



SAFETY AT WORK BULLETIN

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Former SAS Officer Says Terror Plans Inadequate

September 21 2005

Australia's terror response plans are not enough to deal with so-called "follow-on" bomb attacks, a Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) veteran warns.

Adam Lawrence, who served as a SAS officer in Afghanistan, said terrorists first detonated one bomb then a second or more perhaps 20 minutes later, catching crowds evacuating from buildings and arriving emergency workers.

"It's well-known that they have a tactic called a follow-on attack, or a come-on attack," he said on ABC Television.

"I've seen it personally in Afghanistan and know of similar attacks taking place in places like Pakistan, Chechnya, and those sorts of places where the prey, so to speak, is drawn into a trap."

In such an attack in an Australian city, there would be carnage with emergency services stretched and the mobile phone network immediately swamped as friends and relatives sought to contact loved ones.

Mr Lawrence said the best tactic for someone in such a situation would be to stay put.

"The safest thing to do would be remain indoors and, perhaps, if it was quite obvious that it was a bomb attack, to remain behind some significant cover - that might be the basement carpark," he said. "Those caught in the open would be best to seek some hard cover - in an underground carpark or something like behind a massive building."

Mr Lawrence said the problem was that evacuation was standard procedure in the event of a bomb attack with very few organisations offering an alternative plan.

Attorney-General Philip Ruddock said it was important to think about the range of scenarios that might occur in a terrorist attack. "My only concern about the way in which he portrays these matters is that it suggests that there is just one scenario in relation to the way in which somebody might undertake a terrorist event," he told ABC Radio. "And our view is that it's much wider than the one scenario that he paints."

Mr Ruddock said the Bali attack in 2002 involved one scenario but the Jakarta embassy attack last year was different as was the Jakarta Marriott Hotel attack in 2003.

He said there were no follow-on attacks at the Marriott or in the al-Qaeda attacks in Nairobi.

Mr Ruddock said he would not detail how Australian officials developed terrorist response scenarios which were practised intensively in exercises such Mercury 04 last year and

Mercury 05 next month.

"I'm not the expert in relation to these matters but what I can say is we do have a wide range of people who are involved in looking at these exercises and they include people who are involved in threat assessment," he said. "They include those who are working on the ground, the police, at a local level. It includes organisations like the Protector Security Coordination Centre as well as the Australian Federal Police. So what you're looking at is a wide range of experience in which people who have that expertise come together and look at what is most appropriate." AAP

More information from Adam Lawrence is available on Page 5

100 Evacuated Due To Ruptured Gas Pipe

September 19 2005

An excavator ruptured a natural gas pipe in Sydney's north, forcing the evacuation of more than 100 people and the closure of a major road.

Fire crews and HAZMAT were called to the corner of Cook Street and Warringah Road at Forestville shortly before 9am (AEST) today following reports of a gas leak adjacent to a Shell service station.

Warringah Road was closed to all traffic, and 100 people were evacuated from nearby homes, shops and a community centre, a NSW Fire Brigades spokesman said.

The gas pipe had been damaged by an excavator working across the road.

Workers for energy provider AGL plugged the main pipe and patched up the damage shortly before 10am (AEST), the spokesman said.

The gas that leaked had now dissipated, he said. "The area has been declared safe, Warringah Road is currently being reopened to all traffic and approximately 100 people evacuated will be allowed back into their premises in the next few minutes," he said. AAP

Commonwealth Games security plan outlined

September 20 2005

Black Hawk helicopters and fighter jets will patrol Melbourne's skies during the Commonwealth Games next March, as part of counter-terror measures outlined today.

Security chiefs say they are well prepared for the 2006 games, and are largely ignoring a

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recent al-Qaeda threat to Melbourne as "little more than rhetoric".

Federal Attorney-General Philip Ruddock, Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon and Victorian Commonwealth Games Minister Justin Madden met games officials this morning to discuss the security plan.

Ms Nixon later told reporters that games patrons should expect to be searched, and cars in the city would be subjected to spot checks. "At major venues that are within the CBD there will be checking - checking of vehicles, a whole set of those procedures," she said.

Mr Ruddock said Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel would use the months leading up to the games to train in Melbourne and become familiar with the city.

Residents could expect to see military aircraft overhead in the lead-up to, and during, the games, he told reporters.

