

MinEx to improve access to formal training

Georgia Quirke-Luping - Fri, 09 Nov 2018

Among barriers to accessing formal training is the time it takes to get to and from workshops, says MinEx CEO Wayne Scott.

He wants to make formal training hours as easy as possible to achieve. To this end, MinEx confirmed at its Board meeting this week it will host 20 workshops in 2019, to support the continuing professional development of mine and quarry workers.

"These workshops will be held all around the country – not just in the usual places," Scott says.

This year, more than 380 people attended MinEx workshops held in various regional centres around New Zealand.

Because of this significant turnout, MinEx decided to increase the number of session days, as well as the number of locations, to improve access for industry.

"We want people to get their hours. There can be some real barriers for some people and we have to make it easy for them."

The sessions

The 2019 sessions are scheduled to be held in Kerikeri, Dargaville, South Auckland, Paeroa, Whakatane, Rotorua, Palmerston North, Gisborne, Waipukurau, Blenheim, Nelson, Greymouth, Cromwell, and Ashburton.

For the first time, next year will also see workshops in Hamilton, Taumarunui, Northern Canterbury, and Dunedin, plus two sessions held in Invercargill.

MinEx is planning two workshops per month between February and November, with dates and times to be confirmed.

Each day-long event will be divided into two sessions, each four hours long. Importantly, all hours can be credited towards the formal training requirements of CPD.

Scott says the way the days have been divided means that individuals "can get eight hours of formal training hours done, all in one hit".

For mine and quarry workers holding a B-Grade Certificate of Competency, 2 four-hour workshops will fulfil the eight-hour formal training requirements of CPD for this CoC.

Scott says that WorkSafe "is on board", and they are hoping to have representatives speak at the workshops.

Topics

In line with the four core areas of CPD requirements, the workshops will cover operating and safety systems; emergency management; legislation; and leadership.

Scott thinks that it will also be a good opportunity to reflect on incidents in 2017 and 2018: "What happened, how did it happen, what can we learn?"

Making it work

CPD has been viewed with some scepticism within the mining and quarrying sectors, since it was launched three years ago.

Scott says: "The system was – and still is – far too rigid", because people are unable catch up on their hours in subsequent years if they fall short in any previous year.

MinEx hopes that the confirmed 20 workshops in 2019 will go some way towards making CPD a realistic goal for mine and quarrying workers and managers.

