



SAFETY AT WORK BULLETIN

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Abandoned Truck of Dead Worker Unnoticed for 12 Hours

QUICKSCAN

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By Katherine Danks and Nicole Azzopardi

July 5 2005

For up to 12 hours, no-one on a major Sydney railway project noticed Luke Bandrowski's front-end loader - its engine running and lights flashing - while his body lay nearby at the bottom of a muddy pond, a union says.

The 23-year-old father of two from Jannali is believed to have drowned yesterday.

His body was not found until about 11.40am (AEST) today in a pool used to remove sediment from water on the Chatswood to Epping Rail Link project site at North Ryde, in Sydney's north.

Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) spokesman Tim Vollmer said it appeared Mr Bandrowski, employed as a plant operator, had been missing for up to 12 hours since working a day shift yesterday. "We don't know exactly what happened, but there are some very serious concerns the union does have," he said.

Safety problems had previously occurred on the project run by German multi-national construction company Theiss Hochtief, he said.

"There have been a number of safety problems on this project with other accidents that have occurred and some workers quite seriously injured, however, this is the first fatality," he said.

Mr Bandrowski's employer, CB constructions, said it was thought he had washed the front-end loader near the pond.

CFMEU Safety Coordinator Dick Whitehead said the settlement pond was within four metres of the main office complex at the site which operates 24-hours a day.

"I find it amazing that the settlement pond and the machine (the front-end loader) are right beside the office and there (are) people there all night and the light was flashing and the e"There's people going backwards and forwards all night ... it's absolutely appalling that this could go unnoticed."

Mr Vollmer said 500 workers on the project today voted to walk off the job until next Tuesday as a mark of respect for Mr Bandrowski and his family.

"Workers from the Chatswood to Epping rail link held a mass meeting where they elected to with hold their labour until next Tuesday as a mark of respect for their co-worker who

was killed on the project," he said.

"And also to allow the union and WorkCover to conduct a thorough safety audit and make sure all safety issues are addressed before workers return."

Theiss Hochtief spokesman Chris Peat, while expressing sympathy for Mr Bandrowski's family, said the company was unable to comment because the incident was under investigation by police and WorkCover.

CB Constructions manager Abhay Chandra telephoned Mr Bandrowski's girlfriend about 7.30pm last night about an unrelated work matter but she told him that Luke was running late and had not arrived home.

Mr Vollmer said when Mr Bandrowski's body was found in the pond soon after his car was located in the car park at the construction site early today.

Mr Bandrowski was the only CB Constructions employee at the North Ryde site and had been working on the project for about a week.

His death is not being treated as suspicious.

AAP

Worker on rail site died of major heart attack

July 7 2005

The employer of a young construction worker found dead on a major Sydney railway project says he died from a heart attack.

23-year-old Luke Bandrowski, a father of two, was missing for up to 12 hours when his body was found on Wednesday morning.

Early reports have said the plant operator drowned in large earth-walled pond used to remove sediment from water on the Chatswood to Epping Rail Link site in suburban North Ryde.

But the German multinational construction company running the project, Theiss Hochtief, says preliminary advice from police suggests he died of a major heart attack.

About 500 workers on the project have walked off the job until next Tuesday as a mark of respect for Mr Bandrowski and his family.

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The Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union and WorkCover are conducting a safety audit of the site.

AAP

2005 Workplace Safety Summit

1 July 2005

NSW Minister for Commerce, John Della Bosca, today announced that the Carr Government would hold a NSW Workplace Safety Summit on August 25 and 26, 2005.

"200 leaders from industry and government will meet in Orange to further reduce work related injuries," Mr Della Bosca said.

"The 2005 Safety Summit will build on long-term health and safety initiatives that emerged from the inaugural NSW Workplace Safety Summit three years ago in Bathurst.

"In 2002, the NSW Government committed to reducing workplace injuries by 40 percent and cutting workplace fatalities by 20 per cent by June 2012.

"This year's Summit will help keep us on track to meet those targets and focused on the main game of ensuring that NSW workers return home safely at the end of each working day," Mr Della Bosca said.

Speakers at the 2005 Workplace Safety Summit will include: NSW Premier Bob Carr; Unions NSW Secretary John Robertson; Australian Industry Group NSW Director Mark Goodsell; and science commentator and the Julius Sumner Miller Fellow at the University of Sydney, Dr Karl Kruszelnicki.

