



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

October 2009

Welcome to
our New
Associate
Members

Lee Baines
NSW

Keith Holden
NSW

Blast Rocks Melbourne Units



Photo: ABC TV

Residents of a block of flats in Melbourne are lucky to be alive, after an explosion tore through their building, leaving a man and woman in their 30s with burns to 40% of their bodies. Another man and woman, aged in their 20s, are being treated for cuts. The explosion has destroyed or badly damaged at least 10 of the 15 flats in the building, and sent debris up to 50 metres across the street.

Paramedic Justin Dunlop says several people needed treatment. "There was a small number of people with lacerations that came from the building, and a number of other bystanders that were affected just from the scene," he said. "The two patients

**AIDGC
DIARY
DATES
FOR 2009**

**Mixed
Class
Dangerous
Goods**

Sydney

October 29

**Ryde-
Eastwood
Leagues Club
Ryedale
Road
West Ryde**

Melbourne

November 26

**October
MFB Burnley
Complex
Lecture
Theatre
Richmond**

that were taken with serious burns are lucky to be alive today." Commander Lou Mele from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade said that several emergency calls were made at the time of the explosion, and one side of the building has been badly damaged.

Resident Pawez Ahmed says his 37-year-old neighbour suffered serious burns. "I asked him, 'man, what happened' and he said 'something to do with the gas'," he said. "I don't know what exactly caused the fire but the paramedic came and attended to him and after 15 minutes they took him to the hospital."

Resident Steve Cusworth says he heard a loud bang. "It was like a massive explosion, all the windows blew in in our apartment, so there was glass everywhere," he said.

"We opened the door and then there was all smoke and there was a lady screaming we could hear, and so it was pretty intense."

Victoria's arson and explosion unit will investigate once it is safe to get into the building.

Draft National Model Occupational Health and Safety Legislation

The importance of harmonised occupational health and safety (OHS) laws has long been recognised as a critical area of regulatory reform. In July 2008, the Council of Australian Governments signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement which establishes the commitment of all states and territories and the Commonwealth to the adoption of uniform OHS laws by 2011, complemented by nationally consistent approaches to compliance and enforcement.

Currently all states and territories and the Commonwealth are responsible for making and enforcing their own OHS laws. Although these draw on a similar approach for regulating workplaces, there are some differences in the application and detail of the laws.

Safe Work Australia is responsible for developing national model OHS legislation that can be uniformly adopted by all jurisdictions. The model legislation will consist of a principal OHS Act, supported by model regulations and model codes of practice that can be readily adopted around Australia. This requires each state, territory and the Commonwealth to pass their own laws that mirror the model OHS laws and adopt them by December 2011.

**Fire Videos
Film and
Discussion
Evening**

November 26

**Ryedale
Room
Ryde
Eastwood
Leagues Club
West Ryde
Sydney**

An exposure draft of the model legislation is open for public comment for a period of six weeks from 28 September until 9 November 2009. You may access the exposure draft at Model OHS legislation public comment:

<http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/swa/ModelLegislation/Public+Comment/ModelLegislationPublicComment.htm>

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and Comcare will consider any comments received for the purpose of developing a consolidated Commonwealth position on the model legislation

Brisbane Factory Fire

A 30m exclusion zone has been set up around a chemical factory at Lytton on Brisbane's bayside following an early morning fire. Multiple Triple 0 calls alerted Queensland Fire and Rescue to the blaze at 4.39am on October 16, as thick black smoke poured from the building in Benjamin Street.

QFRS Duty Operations Manager Rob O'Connor said the crews could see the smoke kilometres from the site. "Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus had to cut through the roller doors to gain entry," said Inspector O'Connor. "We used two lines of high pressure hoses and two lines of 64mm hoses, so we dumped a lot of water on it. It was extinguished well within the hour."

He said the materials inside the factory including polystyrene, polyurethane and acetone prompted crews to establish an exclusion zone and evacuate neighbouring businesses. "When those materials get into the air, they can really burn the lungs. Fortunately there were only light winds about this morning."

