



Australasian Institute of Dangerous Goods Consultants

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

April 2011

**Congratulations to
our new Associate
Member**

**Frank Perl
Victoria**



HazMat Time is Here!

The annual HazMat Conference is to be held in Sydney on May 11 and 12. If you do not yet have a copy of the program and accompanying workshops, please email robhogan@tpg.com.au

This year AIDGC is exhibiting – promoting your professional consultant activities. If you wish to take a personal interest you are welcome to assist on the stand. Email me at the above contact to organize.

All Members and their guests are welcome to visit the HazMat Exhibition which is free-of-charge.

**Southee Complex Sydney Showground
NB Sydney Showground is at
Sydney Olympic Park**

<http://www.sydneyshowground.com.au/visitors/documents/SITEMAP.pdf>

Next AIDGC NSW Seminar 19th May

Roger Klein, UK Fire and emergency incident expert will talk on environmental effects and other issues associated with incidents including the Buncefield fire.

[Put the date in your calendar - flyer will be e-mailed soon](#)

Free Standards Australia Guide on Dangerous Goods

Would you like guidance on Australian Standards® relevant to your industry - quickly and easily? SA has put together a guide that provides a snapshot of information on Standards and Certification Schemes relevant to dangerous goods. Essential for anyone working with dangerous goods including manufacturers, importers, and suppliers.

It covers:

**Coming Up!
AIDGC Sydney
Seminars**

**Thursday, May 19
Roger Klein
Effects of Incidents
(see Page 1 for
details)**

**Tuesday, July 5
John Simpson
WorkCover
The Audit Process
and What to Expect**

Flyers out shortly!

**Friday August 3
Annual General
Meeting**

**AIDGC 2011
Conference
Crowne Plaza
Sydney
September 23**

**Petroleum
Gases
Tanks and containers
Flammable and combustible liquids
Batteries
Explosives; and more.**

Download your free copy from:

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Semtex Plant Explosion: 4 missing, 7 injured: Czech Republic

Four people are missing, presumed buried in debris, following a powerful blast early on Wednesday morning in the Semtín, Pardubice region at the Explosia factory — famous for producing the plastic explosive Semtex. Seven people have been treated for injuries sustained in the blast, mostly from flying glass. —We don't yet know the details about the explosion, but four of our employees are missing. Currently, we're assessing the extent of the damage, □ Jaroslava Doležalová, a spokeswoman for the company Synthesia, which owns the Explosia factory, told the server Aktualně.cz. The blast occurred at 6:45 a.m. on April 21. A team of dog handlers that arrived at the scene still had not begun searching for the missing employees as emergency services had warned there was a risk of a further explosion. The blast destroyed a part of the Explosia factory's production plant measuring roughly 10 by 10 meters, Vendula Horáková, spokeswoman for the Pardubice region fire brigade, told Czech Television (ČT). She said that the blast is thought to have been caused by nitroglycerine — an odorless, highly-explosive and volatile substance used in the manufacture of dynamite and plastic explosives — but that no toxic gases had been detected in the air around the plant. Although there are no reports of people outside the plant sustaining injuries, the blast was felt up to 10 kilometers away and the windows of two shops nearby were shattered. Photos taken by local residents show a large plume of smoke rising from the factory.

The Explosia factory's staff were strictly forbidden from



speaking with journalists, Aktualně.cz reported, but an employee who agreed to speak to the news server said the blast was probably caused by human error. Judging by the location of the explosion, it was most probably caused by a mistake when mixing nitrocellulose with nitroglycerine. It was most likely human error — the failure to observe basic safety rules, said the employee, who wished to remain anonymous.

Not the First Time

Wednesday's blast at the Explosia plant was not the first. On May 28, 1984, gunpowder in storage exploded killing five people and injuring almost 200.

The blast left a large crater in the ground where the storage warehouse stood; nearby buildings were damaged and the wave of the blast broke windows up to 20 kilometers away. The gunpowder combusted when a truck scrapped against a loading ramp causing sparks. Founded in 1920, the Explosia's factory is famous for the production of the odorless plastic explosive Semtex, which was developed there in the 1960s and named after the village of Samtín where the plant is located.

Semtex was supplied to communist North Vietnam during the Vietnam War. The explosive gained international notoriety after it was used to blow up Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie in 1988. The Czechoslovak state arms trader Omnipol sold around 700 tons of semtex to Libya from the mid-1970s to the early 1980s. The explosive was used in several bomb attacks by the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Following the fall of the Iron Curtain, Explosia committed to adding detectable substances to all semtex produced. Explosia says that Semtex now accounts for only a small percentage of the company's output.

