



## **WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

**February 2007**

### **Board Meetings**

Meeting dates of the full Board this year:

February 19

March 19

April 16

May 21

June 18

July 16

August 20

September 17

October 15

November 19

December 17

Sub-Boards on Marketing, Technical, Conference and Competency Assessment also meet regularly.

### **Draft ASCC Workplace Hazardous Chemicals Framework - Information Sessions**

Interested stakeholders are invited to participate in an information session on the draft package of ASCC workplace chemicals documents released for public comment in 2006, including National Standards and/or Codes of Practice for

- Control of Workplace Hazardous Chemicals (combining DG and hazardous substances)
- Labelling of Workplace Hazardous Chemicals
- Preparation of (Material) Safety Data Sheets

The sessions will be facilitated by the Office of the Australian Safety and Compensation Council (ASCC), Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR). ASCC is the successor to NOHSC.

#### **Sydney**

Time and date: Monday 12 March 2007, 10am - 1 pm  
Venue: NSW WorkCover (Parramatta Office)  
Level 7, 128 Marsden Street, Parramatta

#### **Melbourne**

Time and date: Tuesday 13 March 2007, 10am - 1pm  
Venue: VECCI (Meeting Room 1.6)  
Level 1, 486 Albert Street, East Melbourne

The draft ASCC documents and background to the Globally Harmonised System can be found at:

<http://www.ascc.gov.au/ascc/AboutUs/PublicComment/OpenComment/WorkplaceHazardousChemicalsPublicComment.htm>

Bookings for the sessions are essential. Please confirm your attendance by phoning 1800 552 488 or emailing [chemicals@dewr.gov.au](mailto:chemicals@dewr.gov.au)

### **NICNAS Chemical Gazette for February 2007**

[http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/Chemical\\_Gazette/Chemical\\_Gazette\\_February\\_2007.asp](http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/Chemical_Gazette/Chemical_Gazette_February_2007.asp)

## Clicking on ‘Links’

A reminder that an internet link in this Newsletter won't work unless it is all in the one line i.e. there cannot be a “carriage return” in the internet address.

So if it is a long address - more than one line - copy and paste .....

## Safety is No Accident

### Independent Safety Review Panel Report on BP Refineries

The 2005 explosion at the Texas City refinery killed 15 and injured 170 people. The report found that process safety had less emphasis than personal safety at all five of US refineries.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/16\\_01\\_07\\_bp\\_baker\\_report.pdf](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/16_01_07_bp_baker_report.pdf)

### Failure Knowledge Database

The Japan Science and Technology Agency has studied accidents and failures in the fields of science and technology. A knowledge database has been created with free access.

<http://shippai.jst.go.jp/en/Search>

### DEC Options for Fuel Contamination Clean-up at Coffs Harbour

The DEC says it cannot set a time frame for the clean-up of fuel contamination in Coramba, north-west of Coffs Harbour. More than 30 homes in Coramba are affected following leakage of unleaded petrol from a service station's underground tank almost five years ago.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/items/200612/1811227.htm?midnorthcoast>  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/items/200701/1821878.htm?midnorthcoast>

### Car Explosion in New Zealand

A teenager in Rotorua suffered burns and spent five days in hospital after polishing his car dashboard with an aerosol deodorant spray, then lighting a cigarette. The explosion blew out the car doors and shattered windows with the windscreen being found metres away. The Fire Service warned that flammable products should not be used in confined spaces.

<http://news.ninemsn.com.au/article.aspx?id=227978>

### Workers Flee Sulphur Dioxide Leak – Melbourne

About 100 people were evacuated and 15 were treated after a cloud of sulphur dioxide leaked from the Air Liquide plant.

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/workers-flee-toxic-leak/2007/02/09/1170524264427.html>

### Ethanol Mix on the Way in NSW Petrol

Petrol companies in NSW will be forced to add ethanol to fuel, regardless of who wins the March 24 State election. Mandatory ethanol content will be 10 per cent by 2011.

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/news/bm/national/660787.html>

**HazMat 2007  
Hazardous  
Materials  
Conference  
10&11th May  
2007 to be held  
at the Dockside  
Convention  
Centre, Cockle  
Bay Wharf,  
Darling Park**

**AIDGC  
Conference  
September  
2007**

## **Petrol Leak Sparks Health Fears**

Exxon Mobil is facing legal action after petrol leaked underground and contaminated the water supply in part of suburban Melbourne. The EPA has launched an investigation "with a view to taking enforcement action". Maximum penalties include \$250,000 fines and jail terms. The leak was in an old pipe system between petrochemical plants in Altona and Yarraville storage facilities.

