



As you receive this newsletter I am about to embark on the annual regional MinEx workshops. [The 16 workshops from February to October](#) have become a crucial means of getting health & safety information across principally to smaller quarry and alluvial mine operators.

It's also pleasing to see WorkSafe is following our lead and doing its own regional workshops for B Grade CoC operations, to follow on from their useful workshops held last year when the new regs came out. (See story in this newsletter.)

As for our MinEx workshops which started in Nelson on February 13, there will be a range of topics during the day including a look at how our sector performed on H&S in 2022.

Mercifully, we did not have an extractive sector fatality last year but you may have seen me commenting in media, comparing our national tolerance for across the board workplace fatalities with America's preparedness to live with gun deaths.

For the third quarter of 2022, nearly a third of all incidents reported to MinEx resulted from breach of procedure – more than double the usual level. There were 108 incidents in the three months and 10% resulted in occupational injuries; sprains, strains and broken limbs accounted for 44 incidents.

Sadly, breaches of procedure remain a major cause of workplace fatalities and injuries in our sector and other NZ work sites. Failing simple rules like wearing seat belts and speed restrictions, falling from unprotected heights and removing guards. (Look at the shocker reported in WorkSafe's latest extractive update, featured in this Train Brain.)

One other topic for our 2023 workshops is diversity and respect in the workplace. One of my staff recently rang half a dozen quarries to get some comment about a nomination for an award in our upcoming [Komatsu New Zealand Women in Extractives lunch](#), celebrating what women contribute to our sector. There was not a single woman working on any of those quarries – and that's not too unusual. If we have any hope of meeting our sector's workforce shortages, we need to be reaching out to, and respecting the needs of the other half of our potential recruits. I hope many of you will be joining Straterra and AQA which with MinEx, is hosting the event.

We also look at how a Blenheim quarry hosted a group of NEETs (Not in Employment, Education and Training) as another example of how we all need to keep promoting our industry as a workforce crisis looms.

Also in this Train Brain, we feature our latest MinEx document – a Code of Practice on the use of explosives in quarrying and mining which reflect the new regulations.

Finally, given the hot weather some regions have been enjoying, there's some advice about sun protection and heat exhaustion.

Staying safe includes staying out of the extreme summer sun.

Wayne Scott

Guards removed, worker suffers

The [latest quarterly report](#) from WorkSafe's extractives team contains details of a horrifying incident which breaks all the rules.

WorkSafe reports that last August a worker was attempting to remove a rock jammed in a conveyor belt system within a sand wash plant. He was using a metal bar to dislodge the rock when it got caught in a slot on the slotted drum. His left hand was drawn in and he sustained a serious laceration, broken arm and thumb.

The worker used his right arm to extract the damaged one, climbed down the wash plant and raised the alarm. An ambulance took him to a local medical centre.



That's bad enough but two other things stand out in the WorkSafe reporting. The sand plant's H&S Manager advised WorkSafe he'd checked their website but didn't think this constituted a notifiable event as it was not serious enough!

WorkSafe's investigation identified the incident was attributable to factors including insufficient guarding in place to prevent the worker from trapping his hand in a pinch point.

Seven years earlier, WorkSafe inspectors had visited the site and found the majority of tail drums were slat-type drums with no guarding in place, numerous chain belts had ineffective or no guarding and there were no return roller nip guards on any conveyor. A prohibition notice was issued and only lifted after evidence was provided to WorkSafe that effective and adequate guarding had been installed on the plant.

It appears that between 2015 and 2022 this guarding was removed or modified. This is one of the worst examples of a blatant disregard for the safety of workers and others.

WorkSafe says 1,000 more sites now due to report



The new Mining and Quarrying regulations will see many more sites required to report says WorkSafe but it will continue to use this year to see the new regs bedded in.

WorkSafe Chief Inspector Extractives Paul Hunt says the submission of quarterly report data using the online form means an additional 1,000 quarries and alluvial mines are required to report under the regulations.

Until last year's new regs were put in place, quarries and alluvial mines were reporting notifiable events under the Health & Safety at Work Act while mines and tunnels were reporting under the Mining and Quarrying Regulations as well.