Crews were successful in preventing any run off from the factory seeping into a nearby creek, Inspector O'Connor said. "That was our prime focus of the initial attack. We ensured the attack measures taken meant there was no run off into the creek and when the hoses weren't being used, they were shut down immediately."

The building is now being ventilated and fire investigators and police scenes of crime are expected to attend later this morning. "We don't think it is suspicious. The building was sealed up pretty tight," Inspector O'Connor said.

Source: Robyn Ironside, Courier Mail

Corporate Members

Our Corporate Members provide a range of products and services to the Dangerous Goods Industry. Their contact details are:

AECOM
Tim Dean
(07) 3858 6700
M +61 421 407 633

AJM Environmental
Adrian Minshull
02) 9542 2366

Store-Safe Pty Ltd
Grant Breeze
02) 9569 2122

Vanguard
Solutions
Tony Davies
08) 9420 5322

Dangerous Goods Storage Company Fined for Pollution

A dangerous goods storage company has been convicted and fined \$160,000 for a chemical fire that started in one of its sheds.

West Point Pty Ltd pleaded guilty in the Sunshine Magistrates' Court in Melbourne on Friday to a charge of polluting the atmosphere in December 2007. The fire at the Paramount Road site in Footscray was caused by a chemical reaction when large amounts of stormwater entered the storage shed used to store pool chlorine chemicals.

The fire - which emitted a large amount of toxic chlorine gas - caused "significant disruption" to local and regional train services, the court heard. The gas threatened the health of local residents, who reported irritated and burning eyes and airways, with some requiring medical attention. Gas also affected pets and local vegetation.

Environment Protection Agency (EPA) acting chief executive Terry A'Hearn said the damage done to the environment and the company's reputation was "a huge price to pay". "The penalty reflects the seriousness of the incident and should act as a warning to other companies who fail to store dangerous goods properly," A'Hearn said in a statement.

West Point was also ordered to pay the EPA's court costs of \$30,000. The \$160,000 penalty will fund two local community environmental projects.

Source: AAP NewsWire

Three New Hazardous Areas Standards

Standards Australia has published three new hazardous areas Standards to supersede existing Standards in Australia and New Zealand.

The new Standards update safety measures for people working within explosive atmospheres in hazardous areas and bring local practices more in line with International Standards.

Hazardous areas are areas where there may be a fire or explosion risk due the possible presence of flammable gases, vapours, mists, dusts, fibres or flyings.

This month my
thanks go to
Don Johnston and
Peter Hunt
for their
contributions

AS/NZS 60079.10.1-2009 Explosive atmospheres - Classification of Areas – Explosive gas atmospheres

AS/NZS 60079.14-2009 Explosive atmospheres – electrical installations design, selection and erection

AS/NZS 60079.17-2009 Explosive atmospheres – electrical installations inspection and maintenance

AS/NZS 60079.10.1 sets out requirements for the classification of areas where flammable gas or vapour risks may arise. It is designed to assist with the proper selection and installation of equipment for use in hazardous areas. It supersedes the 2004 edition of AS/NZS 60079.10 and the AS/NZS 2430.3 series of Standards.

AS/NZS 60079.14 and AS/NZS 60079.17 will run in parallel with the AS/NZS 2381 series of Standards and AS/NZS 61241.14 for two years, at which time the earlier Standards will be withdrawn. Part 14 specifies requirements for the design, selection and erection of electrical installations in hazardous areas associate with explosive atmospheres.

Part 17 covers factors directly related to inspection and maintenance of electrical installations in hazardous areas associated with explosive atmospheres.

All three Standards are local modifications of the IEC 60079 series of Standards for explosive atmospheres and have been implemented with minor changes that take into account Australian and New Zealand conditions.

They present familiar requirements from the earlier editions but include significant new items, including safety requirements and details that align with other Standards within the AS/NZS (IEC) 60079 series.

The Standards can be purchased from Standards Australia's distributor, SAI Global. Remember that as a Member you are able to receive a discount from SAI Global. Go to the Members' Only Pages for further information.