Source: <http://www.ceskapozice.cz/en/business/companies/semtex-plant-explosion-4-missing-7-injured>

Trucking Explosions

► Truck Loaded with Batteries and Perfume Hits Car near Grafton, NSW

A woman and baby have narrowly escaped being hit by a semi-trailer on the New South Wales north coast.

The 24-year-old woman was driving north on the Pacific Highway when her car left the road and hit a tree about



Photo: ABCNews

2:30am (AEST) at Ulmarra, north of Grafton. She managed to escape with her baby minutes before the car was hit by a semi-trailer.

The truck jack-knifed as it tried unsuccessfully to avoid her car, which was blocking the road. The semi-trailer loaded with batteries and perfume then caught fire, and the flames soon spread to the car.

Crews have successfully stopped battery acid and perfume leaking into the nearby Clarence River.

The Pacific Highway was closed until later in the morning.

Source: ABCNews

► B-Double Truck Loaded with Chemicals Explodes after Accident near Macksville, NSW

At least one person has been killed after a truck carrying dangerous goods exploded in a collision on the Pacific Highway on the New South Wales mid-north coast.

The highway was closed in both directions and a 200-metre exclusion zone is being enforced around the accident site south of Macksville.

Emergency service crews were called to the scene just before 4:00am (AEST) after a car and b-double truck collided. The truck was carrying chemicals and it exploded on impact.

Police say at least one person in the car has died, but it is not yet clear whether there were more people in the vehicle. Units from Fire and Rescue New South Wales put out the large fire from the explosion.

"The Pacific highway is now closed in both directions, about six kilometres south of Macksville is the exact location," he said. "It's a very messy accident, it has been confirmed as a fatality, so we're going to have the Pacific Highway closed for some time yet.

"Hazmat is also in attendance because there was also a spill and a rather nasty fire in that particular area."

Source: ABCNews



Photo: ABCNews

► Fuel tanker explodes in Perth's South East

Firefighters are being praised for their quick actions after a fuel tanker exploded in Perth. The tanker was carrying more than 45,000 litres of diesel fuel when it was involved in a traffic crash at the intersection of Roe Highway and Brixton Street in Kenwick. The explosion sparked a blaze,



A fuel tanker carrying 45,000 litres of fuel exploded after a crash on Roe Highway at Kenwick

which firefighters have brought under control. It is believed the Roe Highway flyover is damaged and it is expected to be closed for a number of hours or possibly days. The Fire and Emergency Service Authority says it was a big effort by firefighters and the situation could have been a lot worse. "The quick actions of the career firefighters, the bushfire brigade and the airport firies who turned up here have got on top of this very quickly," he said. "We can now say it's under control obviously there's still some blackening out around the bridge area but the main thing here is that it's out."

Source: ABCNews

AIDGC Queensland Chapter News



Update on Queensland Building Services Authority (QBSA) Fire Protection Licensing

BSA's Fire Protection Occupational licensing was introduced on 1 January 2009 to ensure Queensland has the highest standards of building fire safety and to provide an employee or subcontractor with a clear path to becoming a contractor in the Queensland building industry. There was a two year transition period, from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2010.

Fire protection Occupational licensing became mandatory on 1 January 2011. The two year timeframe allowed those impacted by these new laws sufficient time to apply for the relevant fire licence and, where necessary, upgrade their skills to meet the minimum technical qualification. Any person (including an employee or someone working under a subcontract agreement) who personally performs or supervises fire protection work is required to hold an appropriate licence (see licence scopes of work in sections below).

The only practitioners exempt from holding this licence are apprentices, trainees and students.

What is fire protection work?

Fire protection work is defined under the QBSA Act as any of the following, for a building or part of a building:

- The installation, restoration, repair or maintenance of a fire protection system;
- The preparation of any certificate, statement or record

Corporate Members

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

AECOM

Frank Mendham
(07) 3553 2000

McKenzie Group Consulting

Bruce White
03 9247 0400

Ovivo Australia Pty. Ltd.

Adrian Minshull
+61 2 9542 2366

Store-Safe Pty Ltd

Grant Breeze
02) 9569 2122

Vanguard Solutions

Tony Davies
08) 9420 5300

(i) relating to the installation, restoration, repair or maintenance of a fire protection system; or
(ii) stating whether a fire protection system meets a standard, requirement or specification;

- The design of a fire protection system;
- The development, approval or certification of emergency evacuation procedures for a controlled evacuation during a fire emergency;
- The formulation or provision of alternative solutions relating to fire safety;
- The inspection or investigation of, and the provision of advice or a report about, compliance with the Building Act 1975 or the Building Code of Australia relating to fire safety.