The previous Summit produced important initiatives to improve workplace safety and incentives for employers and employees, including:

- The Small Business Assistance Strategy and the WorkCover Business Assistance Unit, delivering free seminars on safety and workers compensation around NSW.
- The Long Haul Trucking Regulation and development of the memorandum of understanding
- Extension of the Roll Over Protective Structures (ROPS) rebate and the introduction of the ShearSafety scheme.
- The funding of a position to assist community service organisations with occupational health and safety.
- Various industry forums: Design, Transport, Community Services, Education
- The Safer Towns and Cities demonstration project
- Industry specific guidance material: farm safety, shearing guide,

community services safety pack

- The WorkCover GP education strategy, providing expert education to general practitioners to improve their treatment of work-related injuries, particularly back injuries.
- Workplace Fatalities Unit and regulatory reform.

"Safe workplaces are productive and profitable," Mr Della Bosca said.

"The Summit will work on practical measures to improve safety across a range of workplaces and industries, in the country and the city.

"Holding the Summit in Orange will assist rural and regional employers, who want their voices heard on workplace safety.

"In partnership with employers and employees, the Carr Government has made major inroads into reducing workplace injuries," Mr Della Bosca said.

"The latest available statistics show workplace fatalities and injury rates in NSW at their lowest level in 15 years.

"The 2005 NSW Workplace Safety Summit will ensure this good work continues and that we remain focused on getting people home safely at the end of their working day."

Source: NSW Minister for Commerce

Court Case Leads To Reminder on Providing a Safe Workplace

July 1, 2005

A fast food company has been fined \$5000 for failing to provide and maintain a safe working environment for its employees after a young worker sustained a serious knee injury.

Red Rooster Foods Pty Ltd was convicted in the Magistrate's Court of WA Perth last week of failing to provide and maintain a working environment in which its employees were not exposed to hazards.

In August 2003, a 15-year-old employee at Red Rooster's Ardross outlet stepped onto a lid covering a grease drain. The lid flipped up and the employee's right leg went into the exposed opening of the drain.

The employee's knee ligaments were seriously damaged, and he underwent a full knee reconstruction later that week.

The lid to the drain was found to have had no lugs or legs to hold it in place, allowing it to slide off under pressure. Legs were welded onto the lid to hold it in place after this incident occurred.

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NSW police to remember its fallen

9 July 2005

New South Wales Police Commissioner Ken Moroney is today attending a memorial service on the state's mid-north coast to commemorate the deaths of two officers, killed 10 years ago in the line of duty.

Senior Constables Robert Spears and Peter Addison, both 36, were shot dead by gunman John McGowan while attending a domestic dispute near Kempsey on July the 9th in 1995.

In 2002, New South Wales police pleaded guilty to a breach of the occupational Health and Safety Act in the Industrial Relations Commission over a lack of training of the two officers.

It was fined \$220,000.

Mr Moroney says the two officers will be remembered for their dedication.

Members of the Addison and Spears family will attend the private ceremony, together with police officers who attended the scene. AAP



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Visions 2005 Conference,
Cairns International, Queensland
28-30 September 2005**

More information at
[http://www.sia.org.au/publications/
Conferences/Safety%20in%20Action%20
02005/Visions%202005%20Conference.
pdf](http://www.sia.org.au/publications/Conferences/Safety%20in%20Action%202005/Visions%202005%20Conference.pdf)

**The Safety Conference,
Sydney NSW
26-28 October 2005**

More Information at:
[http://www.thesafetyshow.com/
?view=conference](http://www.thesafetyshow.com/?view=conference)

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WorkSafe WA Commissioner Nina Lyhne said today that the case was a reminder of the importance of guarding against slips and trips in workplaces and the need to provide a safe workplace for new and young workers.

"WorkSafe has established eight priority areas that have consistently shown higher than average rates of workplace injuries and deaths," Ms Lyhne said.

"New and young workers and slips and trips are two of these priority areas, which are particularly targeted by WorkSafe for education and enforcement action.

"It is a sad fact that an average of four young workers between the ages of 15 and 24 die in WA workplaces each year, and around 4000 more require time off for work-related injuries and diseases.

"Slips and trips are also very common in workplaces and can result in serious injuries, especially when the fall involves the employee striking an object on the way down.

"The employer in this case organised for a simple preventative measure to be put into place after the injury had occurred, but obviously this young man would not have had to undergo surgery and suffer the pain and inconvenience of his injury if something had been done sooner.

"I strongly urge all employers to take a look around their workplaces, identify any hazard that could cause an injury, illness or even death, then take action to reduce or eliminate those risks." Source: Department of Consumer and Employment Protection

Man falls to death at tourist railway

July 5 2005

A man has been killed after falling onto tracks and being hit by a train at a tourist railway in the Blue Mountains.

