for a strengthening of the current terms of **reference of the group before this latest tragedy.** [More...](#)

POAGS stevedores strike after workplace fatality

15 July 2010

Stevedores around Australia are due to return to work today after walking off the job protesting safety conditions following the death of one of their colleagues in Melbourne. The national secretary of the POAGS union, said it was the third death associated with the company in four years and the stevedoring industry was in crisis and needed tougher national legislation, better safety enforcement, and more effective training. [More...](#)

Outback tourist death warning

13 July 2010

A Former Northern Territory tour bus driver says lack of regulation in driving hours for heavy vehicles is dangerous and it's only a matter of time before it results in "multiple fatalities". The NT and WA currently do not have regulated driving hours, relying on a voluntary code of practice. [More...](#)



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Queensland school asbestos investigations

15 July 2010

An investigation is underway into asbestos concerns at two schools in Townsville and Mackay in Queensland's north. Public Works Minister Robert Swarten says there is no excuse for any Q-Build employee or contractor to be exposing asbestos to themselves or others. [More...](#)

BHP Miner fined over worker's death

15 July 2010

Miner BHP Billiton has been fined more than \$75,000 over the death of a worker at its Olympic Dam operations in South Australia. BHP Billiton pleaded guilty to breaching workplace safety laws and also issued a public apology and Industrial Magistrate Michael Ardlie said the failure of the company to maintain safe work systems was a serious offence. [More...](#)

Cold storage giant fined \$60,000 for forklift failings

12 July 2010

Cold Storage Pty Ltd - part of the global Swire Group which includes Cathay Pacific and Swire Pacific - has been found guilty and fined total of \$60,000 under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004. Following the incident, WorkSafe issued prohibition notices preventing the use of the plant involved in the incident until it was made safe; and an improvement notice which required the workplace to put a system in place to separate mobile plant from pedestrians and other mobile plant. [More...](#)

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