What is a fire protection system?

A fire protection system is a system of fire protection comprising some or all of the following:

- Portable fire-fighting appliances, including, for example, wheeled fire extinguishers, fire hoses, fire blankets and portable fire extinguishers;
- Fire hydrants, with or without pumps;
- Fire hose reels, with or without pumps;
- A fire or smoke detection system, a heat or smoke alarm or another alarm system or emergency warning and communication system;
- A fire suppression system or fire sprinkler system, whether solid, liquid or gas –based;
- Fire doors, fire shutters and fire damper assemblies; and
- Emergency lighting.

The question put to Cameron Murphy, the Manager of QBSA's Regulatory Services by AIDGC's Queensland Chapter Chairperson Frank Mendham, after describing to BSA what the typical activities of Dangerous Goods Consultants and providing examples from Australian Standards, was:-

"Do BSA occupational licensing requirements apply to Queensland Dangerous Goods Consultants engaged in aspects of dangerous goods storage and handling, involving 'fire protection' inspection, review and advice?"

BSA's response was:-

"I cannot categorically advise that dangerous goods consultants (DGC) do not need a BSA fire protection licence. It will depend on the type of work they perform as each consultant will operate in their own autonomous and distinct way. If the DGC is

designing, certifying, installing, commissioning, maintaining, inspecting or testing a fire protection system, they will need a BSA fire protection licence or be a Registered Professional Engineer in Queensland (RPEQ).

I understand that the DGC will be consulted at the design stage to ensure the design meets the requirements of Queensland's DG legislation. However, the design of any fire protection system for a building must be carried out and signed off (certified) by a BSA licensee or an RPEQ. Similarly, DGC's may be consulted throughout the installation and commissioning phase however this work must be carried out and certified by a BSA licensee or an RPEQ.

As long as the DGC is providing general advice on the overall fire protection system requirements and not on the actual physical design or installation, they will not need a BSA licence."

WorkCover NSW: Free Workshops

Throughout May, WCNSW is conducting free, two hour workshop for small and medium business operators and will introduce key features of the Work Health and Safety Act which commences in January 2012.

This session covers:

- Who has duties under the Act**
- Consultation with workers**
- Notification of incidents**
- The role of inspectors**
- Rights of entry**

Find out what you can do to better manage your workplace safety under the new Act.

Small Business operators who attend may be eligible for up to \$500 cash back for implementing a safety improvement at their workplace.

Further information:

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/forms/Pages/EventsSearch.aspx>

Carcinogens & Toxic Chemicals Used to Tap Gas/Oil in 13 US States

Oil and gas companies injected hundreds of millions of litres of hazardous or carcinogenic chemicals into wells in more than 13 US states from 2005 to 2009, an investigation by congressional Democrats has found.

The chemicals were used by companies during a drilling process known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, which involves the high-pressure injection of a mixture of water, sand and chemical additives into rock formations deep



Jennifer Roger holds a protest sign across the street from natural gas drilling in Flower Mound, Texas. Chemicals used to extract natural gas through "hydrofracking" include "extremely toxic substances," according to a new report released by members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Photo: LM Otero/AP

underground.

The process, which is being used to tap into large reserves of natural gas around the US, opens fissures in the rock to stimulate the release of oil and gas.

Fracking has attracted increased scrutiny from legislators and environmentalists in part because of fears that the chemicals used during the process can contaminate underground sources of drinking water.

"Questions about the safety of hydraulic fracturing persist, which are compounded by the secrecy surrounding the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing fluids," said the congressional report, made public on Saturday.

The report also faulted companies for at times "injecting fluids containing chemicals that they themselves cannot identify".

The NSW and Queensland governments have moved to ban some of the chemicals associated with fracking, but companies are not required to release information on each individual substance used in fracking fluids.

The US inquiry into fracking, which was initiated by the House energy and commerce committee, also found that 14 of the nation's most active hydraulic fracturing companies used 3.2 billion litres of hydraulic fracturing products - not including water.

More than 650 of these products contained chemicals that are known or possible human carcinogens, or are listed as hazardous air pollutants, the report said.

Some of the ingredients mixed into the hydraulic fracturing fluids were common and generally harmless, such as salt and citric acid.

Others were unexpected, such as instant coffee and walnut hulls, the report said. Many of the ingredients were "extremely toxic", including benzene, a known human carcinogen, and lead.