Source: Manufacturers Monthly

**EVER
WONDERED
ABOUT
THOSE
ACRONYMS?**

ADR/RID **European Road/Rail Conventions** (govern transport of dangerous goods throughout Europe)

CEN **Committee on European Normalization**

COHMED **Cooperative Hazardous Materials Enforcement Development**

EC **European Commission**

DG V Public Health & Safety At Work Directorate

DG VII Transport Directorate

DG XI Environment, Nuclear Safety & Civil Protection Directorate

GESAMP **Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environment Protection**

IAEA **International Atomic Energy Agency**

IATA **International Air Transport Association**

ICAO **International Civil Aviation Organization**

DGP Dangerous Goods Panel

TI Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air

IFCS **Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety**

IG Intersessional Group

ILO **International Labour Office**

IMO **International Maritime Organization**

BLG Sub-Committee on Bulk Liquids & Gases

DSC Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes, Containers

E&T Group Editorial & Technical Group

MEPC Marine Environmental Protection Committee

MSC Marine Safety Committee

IMDG Code **International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code**

IOMC **InterOrganization Program for Sound Management of Chemicals**

CG/HCCS Coordinating Group for Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems
ILO Comms Working Group on Chemical Hazard Communication WG

NAFTA LTSS **NAFTA Land Transportation Standards Subcommittee**

OECD **Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development**

UN **United Nations**

UNCED UN Conference on Environment & Development

UNCETDG&GHS United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

UN ECOSOC UN Economic and Social Council

UNEP UN Environmental Programme

WHO **World Health Organization**

WSO **World Safety Organization**



This list is from the Dangerous Goods Advisory Council website

Explosion at Fuel Storage Facility

Early this morning, an explosion occurred at a fuel storage facility in Bayamon, Puerto Rico. A fire is currently burning in 14 of the facility's 40 storage tanks. First responders were on the scene within minutes, and have been closely coordinating with federal, state and local agencies to protect citizens and control the blaze. Early on the morning of October 24, an explosion occurred at a fuel storage facility in Bayamon, Puerto Rico. A fire is currently burning in 14 of the facility's 40 storage tanks. First responders were on the scene within minutes and have been closely coordinating with federal, state and local agencies to protect citizens and to control the blaze.

Currently, there are no known fatalities, and the cause for the explosion is unknown. We are focused on containing the fire and ensuring everyone's safety. Working with federal agencies, we have established a unified command centre grouping federal and state agencies in San Juan, and an information centre close by to continuously monitor the situation. As a precaution, 150 families in Catano, a neighbourhood just north of the incident, were relocated soon after the fire. Public schools

in five municipalities around the facility have been closed for the day. The rest of the public schools throughout Puerto Rico, as well as the University of Puerto Rico in San Juan, will operate on a normal schedule. The San Juan airport is operating normally, as are all tourism services. With a 24 day supply of fuel located in other storage facilities in Puerto Rico, we do not expect any impact on fuel availability in San Juan or throughout the island. Source: Reuters

Watch the Video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAp2TeteV7A>

Keep in Touch

If you have any suggestions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the AIDGC Executive Officer, Robyn Hogan at: robhogan@tpg.com.au or via the AIDGC Paging Service on 02) 9430 6739 and I will return your call.

Security Fencing

“Security fencing” is mentioned several times in AS1940:2004 “The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids”, without any details. It is also mentioned in AS/NZS 1596:2008 “The storage and handling of LP Gas”, where it is required to be “at least a chain-link fence of strong construction”. It is an item of relevance to the storage of dangerous goods.

How do you, as a consultant, advise clients about security fencing?

AS 1725:2003 “Chain-link fabric security fencing and gates” is currently under revision. DR AS 1725.1 “Chain-link fabric Part 1: Security fences and gates—General requirements” has been published for public comment (closing 24 Dec 2009) and is available free on line from SAI Global.

Continuing Professional Development

Just in case you hadn’t noticed, a template suitable for keeping your CPD record is available for download from the Members’ Only Pages of your website.

Visit Your Website

<http://www.aidgc.com> and check out the Members’ Only pages.