Police were called about 4pm yesterday to railway tracks on the historic Zig Zag line near Clarence railway station after a 21-year-old Blue Mountains man fell from an embankment and was hit by a train.

A NSW Police spokeswoman said the death was not a suicide.

The Zig Zag train has been closed while investigations by police, Workcover and transport investigators continue.

Witnesses are being interviewed at Lithgow police station. AAP

Workplace Death Guide

June 2005

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland has released a new guide - Response to a death in the workplace

According to the Guide it "is for families and friends of those killed in a workplace incident. It explains the roles of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, WorkCover Queensland, the police and the Coroner after a death in the workplace and shows the steps taken after the incident. The guide also lists contact resources that family and friends may find helpful after a fatality."

It is available for download at <http://www.whs.qld.gov.au/guide/gde71.pdf>

Investigation continuing into man's death at gold mine

July 4 2005

A worker at a West Australian gold mine was believed to have been jump-starting a truck when he was crushed to death, investigators said today.

The 51-year-old Busselton man was working at Agincourt Resources' open-pit gold mine at Wiluna, in the north eastern goldfields region, about 3pm (WST) last Friday when the incident occurred.

The matter is still under investigation, the WA Department of Consumer and Employment Protection's (DOCEP) Resources Safety Division said today.

The man was an employee of Mining and Civil Australia Pty Ltd.

WA police were at the scene late on Friday, and mining inspectors from the Resources Safety Division flew to the scene from Kalgoorlie and Perth early Saturday morning. AAP

Dissatisfied workers want to be their own boss - survey

July 5 2005

Australians who are dissatisfied with their jobs believe being their own boss will make them happy, a new survey says.

Recruitment company Talent2 surveyed more than 800 Australians - from blue collar workers to senior professionals - finding 54 per cent desired their own business.

Seventy per cent of respondents said a desire for greater satisfaction was their motivation for wanting the change.

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Independence was the next popular reason, while only 10 per cent cited the desire for money or freedom.

According to the survey, those most likely to want to be their own boss were either senior professionals or those at the other end of the spectrum such as administrative workers.

"Those in middle of the range were less keen to own their own business," said Talent2 General Manager Jonathon Morse.

Mr Morse said the survey found more women believed having their own business would be rigorous and harder to set up.

Overall, 86 per cent of respondents believed it would be difficult to own a business.

Workers who preferred to work for someone else said the unpredictability of work, cash flows and lifestyle impact made them want to remain as employees.

"There is no doubt that Australians are realistic enough to consider the hours of work, the stress, the responsibility and staff management issues as a deterrent to opening their own business," Mr Morse said. AAP

Working together to promote workplace health and safety

4 July 2005

The New Zealand Department of Labour investigated 46 workplace deaths in the year to 30 June 2005. This includes the deaths of seven bystanders or visitors to workplaces.

This year's provisional final figure of 46 fatalities is significantly less than in recent years (2002-03: 73 fatalities, 2003-04: 61 fatalities). However, the number of fatalities investigated by the Department on its own is not an accurate indicator of trends over time, nor are they a reliable guide to levels of safety performance in the workplace.

Despite this, the downturn in fatalities investigated by the Department is contrary to what might be expected in New Zealand's current climate of increased workforce participation, says the Department's National Operations Manager, Mike Cosman.

'Not only are there more people in the workforce than in previous years, many are working to an older age and for longer hours - which is likely to continue due to the tight labour market.'

Mr Cosman says that any improvement in the figures is a tribute to the sustained efforts companies, their health and safety staff, employee representatives, industry associations, trade unions and others working with the Department and ACC to raise awareness of the importance of effective management of workplace hazards.

'Only by working together can we change workplace culture and help deliver healthy people in safe and productive workplaces as envisaged by the recently launched Workplace Health and Safety Strategy for New Zealand to 2015.'

Fatalities by type of work:

- Industrial / commercial 18
- Forestry 1
- Construction 3

- Agriculture 23
- Mines and Quarries 1

Data limitations:

These figures reflect only the workplace deaths investigated by the Department of Labour, which are deaths arising from sudden incidents. Deaths from occupational illness are not included in this figure. Not all sudden workplace deaths are investigated by the Department: Maritime Safety New Zealand and the Civil Aviation Authority maintain their own records for deaths on ships and aircraft. Deaths to those at work whilst driving on the road may not all be reported to the Department.