Source: The New York Times

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/water-issues/carcinogens-and-toxic-chemicals-used-to-tap-gas-and-oil-in-13-us-states-20110417-1djrj.html#ixzz1Jrwly0nD>

Stronger Mining Laws Introduced in Queensland

New compulsory reporting requirements have been introduced for petroleum and gas companies planning exploration and production.

The laws were introduced today and include a stipulation



Image: Metgasco

that companies must give affected landholders at least 10 days written notice of any drilling, fracking or certain exploration techniques.

Companies will also be required to submit detailed reports to government about hydraulic fracturing activities, including the composition of all fluids used in each well and potential impacts on aquifers.

The issue of coal seam gas (CSG) and its impacts on water aquifers during the fraccign process has been a major concern in Queensland recently. Landowners have protested against gas companies who are allowed to place up to 500 wells on their properties and the malfunctioning wells that emit dangerous levels of toxic chemicals. Queensland's Employment, Skills and Mining Minister Stirling Hinchcliffe said the Bligh Government is in support of the Queensland mining and resource industries developing, but stressed the importance of balancing it with agricultural and environmental considerations as well as the social impacts it can cause.

"These new laws are designed to make sure landholders know exactly what is happening on their land and when it is happening," Mr Hinchcliffe said.

"They apply to all activities including hydraulic fracturing used in producing Coal Seam Gas, drilling, completing or abandoning a well or bore as well as seismic and other surveys associated with exploration or production.

"This will also help the government monitor the use of chemicals in the extraction of Coal Seam Gas in Queensland."

The new laws aim to keep landholders informed at every stage of the process, and companies are also now required to give notice within 10 business days of approved work being completed.

Hinchcliffe said the new requirements are the result of consultation with the community and hearing their concerns about the impacts resource exploration and production have on rural landholders.

The new restrictions also eliminate the use of dangerous toxic chemicals in the fracking process. "We have banned the use of BTEX compounds and new land access laws also help ensure landholders receive fair compensation and have a say about how activities are conducted by companies. "We've also established the Surat Basin Engagement Committee to help make sure all stakeholders have a forum where they can discuss and



Photo credit: U.S. Coast Guard via Getty Images | Fire boat response crews battle the blazing remnants of the BP offshore oil rig, Deepwater Horizon, in the Gulf of Mexico. (Aug. 21, 2010)

What's Happening

If you would like to make a contribution, have an interesting story, case study or report, please send to: robhogan@tpg.com.au

This month my thanks go to Don Johnston and Frank Mendham for their contributions.

resolve issues about Coal Seam Gas."

Source: Australian Mining

Gulf Oil Rig Owner had Serious Safety Flaws says Coast Guard

Flaws in Transocean Ltd.'s emergency training and equipment and a poor safety culture contributed to the deadly Deepwater Horizon drilling rig explosion that led to the Gulf oil spill, according to a Coast Guard report released Friday.

The report centred on Transocean's role in the disaster because it owned the rig and was primarily responsible for ensuring its safety, the Coast Guard said.

The report does not explore the root causes of the well blow-out, which triggered the explosions that killed 11 workers and sent millions of litres of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

But the Coast Guard said actions by Trans-ocean and the rig's crew affected their ability to limit the disaster. Electrical equipment that may have ignited the explosion was poorly maintained.

Source: AAP

BP sues Transocean for \$40bn

BP filed a lawsuit against Transocean, seeking at least US\$40 billion in damages and other costs from the owner of the Deepwater Horizon rig. The UK supermajor also sued Cameron International's blowout-prevention equipment was a cause "in whole or in part" of the blowout of the Macondo well and the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico last year, BP said in a court filing.

Both complaints were filed April 20 in federal court in New Orleans, on the first anniversary of the Gulf of Mexico blowout and oil spill. BP has also filed a lawsuit against Halliburton, the company which cemented the blown out well which caused the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, saying Halliburton concealed critical information which could have prevented the disaster.

"Halliburton's improper conduct, errors and omissions, including fraud and concealment, caused and/or contributed to the Deepwater Horizon incident," BP said in a court filing. "Halliburton knew and understood it was misrepresenting material information." "The simple fact is that on April 20, 2010, every single safety system and



device and well control procedure on the Deepwater Horizon failed, resulting in the casualty,” BP said. Transocean called the lawsuit a “desperate bid” by BP to renege on a contract to assume full responsibility for pollution and environmental costs. “This suit is specious and unconscionable,” it said in a statement.

