



MinEx Newsletter June 2020

It's been a heck of a time over recent months but we've dodged the pandemic bullet – and here's hoping we continue to do so.

As a health and safety organisation, MinEx is proud to have contributed. Among other things, we provided a template adopted and adapted by many quarries and mines so they could safely re-open under Level 3.

The thing is that COVID-19 is just another risk. Yes, the biggest health risk we've ever faced but one we've proved able to deal with. It didn't replace all the other risks we face daily in our sector. The falls, traffic, entanglement and pressure release incidents which are an ongoing pandemic in our industry.

If we took as determined approach to those risks as we took to COVID-19, we could protect every worker from serious injury and death, just as we did with this nasty virus.

How do we get there? Well training is a major key and I'm pleased to see the Budget announcements of \$1.6b to allow people to train in industries like ours which should grow as we recover from COVID-19. See our stories on that in this newsletter.

Communication is another key. Please read and respond to the BoE's appeal for up to date industry contact points.

And then there is enforcement. You need to read the article from Queensland (further on) where the state Government has just passed new laws which could see quarry and mine owners sent to jail for up to 20 years for industrial manslaughter. This, of course, is the absolute maximum and it's unlikely anyone would ever be sentenced to two decades in prison, no matter how grossly reckless or negligent they were in the death of a worker(s). That said, this new legislation follows Queensland's report on the 47 deaths in mining and quarrying over the last 20 years and its identification of fatality cycles as the industry increases and decreases its vigilance after deaths occur.

Like Queensland, we go through similar cycles of fatalities – and they are avoidable if we are determined enough, as we proved we were with COVID-19.

We are keen to hear your views on delivery of CPD training and encourage you to

complete our short survey [here](#). The survey will close on Friday 26 June and will help inform us on how you would like to see CPD delivered going forward. Please check out our upcoming Health and Safety Workshops later in this newsletter.

Our Webinars are now available as podcasts on our [website](#) and can be viewed at any time free of charge. Viewing these can count as CPD but hours claimed from podcasts are restricted. You also need to have evidence of watching the webinar so take a screen shot or photo as evidence. The handouts are included in the link.

Matariki – the Maori New Year – is now almost upon us. If you think it's time for a New Year resolution on a new approach to health and safety at your site, I'd be happy to support you and your workers.

Kia kaha

Wayne Scott
CEO
MinEx & AQA

MITO chips in for training



The Budget announced \$1.6b for the Targeted Training and Apprenticeship Fund to make it easier for people to train in industries where demand is expected to grow as New Zealand recovers from COVID-19.

This fund will pay for the training fees for all learners who enrol or are already enrolled in a MITO apprenticeship programme, from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2022. Recognising that some employers may want to enrol an apprentice before 1 July, our industry training organisation MITO has said it will waive the fees for all new apprenticeship enrolments from 2 June. MITO offers the NZ Certificate in surface Mining and Quarrying for first-line supervisors as well as a range of A and B Grade Certificates of Competency courses.

In some targeted industries the new Government fund will also provide free training to industry trainees. MITO is expecting confirmation on which MITO traineeship programmes will be free from the Tertiary Education Commission very soon. We will update this information as it comes to hand.

Motivated learner completes B Grade during Lockdown

“My MITO Industry Training Advisor, Maureen, was absolutely awesome throughout the entire process,” says Jason. “I honestly can't speak highly enough of her. She was always there to support and advise me – she really did go above and beyond.”

As a quarry manager, Jason's supervisor Roger understands the importance of being qualified in the industry. He has completed a Level 2 Mining and Quarrying qualification, the National Certificate in Extractive Industries (Mining Administration Surface Extraction B Grade) (Level 5), the National Certificate



Jason Nicol From Ravensdown

During the recent nationwide lockdown, Geraldine-based Ravensdown Limited quarry worker Jason Nicol was able to make the most of his time away from work, completing his National Certificate in Extractive Industries (Mining Administration Surface Extraction B Grade) (Level 5) through MITO, online.

The qualification is the second Jason has completed through MITO in two years – a reflection of his work ethic and commitment to working his way up in the industry. He completed the New Zealand Certificate in Mining and Quarrying (Level 2) earlier this year.

“Jason was meant to attend off job training sessions for the programme in Dunedin, however due to the lockdown those were cancelled,” explains Jason’s supervisor, Roger Buckingham. “MITO and ACT Safety worked quickly to ensure that Jason could complete the training through online tutorials, which worked really well for him. We ensured he had a good set up with a work laptop at home which meant he could dive into it straight away.” The training was delivered through live video, meaning Jason was able to easily interact with the tutor and other learners in a live, online environment.

Jason really appreciated the ongoing support he received throughout his training, especially during a time where face-to-face pastoral care was not possible.

in Extractive Industries (Mining Administration Surface Extraction A Grade) (Level 5), and the New Zealand Certificate in First Line Management (Business Skills) over the last ten years.

