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MinEx seeks quarry CoC mentors

Cameron Massey - Tue, 18 Jul 2017

MinEx is equipping industry sourced mentors with the necessary tools to better prepare quarry staff for their examinations and lift the general understanding of health and safety legislation.

New chief executive officer Wayne Scott is looking for leaders within the industry to support him and guide applicants preparing to sit their Quarry B Grade Certificate of Competence qualification.

The mentors will hold a current Quarry A Grade CoC and will know what is required to achieve the qualification.

Guide pack

Scott is in the process of gathering material for a simple kit to help the mentors unravel the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 for the applicants.

"It's about getting them to understand the concepts and basic principles of the legislation and why it's there and important to them."

The mentors will also run applicants through typical scenarios covered in the oral exam. He says the one-on-one engagement is very important in helping the applicant articulate their understanding.

"That process, coupled with the review of the unit standards will get us on the journey to improve the industry."

While there is criticism in the industry around training, particularly around the Certificate of Competence, Scott doesn't subscribe to the view that it is the trainer's fault.

"But certainly, there are a lot of people out there that I've met already that don't know what they don't know," he says.

"That means there are flaws in the way people are being trained, mentored and supported."

Scott joined MinEx two weeks ago and brings with him almost 30 years of industry experience in Australia. His previous role was inspector of mines for Queensland's Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

Scott is planning to have mentors based around the country to help the people in their region.

"It'll depend whether they'd be prepared to put in a little bit of time to help other quarry operators in their area."

After liaising with representatives from the Institute of Quarrying and the Aggregates and Quarry Association the QuarryNZ Conference this week, Scott will start coaching mentors for the Quarry B Grade.

He says the mentoring model can easily be applied to other parts of the sector.

Focus on fatalities

As part of the target to reduce the number of workplace injuries in the sector to half of 2016 numbers, Scott wants to review the way injuries are recorded and measured.

"I don't know if we're measuring the right things or whether in fact we're collecting the right data."

Although the data being provided to MinEx is volunteered and is therefore expected to be more accurate, he says, the same cannot be said across the whole sector.

He will also be concentrating on monitoring the precursors to fatal incidents.

"It's the near misses that happen possibly on a day to day basis that people don't identify as really bad," he says.

He says once people get focused on the fatal hazards, they will tend to think more about critical controls.

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Quarry



Location 210 Mcbeth Road, Duck Creek

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Ownership Geoff Loudon

Description Coal explorer

Non-operating resources CEP 40626 (Kaitangata) , CEP 53158 (Whitecliffs)

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