In a separate lawsuit, BP asked US District Judge Carl Barbier, who oversees national litigation over the spill, to order Houston-based Cameron to reimburse it for “all or a part” of its damages. “The blowout preventer failed to work and perform the function it was designed and manufactured to perform - i.e., to secure the well,” BP said. “The blowout preventer was flawed in design, and alternative designs existed that did not have these flaws.” BP said it took a US\$40.9 billion pre-tax charge in 2010 related to the spill, and by year end had incurred US\$17.7 billion of costs. In a statement on April 20, BP said it wants “to ensure that all parties involved in the Macondo well are appropriately held accountable for their roles in contributing to the Deepwater Horizon accident.” Cameron did not address the substance of BP's claims in an emailed statement, and said Wednesday was a deadline for companies tied to the spill to file claims against each other.

In one such case, cruise operator Carnival Corp filed claims against BP, Cameron, Transocean and several other companies connected to the well to recover damages for added fuel and vessel cleaning costs, as well as lost revenue from decreased bookings. A Norwegian testing company concluded in a report issued March 23 that the blowout preventer's failure was caused by a stuck section of drill pipe that blocked cutting devices from shearing and sealing the leaking well. That finding, in a report commissioned by the US Interior Department and US Coast Guard, is separate from earlier conclusions by a White House commission that oil industry and regulatory missteps set into motion events that led to the biggest offshore oil spill in US history. Last June, BP created a \$20 billion compensation fund for spill victims including businesses, fishermen and property owners, with incentives for people who agree not to sue the company. Kenneth Feinberg, who oversees the fund, in an interview said it is “working as intended.”

Source: HazardEx

**Professor Andrew Hopkins, Australian National University
has prepared a paper:**

**“Management Walk-Arounds:
Lessons from the Gulf of Mexico Oil Well Blowout”.**

**If you would like to download a copy of this paper or
others by him or his colleagues at ANU National Research
Centre for OHS Regulation, go to
<http://ohs.anu.edu.au/publications/index.php>**

**Queensland to Develop New
Guidelines to Minimise Gas Fume
Events from Blasting in Mines**

**After two dangerous blasting incidents at BMA coal mines,
Queensland is now developing new shot firing guidelines.
The Mining Safety and Health Directorate have created a
steering group to investigate post blast fume events and
to minimise gas fume events during blasting operations.
The Employment, Skills and Mining Minister Stirling
Hinchliffe has said that QLD mine safety representatives
have met with mining companies, explosives suppliers and
the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union
(CFMEU) to look into the issue.**

**Hinchliffe said recent incidents at BMA's Saraji and Peak
Downs coal mines had prompted the creation of the
steering group. "Queensland has a reputation of holding
one of the safest records in the world when it comes to
mining and we want to keep it that way," Hinchliffe said.
The group will be headed by Noel Erichsen, the Deputy
Chief Inspector of Explosives. While it is accepted that all
explosions generate gas and that post-blast fume events
will never be fully eliminated the steering group is focused
on minimising the risk. "We want this happen quickly,
that's why the steering group will be reporting back with
draft guidelines by May 6," Hinchliffe said.**

**Existing safeguards like 1km exclusion zones are already
in place during blasting operations to protect workers.
On average there are between 120 and 150 shots fired per
week during blasting operations in Queensland, and
typically less than two per cent of these result in a fume
event.**

**Investigations into the post-blast fume events at BMA's
Saraji and Peak Downs mines continue.**

Source: Australian Mining

Explosion and Huge Fire Wreck Chemical Plant in China

At least nine people have been killed after an explosion followed by a huge fire wrecked a chemical plant in China's north-eastern province of Heilongjiang.

The incident occurred at a three-storey building at Fuxin Chemical Plant in Lamadian Town of Daqing City. Nine workers died on the scene while five others managed to leave the building, Xinhua news agency reported on Thursday. Firefighters were mobilized to the site to put out the fire. Ambulances also shifted the dead bodies as well as those wounded to nearby hospitals. Local safety authorities said the main reason behind the explosion was the accumulation of gas due to poor ventilation in the plant.

Fuxin Chemical Plant, which covered 11,000 square meters and employed 34 workers, was functioning without a license. Its operator, Cui Dehai, has been arrested as police is engaged in conducting a full investigation into the deadly incident.