Paul says he's aware many quarry and alluvial mine operators have started to think about this and are working to make the process as efficient as possible for themselves.

He says most mines and tunnels quickly settled into the reporting regime when their new regulations were implemented and found it quite simple to provide the numbers as required on time.

Paul says the publishing of the latest extractives report makes four years of WorkSafe reporting back to industry – a dozen reports in total – which he hopes are being read and proving useful to industry operators, managers and workers.

Initially, the collating of the information was often sourced from manually updated spreadsheets using the information reported by industry.

Now an online reporting form is located on the [WorkSafe website](#) and he's confident WorkSafe can still process the industry statistics in the same time period even with a lot more sites reporting.

"The data is valuable and we hope industry realises the reporting that the regulations require of them is fundamental to us improving safety."

Paul says even with the new reporting requirements, not enough data is collected to really

focus in on causal factors and WorkSafe will in future ask for more follow up information on high potential incidents.

"This focus on education and engagement will continue for the next 12 months in the quarry and alluvial mine sectors," says Paul. "Mines and tunnels will continue with the normal risk-based inspection plan."

Come celebrate women in our sector

MinEx, AQA and Straterra are bringing together an event next month to mark the extractive industry's commitment to workplace health and safety including diversity and inclusion.

The inaugural Komatsu New Zealand Women in Extractives Lunch is being held in Christchurch on Friday, 10 March, the same week as International Women's Day.

The just-confirmed guest speaker is a champion of diversity and inclusion, Amy Carter, founding chief executive of [The Christchurch Foundation](#).



Amy Carter, CEO of
The Christchurch Foundation

This not-for-profit organisation supports 16 projects in the city including building a youth hub, women in sport, sports inclusivity and women's and rainbow funds.

MinEx & AQA CEO Wayne Scott says acceptance of all workers fits within the health and safety mantle and like many industries, extractives can benefit from broadening the makeup of its workforce and committing to diversity and inclusion in safe and healthy workplaces.

"We want to recognise and celebrate the contribution of women to our sector and encourage more to join".



Josie Vidal CEO Straterra

Straterra CEO Josie Vidal says the three extractive sector organisations are thrilled that Komatsu New Zealand jumped at the chance to be part of this event.

"Their enthusiasm for celebrating diversity and inclusion makes them the perfect partner for us," she says.

"We now want extractive companies to nominate their best and brightest women for the awards."

Komatsu New Zealand last year signed a two-year partnership with nib Blues Women's rugby.

Managing Director Phil Pritchard, says Komatsu New Zealand want to help bring the opportunities and challenges for women in the extractive sector to the forefront.

"Many people are not aware of the diverse roles and career paths available, from apprentices to engineering, sales, and service technician roles; we want to make sure women are given greater opportunities to make their mark."

Three awards will be presented at the event to celebrate diversity and inclusion in the extractives industries.

The Kristy Christensen Memorial Award (sponsored by MinEx) is being awarded posthumously for its first year to Kristy Christensen in recognition of her major contribution to diversity and inclusion in the industry.

The Emerging Star Award (sponsored by MITO, a division of Te Pūkenga) recognises a young person who has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, outstanding personal performance and innovative thinking to provide value for their company, as well as for themselves.

The Leader of the Year (sponsored by Hanga-Aro-Rau Workforce Development Council) will recognise someone who has demonstrated vision, dedication, and determination for their team to succeed and demonstrated a commitment to diversity and inclusion in their everyday work.

Nomination forms (available [here](#)) are due in by COB February 22, and to be sent to team@straterra.co.nz. Award judging will be undertaken by a panel from MinEx, AQA and Straterra.

Stay under shade and stay cool

The recent run of hot weather in some parts of the country is a reminder to everyone who works outside to take account of the effects of the heat and the sun, though with this current weather sunshine seems a distant memory.

MinEx CEO Wayne Scott says any extractive worker who is exposed to long hours of summer sunshine needs to be aware of the risks of sun-induced skin cancer.

“Far too many of us were pretty blasé about this in our youth and it can catch up in later life. The best treatment is avoidance. Employers have some responsibility here as well as individual workers. Companies should consider providing good wide-brimmed hats, ideally long-sleeved garments, good quality high SPF sunblock – and of course, access to water and shade.”