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/petrol-leak-sparks-health-fears/2007/02/10/1170524347058.html>

## **YAHOO DG and HazMat Group Network**

AIDGC members were acknowledged as qualified dangerous goods consultants for the preparation of Emergency Plans to NSW Fire Brigade requirements via global Yahoo news release on February, 16, 2007.

## **LP Gas Explosion Video**

### **Falk Corporation, Milwaukee**

The blast via an apparent leak in a propane pipe killed three and shook the city and its suburbs.

<http://wfrv.com/video/?id=20375@wfrv.dayport.com>

<http://wfrv.com/video/?id=19702@wfrv.dayport.com>



## **Conviction over Diesel Spill in Creek**

A magistrate ordered McColls Tankers to pay \$30,000 plus court costs following a diesel spill into Stony Creek at Pakenham in Victoria. The company has paid \$100,000 for clean-up of the creek. Environment Protection Agency officers traced the spill to a stormwater drain.

<http://www.senews.com.au/story/34869>

## **National Statistics for Work Related Injuries**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has release workplace injury statistics for 2005/06. Of the 10.8 million people who had worked at some time in the last 12 months, 6.4% (689,500 workers) experienced a work-related injury or illness.

[http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/4C1F7A19EF4AEEA9CA2572490018107D/\\$File/63240\\_2005-06.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/4C1F7A19EF4AEEA9CA2572490018107D/$File/63240_2005-06.pdf)

## Corporate Members

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

Basset Consulting Engineers –  
Tim Dean  
07) 3371 8444

Hoslab Pty Ltd –  
Shelley Watson  
02) 9816 3555

Leighton O'Brien  
MassTech –  
Rodney Durant  
03) 9813 5122

Store-Safe Pty Ltd –  
Grant Breeze  
02) 9569 2122

AJM Environmental –  
Adrian Minshull  
02) 9542 2366

## Gas Leak Contained

A major gas leak occurred during refilling underground storage tanks at Unigas Service Station, Pacific Highway, Artarmon. The operators immediately shut off the refilling hoses and contacted emergency services. Gas company experts assessed the leak and determined that a faulty gauge on the underground tank had become over-pressurised, causing the main valve to leak. Road closures remained in place for several hours while two tanker trucks were brought in to decant the underground tanks to relieve the pressure. There were no injuries during the incident and the Pacific Highway remained open.

[http://www.northshoretimes.com.au/article/2007/01/30/2450\\_news.html](http://www.northshoretimes.com.au/article/2007/01/30/2450_news.html)

## Audit Finds Businesses Unable to Contain Spills

An audit of nearly 50 businesses along Adelaide's River Torrens has found that many would not be able to contain or respond to a spill on their properties. The EPA conducted the audit after a 15,000 litre diesel spill. The audit found that most sites along the River did not have an environmental management system.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200612/s1809352.htm>

Please relay links that you would like to share via What's Happening to [jdbaker@ozemail.com.au](mailto:jdbaker@ozemail.com.au)

## HazMat Survey

The Board would like to thank everyone for their efforts in responding to this survey. Ross Underwood is collating the 23 responses received and he will give you a full feedback shortly.

## CVs and the AIDGC Website

I would like to remind Members about the option available on your website to promote your particular expertise in dangerous goods. Customers are looking for specific skills to fulfill their particular needs, and to get the work you deserve, you should be advertising your services.

Suggest that you put in as many keywords as you can, so that potential customers can identify you. Once again:

- ✚ Go to the 'Members' Only' site
- ✚ Click on the 'Update Details' on the 'Welcome' page
- ✚ This will take you to the 'Edit Details' page where there is a box to
- ✚ Enter a description of your business details and services – maximum 300 characters. The program tells you how many characters you have entered - if you enter too many characters the option won't activate.
- ✚ Click on the 'Update' button

## Keeping in Touch

If you have any suggestions or queries please do not hesitate to contact the AIDGC Executive Officer [robyn@f1.net.au](mailto:robyn@f1.net.au) or leave a message with the AIDGC paging service 02 9430 6739 and I will return your call.