Most accidents in China are blamed on failures to follow safety regulations, including a lack of required ventilation or fire control equipment

Source: <http://www.presstv.ir/detail/174797.html>



The chemical plant wrecked by an explosion and fire in China's northeastern province of Heilongjiang

Chinese Regulations in Question? Melamine-Tainted Milk & Cadmium

Melamine-tainted dairy products were pulled from convenience store shelves in southern China more than a year after hundreds of thousands of children had been sickened in a massive milk safety scandal, a government spokeswoman said Monday.

The announcement calls into question the effectiveness of a crackdown launched by Chinese officials to improve product safety after a number of scandals, including the contamination of baby formula in 2008 and the recent discovery of the toxic metal cadmium in cheap jewelry. Frozen milk products and cartons of milk dating from early 2009 were taken off the shelves after health inspectors tested them and found melamine.

Tainted products from three companies—Shandong Zibo Lusaier Dairy, Liaoning Tieling Wuzhou Food and Laoting

Kaida Refrigeration—were discovered in more than a dozen convenience stores around the province. Laoting Kaida Refrigeration was among companies named in the original melamine scandal in 2008, when six children died and 300,000 were sickened after drinking baby formula with melamine, which is used in the manufacture of plastics and fertilizer.

The official *China Daily* newspaper quoted Wang Dingmian, former chairman of the Guangdong Provincial Dairy Association, as saying tainted milk products recalled at the time somehow made their way back to the market. He said the latest discoveries of contaminated dairy exposed weak government regulation.

Since the scandal broke, China vowed to implement stricter safety measures and step up inspections on the dairy industry.

China's troubles cleaning up its food supply chain reflect problems it has had coupling its rapid growth with product safety in other areas. Earlier this month, an investigation by the Associated Press found 12 of 103 pieces of Chinese-made children's jewelry bought in U.S. stores contained at least 10% cadmium, some in the 80 to 90% range. Cadmium, like lead, can hinder brain development in young children, according to recent research, and also causes cancer. China has not commented on reports of the cadmium problem. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission warned parents to "safely dispose" of any cheaply made jewelry or trinkets, most of which are imported from China.

Source: Associated Press Financial Wire

Pesticide Exposure Affects IQ

Children exposed to pesticides in the womb are more likely to have significant lower attention and memory at school age compared to babies with no exposure, new studies show.

Three new separate studies published in *Environmental Health Perspectives* involved over 400 children from urban and rural areas found that prenatal exposed to a widely used pesticide called organophosphates were associated with higher decrease of IQ in children.

Organophosphates or OPs are a widely used class of pesticides from those usually sprayed on fruit and vegetable crops to the insecticides used at homes.



For the studies, scientists from the University of California-Berkeley, and Mount Sinai measured pesticide residues in maternal urine, while the team at Columbia University studied the chemicals in the umbilical cord blood. All the teams followed the studied children from the time before birth through ages 6 to 9 and measured their IQ using standard tests.

According to Berkeley study, every tenfold increase in prenatal exposure to organophosphates was associated with a 5.5 point drop in overall IQ scores in children by age 7. In average the IQ tests score is around 100 in general population. However, experts say that even a 2 or 3 points IQ drop due to brain developmental disturbance can have an enormous impact.

Moreover, the study revealed that pesticide exposure after birth was not significantly linked with childhood IQ, suggesting exposure during fetal brain development was a more critical period than childhood exposure.

The Columbia study also showed that children who were in the highest 25 percent of exposure levels to Organophosphates scored 2.7 points lower on IQ tests than kids whose exposures were in the lowest quarter of the study.

“These studies are unusual in that they are the first to look at prenatal exposure at a low level - at levels that would occur in everyday life, and not levels that would poison us - and followed the children prospectively,” Eskenazi noted.

The three reports support the idea of reducing the use of chemical pesticides in farming industries and replacing them with natural and less harmful pest control strategies. Experts also suggest families to lower their exposure to the toxic substances by avoiding crops treated with the chemicals and using organic foods instead.

In addition, “the important message here is to wash fruits and vegetables well, not to avoid them,” Eskenazi suggested.

Moreover, mothers-to-be can also reduce exposure to pesticides by using different methods of pest control inside the home, for instance, such as baits and traps rather than sprays, added scientists to the recommendations.

Source: <http://www.presstv.ir/detail/176231.html>

Development of a Regulator-Approved Health & Safety Representatives (HSR) Training Curriculum - Comcare

One of the aims of introducing model work health and safety (WHS) legislation in 2012 is to ensure consistency across jurisdictions in relation to WHS regulation, including workplace consultation, representation and participation arrangements.

To this end, WHS Regulators have agreed that a single, regulator-approved HSR training course will be developed, for use by approved training providers.