Wayne says workers have the responsibility to wear hats and put on the sunblock. “I lived in Australia for 30 years but have learned the UV light here in NZ causes more sunburn due to our thinner ozone layer and less pollution. Australia can teach us a thing or two however about heat exhaustion. Some outback opencast mines can generate 50 degrees Celsius of heat. People wander around with 3 litre CamelBaks just to stay hydrated.”

While we don’t often get much past 30 degrees Celsius in NZ, Wayne says a day in those sorts of temperatures requires people to be on their guard for heat stroke or heat exhaustion.

Heat stroke is when your body goes over 40 degrees Celsius – normally we operate at 36-37 degrees – and it can be fatal. Older people and those who are active outdoors are among those most at risk.

To help prevent heat stroke and heat exhaustion drink plenty of water and take rest in cooler areas. Further advice available [here](#).



Sydney-born AQA Technical Adviser Mike Chilton knows the importance of a good hat and other sun protection.

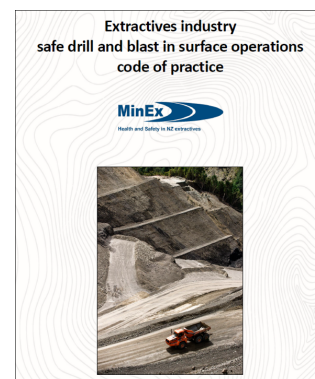
Explosive advice available from MinEx

MinEx has produced a comprehensive code of practice to provide guidance on safe drilling and blasting practice for surface operations in the extractives sector, now [available for free on the MinEx website](#).

The COP necessarily reflects the new Mining and Quarrying Regulations 2022 to the Health and Safety at Work Act.

All A-grade quarry sites using explosives – even one shot a year – now require an explosives principal hazard management plan because they present risk of multiple fatalities from single incident.

There are a number of examples where shot-firing has gone wrong and the code of practice aims at providing practical advice to quarries and mines to minimise risks for staff,



contractors and the wider community.

The COP has to remain generic to be applicable across a broad range of sites and explosives and includes templates and checklists which quarry and mine managers can use alongside their management plans to ensure they are meeting the requirements of the new regs.

While contractors and sub-contractors now do most drilling and blasting for the mining and quarrying sector, the site manager retains responsibility for the health and safety of all workers on a site. This includes properly inducting, managing and supervising a blasting contractor.

Contractors, in turn, must take reasonable care to ensure the health and safety of other persons and comply with any reasonable instruction given by a site manager relating to health or safety at the workplace.

Another chapter deals with bench preparation. This is critical in establishing a safe working environment for surface blasting, with the main risks coming from residual explosives from previous blasts and poorly drilled holes.

Blast geometry and design is imperative to create safe discharges and blast results. Anyone in the extractive sector will likely have seen spectacular videos where people are showered with debris from a blast which went way beyond its supposed safety perimeter. The Code of Practice advises that minimum stand-off distances must be determined by a specific risk assessment.

The material is comprised from the Australasian Explosives Industry Safety Group Inc. (AEISG) and its code of practice – On-bench Practices for open cut mines and quarries. Contributions and support for MinEx's document also came from OceanaGold, RedBull Powder Company, Orica, Blackhead Quarries and WorkSafe.



NZ Mining Board of Examiners members appointed

Two leading figures from the Pike River recovery effort have been chosen to join the New Zealand Mining Board of Examiners.

Mark Pizey and Kevin (Dinghy) Pattinson are the new appointees chosen by WorkSafe to join the Board. Bernie O'Leary and Brian Bouzaid have been reappointed, taking the Board membership to 11 in total. [Read the full article.](#)

WorkSafe continues workshops on new regulations

Another phase of WorkSafe workshops explaining the new extractive sector regulations are being run by WorkSafe through February in the South Island.

As the new health and safety regulations for quarrying and mining began to take effect last July, WorkSafe ran workshops and late last year began some follow-ups. These resume next month.

Chief Inspector Extractives Paul Hunt says the workshops target smaller quarries to give them the tools and resources to comply with the requirements of the new regs, including developing Health and Safety Management Plans.