Source: New Zealand Department of Labour

New ACT WorkCover reports

June 2005

ACT WorkCover has released reports into their recent inspection and audit programs into the smash repairs and retail industries, respectively.

The Smash Repairs Industry report included these findings

"While the majority of workplaces had Material Safety Data Sheet forms, safety requirements were not being consistently transferred into risk assessment based safe work practices, and that first aid measures, such as eye wash stations, were not being put in place as a result.

There appears to be under reporting of injuries and dangerous occurrences within the industry with only 45% of companies identifying they have Injury and Dangerous Occurrence forms.

While 83% of employers' first aid kits were adequately stocked and maintained, improvement notices were issued in relation to first aid facilities such as eye wash stations. Many workshops did not consistently undertake a full assessment of the need for first aid facilities.

58% of workplaces generate dust that could contribute to industrial disease. While controls were in place in most workplaces, 15% of workplaces had no controls. Dust from work processes, particularly from sanding of paints and other hazardous substances, have the potential to cause disease if exposure continues over prolonged periods.

Overall the findings of the programmed inspection indicate that the smash repair industry is on the way to achieving good practice in the management of many aspects of occupational health and safety. The majority of smash repair companies showed a commitment to occupational health and safety with a knowledge and awareness of their responsibilities."

The smash repairs report can be downloaded at http://www.workcover.act.gov.au/pdfs/Report_Smash_Repair_Industry.pdf

The audit into the retail industry's workers' compensation obligations is available at http://www.workcover.act.gov.au/pdfs/Report_Retail_WorkComp_Audit.pdf

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Farmers to Report Theft of Bomb Chemicals

July 4, 2005

Farmers, miners and chemical manufacturers will now have to report thefts of ammonium nitrate, under new regulations designed to stop the material being used by bomb makers.

The Minister for Police & Emergency Services, Tim Holding, said new anti-terrorism regulations required mandatory reporting of the theft, attempted theft, discrepancy or loss of the chemical.

“Ammonium nitrate has many useful applications for those in agriculture, mining, education and industry,” Mr Holding said. “But unfortunately, in the wrong hands, this chemical can cause damage on a massive scale.”

Ammonium nitrate, which is commonly used as fertiliser, was one of the components in the bomb used in the 1995 Oklahoma City explosion that claimed the lives of 168 people.

New regulations under the Terrorism (Community Protection) Act 2003 now mean that any loss of more than 25 kilograms of certain types of ammonium nitrate must be reported to Victoria Police and the Victorian WorkCover Authority. The regulations came into effect on July 1.

The types of ammonium nitrate covered under the regulations include ammonium nitrate, calcium ammonium nitrate, ammonium nitrate emulsions and ammonium nitrate mixtures containing more than 45 percent ammonium nitrate.

These chemicals include dangerous goods identified in the Australian Dangerous Goods Code by the numbers 1942, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 3375 and 3139.

Other chemicals or substances that can be commonly used in explosives are already subject to similar reporting requirements under the Dangerous Goods (Explosives) Regulations 2000.

Source: Victorian Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Tunnel builders pressured gov't to open road early

July 6 2005

The builders of Sydney's Cross City Tunnel pressured the NSW government to open the tunnel more than six months early, leading to safety concerns.

Documents obtained by The Sydney Morning Herald under The Freedom of Information Act show the builders - Baulderstone Hornibrook and Bilfinger Berger - pushed to have the tunnel opened on December 19 last year.

Emails between Roads and Traffic Authority officials reveal they were worried about the pressure and that the government knew a December opening would be impossible, the Herald said today.

The plan to open the tunnel early went awry after worker Ronnie Shores was killed when a boulder fell from the tunnel roof last July, forcing delays in construction. AAP

Explosion at fireworks giant could have been avoided

July 7 2005

A Sydney court's been told an explosion at Australia's largest fireworks company which blew a man's fingers off and left him in a coma could have been prevented.

Foti International Fireworks presents Sydney's New Year's Eve firework displays, and presented the Sydney 2000 Olympics opening and closing ceremonies.

But the family-owned company's been dogged by a series of workplace accidents.

In 2000, a man burned to death at the Sydney-based factory, and another suffered horrific burns to most of his body in 2003.

56-year-old Dusan Lovric, of Green Valley, suffered burns to 77 per cent of his body in June 2003 when a machine exploded in flames at the Leppington factory.

He lost all fingers except one thumb, and lay in a coma for six weeks.

A WorkCover report tendered to the court says the area where Mr Lovric was working should have been safer.

But State Coroner Carl Milovanovich says there's no evidence to determine the exact cause of the fire. AAP