The following underpinning principles will apply to HSR training across all jurisdictions:

1. HSRs are not formally assessed
2. adult learning principles are used
3. training is workplace focussed
4. inclusivity
5. training is activity-based
6. training accommodates different learning styles
7. training is Learner Centred
8. there is a commitment to safety

All jurisdictions, are consulting with stakeholders on the proposed learning objectives and outcomes for the 5 day course for HSRs.

Further Information:

http://www.comcare.gov.au/forms_and_publications/fact_sheets/health_and_safety_training_courses_accredited_under_the_ohs_act_1991

Alert: Nitrocellulose in Spray Booths

An incident involving the combustion of lacquer containing nitrocellulose caused a fire/explosion at a furniture manufacturer that sprays wood products.

A fire fighter at the scene was critically injured after receiving life-threatening burns.

Nitrocellulose is a highly flammable compound that ignites easily and burns explosively. It is used in quick-drying, solvent based lacquers. The use of nitrocellulose in spray booths has resulted in major fires and severe injuries (eg burns) to workers and fire fighters.

Control measures

To reduce the risk of fire or explosion:

This Alert from Work Safe Victoria highlights the dangers of using nitrocellulose products in spray booths



Acetylene Cylinder Fire near Camden NSW

A small factory in Blackmore Rd at Smeaton Grange was evacuated when an acetylene cylinder caught alight. Three fire crews attended and spent several hours cooling the cylinder down as they allowed the escaping gas to burn off. Thermal imaging cameras were deployed to monitor the temperature of the cylinder and Blackmore Rd was closed to traffic during the incident. There

- before purchasing, installing or using spray booths, Conduct a risk assessment of spray painting tasks to ensure hazards are identified and risks are assessed and controlled
- clean spray booths and the surrounding areas at the end Of every work shift
- prohibit all sources of ignition (eg smoking, sparks, flames) at areas where nitrocellulose is handled
- avoid all work activities that may generate sparks through friction or impact
- test and maintain spray booths (eg replacing filters) to ensure they are operating properly
- prevent build-up of vapour or mist in the working atmosphere
- ensure the quantity of nitrocellulose kept in the Production area does not exceed the amount immediately required for one work shift
- ensure all drums are correctly labelled (see opposite), indicating the hazards of nitrocellulose
- ensure there is clear access in and out of the building in the event of a fire/explosion
- ensure workers are trained and supervised in handling lacquers containing nitrocellulose.

Disclaimer

This Alert contains information following WorkSafe's inquiry into the incident at the date of this report. The information contained in this report does not necessarily reflect the final outcome of WorkSafe's action with respect to this incident. WorkSafe does not warrant the information in this report is complete or up-to-date and does not accept any liability to any person for the information in this report or as to its use.

Source: worksafe.vic.gov.au

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- [British Standards Institute](#)
- [European Telecommunications Standards](#)
- [Institute International Electrotechnical Commission](#)

The free Standards cover a wide range of subject areas including:

- eHealth
- Telecommunications

was no damage to the surrounding building and fortunately no one was injured during the incident.

Source: Fire & Rescue NSW



Hobart Gas Works

The Hobart Gas Company was established by an Act of Parliament in 1834 and was empowered to manufacture and distribute coal gas.

The first gas flowed through the reticulation system on 7 March 1837.

For many years, the company's waste products also contributed to the local economy, its coke stoking the boilers of many industries and institutions. Its waste tar was used extensively for road making and, later, as fuel. At one stage the company manufactured sulphate of

**Electrotechnology
Methods of testing
Quality Assessment; and
Many more.**

The ones relevant to our industry are the IEC Standards on Electrical apparatus for hazardous atmospheres.

Goto:

<http://infostore.saiglobal.com/store/getpage.aspx?path=/publishing/shop/promotions/Free-IEC-Standards.htm>

Beware of Redundant Town Gas Pipes - Tasmania

Last year three gas civil construction workers were admitted to hospital after being exposed to and overcome by toxic fumes. They were installing a natural gas service adjacent to the old Hobart Gas Company site in Hobart. The incident serves as a warning to other civil construction workers to beware of working near old and unused town gas pipes.

In this incident, the three workers were operating a soil displacement drill when the drill head punctured a large pipe, thought to be a town gas main, located approximately 1.4m below the footpath. Unaware that the old pipe had been punctured, the workers continued their operations. In due course, their health deteriorated to the point where they were taken by ambulance and admitted to hospital.

It is believed they were exposed to toxic fumes that had been released from the old gas pipe. Months later, the workers are still enduring side effects as a result of the exposure.