The workshops, being run with the Institute of Quarrying, began before Christmas in Northland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty. These resume in February in Canterbury, Otago and Southland. WorkSafe advises some workshops may already have maximum attendees so anyone interested needs to confirm space is available and the workshop times. It is recommended attendees bring laptops so they can work through the HSMS template.

The next WorkSafe workshop is February 21 at the Ascot Park, **Invercargill**. The IOQNZ contact is Jason Blair - jason.blair@bhq.co.nz.

Jason is also the contact for the next two workshops on the following days – February 22 in **Dunedin** at The Edgar Centre, 116 Portsmouth Drive and February 23 at The Gate, Barry Ave, **Cromwell**.

Paul Hunt says the workshops will give smaller quarry operators a template they can adapt to their own site and a simple regulatory assessment tool.

"It asks, have I got this in place? Tick. Have I got that in place? No, well I'd better fix that otherwise I won't be compliant with the regulations."

Other topics covered include what a risk matrix might look like and how to conduct a risk assessment. The Chief Inspector continues to affirm the new regulations are designed to be proportional to the size, nature and complexity of quarry operations.

"If there's two of you working at a quarry, your communication plan isn't going to be very long. It might be you sit down in the morning and talk to each other. Yes, you do have to document that – but it's not complicated."

"We're not looking for war and peace, what we want is quality. It can be short and in plain English. It doesn't have to be gobbledygook health and safety speak."

Paul says most people who have attended workshops so far have appreciated the information provided and he's been impressed with how eager the quarry industry is to engage.

"We're not naïve, we know there's a bunch of people out there who probably don't believe in many of the requirements in the regulations, and don't believe that any improvements are worthwhile."

"They think they know how to do it, they think they know best. We'll deal with them as we travel around and get to the different sites. One by one we'll work our way around the country so that everyone understands the same expectation."

The workshops also give an opportunity for the regulator to hear about individual situations that may not have been considered.

"We don't know every single thing yet. The regulations are written in such a way that you've got to interpret them. People will bring up a situation and we'll go 'hell, that's an interesting situation, we'll have to think about that and get back to you'."

He says WorkSafe aims to be a pragmatic regulator but there will be times when it has to reach a position on situations where the wording isn't clear or there are unforeseen circumstances or outcomes that result from the new rules.

Credit: Some of this material originally ran in Inside Resources.



WorkSafe Chief Inspector Extractives Paul Hunt

Hands-on quarry experience for Marlborough students

Like any quarry company, Simcox Construction in Marlborough, is always seeking potential recruits. So just before Christmas, manager Antony Clark and his Baracks Rd quarry manager Calvin Aberhart, hosted a group of students from the Toroa Career Navigator programme run by the Graeme Dingle Foundation Marlborough.

Toroa coordinator, Rachel Rodger, says the programme is for local 15-25 year olds who aren't in school, work or training – but who are keen to be.

"All our students had a great time on the Toroa worksite visit to Simcox Quarry – as you can probably tell from all the smiles on their faces in the photos. The students said the highlight was "EVERYTHING", which probably says it all. So many amazing machines."

Students were able to get into the cab of an excavator and other quarry machinery for a bit of real-life experience and were quick to grab the opportunity to have a go at the controls.



Local students visit Simcox Quarry worksite.



Calvin Aberhart (right) gives Lukas Hitchcock a few tips on how to operate an excavator.

Rachel explains the worksite visits were one facet of the wider programme – complemented by career mentoring, work readiness workshops, and individualised support to develop a 'career action plan'. In 2022 89% of those graduating from the Toroa programme went on to work or further training. She says the students came away from the visit with some valuable insights.

"The students really enjoyed hearing Calvin's story about how he didn't love maths at school, but how he enjoys using it to calculate quantities of explosives! That certainly cast the value of learning maths in a new light!"

"Many of the students had never heard of the career opportunities in the quarry industry before, and had no idea of all the different roles and what they entailed. It was great to see them opening their eyes to new possibilities."

"And the nature of the work – outdoors, and very hands-on – really appealed to the students. They were incredibly engaged and excited about the whole thing."

She says the students were grateful that Simcox Construction, part of Isaac Construction, took the trouble to pause production and host them. Antony Clark says it was great to be able to help an awesome group of young people find their pathway in life. He's hoping the visit may just inspire one or two of the group or their contemporaries to consider quarrying as a career option.