“Being able to continuously upskill is vital otherwise you can start to feel like you’re going nowhere,” he says. As Jason had previously come from an engineering background, Roger saw value in enrolling him in the New Zealand Certificate in Mining and Quarrying (Level 2) through MITO. “I started Jason on the Level 2 programme, just to give him a starting point before he went on to complete his B Grade. It gave him a great foundation of skills and familiarised him with how things are done through MITO.”

“My motivation for getting qualified was always to one day become a quarry manager or work in a Health and Safety training role,” says Jason. With two qualifications under his belt, paired with a passion for the industry and an impressive work ethic, it looks like Jason is well on his way to achieving his goals.

Are your CoC details up to date?

The Board of Examiners (BoE) Secretariat holds all email and postal addresses supplied on Certificate of Competence (CoC) applications as supplied by CoC holders.

The onus is on CoC holders to ensure their contact details are up to date. If not, you won't receive a renewals reminder and important updates.

The BoE is reminding CoC holders to check the contact details held by the Secretariat, especially those who gained their CoC in 2015 and are due to renew this year.

If a renewal application is not received on time the CoC will expire. CoC holders whose CoC expires will have to apply again for a CoC, including being assessed at an oral exam.

CoC holders should check what year they were granted their CoC and see if their contact details have changed; if so, email the Secretariat to update them.

The Secretariat is urging businesses and CoC holders to remind other CoC holders that they should check, in case they have not received this message.

You can contact the Secretariat on: BoE_Secretariat@worksafe.govt.nz 04 901 4980

Tough new Queensland penalties for extractive deaths

Queensland's state Parliament has passed harsh new laws which could see negligent quarrying and mining executives face up to 20 years' jail if they have shown negligence contributing to the deaths of their workers.

"This offence sends the clear message to employers and senior officers that the safety and health of their workers is paramount," Queensland Mines Minister Anthony Lynham said. "Safety on a mine site is everybody's responsibility but a safety culture needs to be modelled right from the top and creating the offence of industrial manslaughter is to ensure senior company officers do all they can to create a safe mine site."

Queensland has had 47 deaths in the state's extractive sector over the last 20 years.

Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia (CCAA) Queensland director Aaron Johnstone questioned the need for industrial manslaughter provisions but noted a high bar for prosecution in the unfortunate scenario of a workplace fatality.

"The quarrying industry aims to have no injuries and no fatalities on its site," he said. "The standard of proof in such a scenario requires a "criminal negligence test". Such a test requires recklessness or gross negligence, and each element of the offence must be proven beyond reasonable doubt in order to convict an individual.

He urged quarry owners and executives to ensure they have the necessary systems and processes in place to both protect their workforce and themselves from the legislation's penalties in the terrible case of a workplace fatality.

IQA president Shane Braddy said quarry owners and staff holding positions of responsibility must understand the legislation and their responsibilities.

"This includes understanding the responsibility to have appropriate health and safety systems in place to prevent injury and to ensure workers have the required competencies, are trained and supervised to perform their roles."

The Queensland Government has in the past year passed a number of industry-related

safety reforms, including a maximum penalty of \$4 million for offences, powers for regulators to issue fines without going to court and state-wide safety reset sessions for mine and quarry workers. It also commissioned the Brady report which found an ongoing cycle of fatalities which saw strong responses after deaths which then lessened over time.

MinEx workshops are back - almost

Last Thursday we conducted our final MinEx webinar for the current season. We introduced these when lockdown loomed so as to provide an ongoing training option. The intervening webinars have been well supported.

We were only able to run a handful of our workshops before the COVID-19 response intervened and as always they are useful – and often fun sessions.

From Tuesday 7 July, we are back on the road resuming our planned series of full day workshops.

We will restart in Kerikeri and roll on until our final workshop in Te Kuiti in November.

Each workshop has 8 hours of CPD available and will cost \$150+GST.

We have an HHU Inspector at most workshops as well as other guest presenters.

Registration details [here](#).



Wayne Scott at the Blenheim MinEx workshop in February

Schedule of our Health & Safety workshops for the second half of 2020:

- Kerikeri - Tuesday 07 July
- Dargaville - Wednesday 08 July
- Ashburton - Tuesday 11 July
- Greymouth - Thursday 13 August
- Paeroa - Tuesday 08 September
- Rotorua - Tuesday 09 September
- Gisborne - Thursday 01 October
- Dunedin - Monday 05 October
- Invercargill - Tuesday 06 October
- Cromwell - Thursday 08 October
- Whakatane - Wednesday 28 October
- Te Kuiti - Tuesday 03 November

CPD Certificates sent out this week

The MinEx Health & Safety Webinar Series CPD certificates will be sent out this week.

This email may go into your Junk email folder, so make sure you check in there for it.

We are keen to hear from you on CPD delivery

We have had positive feedback on our H&S workshops and the webinars we have run during lockdown. We are now planning for our future delivery of CPD and would like your input. Please take 2 minutes to complete this short survey which will help inform what we

offer in the future. The survey closes on Friday 26 June 2020

Take Survey



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