Town gas was reticulated in Launceston and Hobart, supplying gas to most suburbs throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The network was decommissioned in Hobart in 1978 and in Launceston in 1996. However, the cast iron, steel and polyethylene pipes that served as the network mains are still in the ground and, as shown in this incident, contractors and workers must take care when working near these.

Source: Workplace Standards Tasmania

ammonia until this was taken over by the Electrolytic Zinc Co.

Source:

http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/shadomx/apps/fms/fmsdownload.cfm?file_uu_id=3FE031EE-FEA3-7C0A-BA0B-D3D120A557F9&siteName=ieaust



Chemicals stored at the McLeod Plating site at Edwardstown in February.
Picture: Dean Martin Adelaide Advertiser

EPA Gives All-Clear to Accused Electroplating Firm – S.A.

AN Environment Protection Authority investigation has cleared an Edwardstown business of claims it disposed of cyanide in boreholes. But the environment watchdog says some of its tests had found cyanide contamination in groundwater beneath the site of the electroplating business. "The EPA has found no evidence of unlawful disposal of industrial chemicals," and EPA spokeswoman said. "However, some tests identified cyanide contamination in groundwater beneath the site. The EPA considers this is not at levels where urgent action is required. The source of that contamination has not yet been identified. "The EPA is now working with McLeod's to assess the nature and extent of the contamination to determine what management measures may be necessary." In early March, EPA officers inspected the site to ensure McLeod Plating was complying with their licence conditions and take samples of groundwater. Photographs of a storage yard at the front of the property taken that day showed chemical containers, some marked as containing hydrochloric acid, sitting on the ground. The EPA said it did not notify McLeod Plating that an inspection would take place. Source: Adalaidenow...

WorkSafe WA - Dangers of Using Angle Grinders to Cut Metal Drums

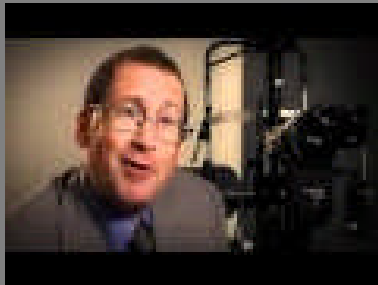
WorkSafe WA has highlighted the dangers of using angle grinders to cut metal drums following two incidents that have cause severe damages. A worker died when a 205 litre metal drum he was cutting with an angle grinder exploded. The drum had previously contained methylated spirits and had both bungs in place. The worker had been instructed to cut the drum in order to make a scrap metal bin, a spark from the grinder ignited residual vapours in the drum which it then exploded. A second incident occurred at a chemical disposal plant, in which the worker suffered serious burn injuries to both forearms and an injury to his right wrist. The worker was instructed to use the angle grinder to cut the drum for recycling.

Source: AusIndustry

(see also NSW WorkCover factsheet:

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Pages/cuttingfueldrumsandemptycontainersexplosionhazards.aspx>)





Changing Focus – the Gavan McGuane Story – Hospitality Trip

When you talk about slips, trips and falls it can sound so trivial but the consequences, can be enormous. This short film follows the story of Gavan who was blinded when an alkaline substance mixed with gas under pressure squirted into his eyes as he tripped and fell onto a beer keg.

To see the video, go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/WorkSafeQueensland#p/u/1/mwZlxwkFbHY>

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) has published a range of films on YouTube to ensure the widespread distribution of health and safety issues.

Bali Bombers Wave of Terror Plans – Originally planned to Attack Caltex and Exxon/Mobil Operations

New WikiLeaks documents have revealed the Kuta tourist district was not the preferred target of terrorist group Jamaah Islamiyah in the 2002 Bali bombings. The whistleblower website says the terrorist group originally planned to attack Caltex and Exxon/Mobil operations in the Malacca Straits or a goldmine. This plan was later deemed too difficult and Kuta became the target.

The documents also reveal the original plan for the September 11 terrorist attack in 2001, also involved bombing passenger planes over cities across South East Asia. It is alleged terrorist leader Osama Bin Laden scaled down the attack, confining it to the United States, when the logistics proved too difficult. Meanwhile, the alleged mastermind of the 2002 Kuta bombing, Hambali, is unlikely to ever be charged for the attack because of "evidentiary" problems.

Watch the Video:

<http://www.skynews.com.au/topstories/article.aspx?id=605846&vId=2359147>

Source:

<http://www.skynews.com.au/topstories/article.aspx?id=605846&vId=2359147>