"We are open to employing anyone – young men and women especially – who've got an interest in our industry and a good attitude to work. There's a really good future here if they want a rewarding job and career."



Tegan Bayley was keen to try the driver's seat.



The visit to Simcox was a highlight for Jazz McClelland-Peterson.



It is a good idea to record your CPD restricted and unrestricted hours every time CPD is done. It only takes a few minutes!



APPRENTICESHIP BOOST - AVAILABLE OVER 2023

The Government's Apprenticeship Boost scheme runs until 31 December 2023 which means you can still take advantage of this great offer!

Apprenticeship Boost is a payment to employers of \$500 per month, per apprentice in their first and second year of training, designed to support your business and employ more learners into the industry.

[Learn More](#)



If you know of anyone who would like to receive the Train Brain email office@minex.org.nz and we'll help keep their training on track

MinEx Health & Safety Workshops 2023



Each workshop gives a health & safety update to keep the extractives industry informed with health & safety issues and good practices. These workshops are packed with useful sessions for anyone in the mining and quarrying industry.

The workshop will run from 8am to 4pm, with morning tea and lunch provided. Each workshop has 8 hours of unrestricted CPD available and covers the following topics:

- Review of health & safety performance 2022
- Learning from past incidents
- Principal Hazard Management Plans for quarries
- Changing our mindset on fatal hazards and reporting
- Diversity and respect in the workplace
- WorkSafe Inspectorate update

Payment by credit card is required for registration. To view the full list of dates and to register head to our Training tab on the [MinEx website](#).

ACT Safety Courses



Please find the full list of training scheduled for 2023 [here](#).

[A-Grade surface management certificate schedule 2023](#)

[B-Grade tunnel certificate schedule 2023](#)

[B-Grade surface certificate schedule 2023](#)

Please contact our offices to find out more about the A-Grade and B-Grade quarry certificate. All our training is offered via Zoom so no classroom attendance.

Visit our website www.actsafety.co.nz

Booking rooster: <https://book.actsafety.co.nz/>



Remember to keep all evidence of CPD activities to provide when you apply/ renew your CoC

IOQNZ Webinars/Courses



The Institute of Quarrying NZ are doing things a little differently this year – we are running 24/7 webinars which can be purchased from our IOQ NZ store.

The 24/7 webinars will be offered in a recorded format so people can listen and view the webinar at their leisure. So that means that webinars will no longer be held on a specific date and time but available in the store for anybody to purchase at any time.

The IOQ NZ will be rolling each 24/7 webinar out on the 1st of each month (9 in 2023).

Our first 24/7 webinar to be held is **Leadership Skills for the Future** and is now available for purchase in our IOQ NZ Store here: [Webinars & Courses Archives - Institute of Quarrying \(ioqnz.co.nz\)](#).

The cost is Members \$25 and Non-Members \$50.

Once purchased, the IOQ NZ Member/Non-Member will receive a webinar link along with a multiple-choice quiz from our Educational Officer Paul Sutton. Again, you complete the webinar at your own pace and time.

Once completed, a CPD certificates will be issued.

For more information email loq@xtra.co.nz

Tai Poutini Courses



Tai Poutini Polytechnic are offering the Diploma in Quarrying and Mining Supervision (Level 5) and Training Scheme in Quarrying and Mining Supervision (Level 4) in

Greymouth, Gore, Christchurch and Palmerston North.

You'll gain the skills and expertise required to apply for your A and/or B Grade Quarry Manager's Certificate of Competence – a requirement for managers of any quarry or surface mining operation in New Zealand.

You can make the training work for your current job as well as your future; by allowing you to enrol in the units required for your chosen Certificate of Competency.

Learners may be eligible for free fees – details available at <https://www.feesfree.govt.nz/>

For further information please visit our website <https://tpp.ac.nz/study-options/civil-and-mining/quarryandmining/> or phone Nicole Scalmer on 03 769 9645.

MITO Courses



Visit the [MITO website](#) for details on qualifications and courses you can do through MITO. or contact MITO on 0800 88 21 21 to enrol.

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