"We are planning to deploy to Melbourne, for the period of the games, a number of resources. There will be an ADF tactical assault group with appropriate support including Black Hawk helicopters," Mr Ruddock said.

"There will be a range of chemical, biological and radiological response assets. "There'll be a task force of about 1,200 personnel, service personnel, to assist Victoria Police with searching venues, operating vehicle checkpoints, responding to bomb threats, if any, and clearing any underwater aspects of venues and events. Helicopters, fast jets and ships will be available to counter specific threats, should they arise, including the capability to divert aircraft and intercept vessels at sea."

The first of the ADF's familiarisation exercises would take place next month during a national counter-terror exercise, Mercury '05, he said.

Ms Nixon said all Victorian police would be on duty for the games. "We've cancelled leave and we've cancelled training," she said. "During the time of the games, the 13,000 members of Victoria Police will be available for security and to ensure that we can police the state of Victoria in the way that it is used to. It is a medium level of security and this is the first time in Australia a major event will be held at that level."

Ms Nixon said Melbournians should feel "assured", and she said that she was confident of being a capable games' security chief.

Mr Ruddock defended Ms Nixon's role with the games. He said that under national counter-terror strategies, any chief commissioner would be in charge of security in their jurisdiction. AAP

Plumbing and Drainage Company Fined For Unsafe Excavation

September 20, 2005

A Bunbury plumbing company has been fined \$15,000 for failing to provide a safe workplace after a trench collapse seriously injured a worker.

Vandaro Nominees Pty Ltd – trading as Correct Line Drainage and Plumbing – pleaded guilty and was convicted in the Magistrate's Court of WA Bunbury last week of failing to provide and maintain a safe workplace for employees.

In September 2003, company employees were working in a trench as part of in-fill sewerage work close to the Collie River in Eaton, a suburb of Bunbury.

The trench was around 6.5 metres deep, and shoring boxes had been used to support the walls of the trench. The shoring boxes extended from two metres below the surface to around two metres above the floor of the trench.

At least one employee expressed concern that the shoring boxes were too high above the floor of the trench and that the trench walls were too vertical so that there was a danger of the unsupported lower walls of the trench collapsing.

Part of the trench wall subsequently collapsed while two employees were working in the trench. One of the employees was hit by falling soil and suffered a fractured collarbone, shoulder and ribs, for which he is still undergoing rehabilitation.

WorkSafe WA Commissioner Nina Lyhne said today that the case was a reminder of the importance of implementing and enforcing safe systems of work, especially in the hazardous area of excavation work.

"The employer in this case had not ensured sufficient safe systems of work were in place, and an employee has suffered serious injuries as a consequence," Ms Lyhne said.

"WA has had a code of practice for excavation work for several years, and this code has been updated and is in the process of being printed at the moment.

"Advances in technology over recent years have led to changes in the laws relating to excavation work, and the updated code of practice reflects these changes."

The Commission for Occupational Safety and Health's Code of Practice on Excavation applies to all workplaces in WA where excavation occurs and to all workers who may be exposed to hazards resulting from excavation in those workplaces.

It provides practical guidance to prevent injury and disease in all workplaces where excavation and associated earthworks are performed.

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Discussion Papers

WorkSafe WA is asking for comments on a draft discussion paper that has just been released.

Violence, Aggression and Bullying: a Draft Code of Practice for Prevention and Management. <http://www.safetyline.wa.gov.au/pagebin/wswanews0072.htm>

Adobe Acrobat V7 Information

Some readers have expressed difficulty in upgrading to the latest version of Acrobat Reader with one of the problems being that the download can be over 25 megabytes - a substantial burden to dial-up internet connections.

Safety At Work publishers are now allowed to distribute the latest edition of Acrobat Reader on a CD. If you want a copy of Acrobat Reader 7.03 please email me at jonesk@sia.org.au and include your full postal address. A CD will be mailed to you shortly after.

The CD won't be pretty as it is a burnt copy of the software that Adobe permits us to distribute. It is not allowed to be given to anyone other than the person requesting the CD and all CDs will be checked with Norton Antivirus before distribution.



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Alcan Gove To Plead Guilty Over Worker Death

September 21 2005

Alcan Gove will plead guilty to a criminal charge after a worker was crushed to death at its refinery in the Northern Territory, a court was told today.

Alcan Gove - part of Canadian aluminium giant Alcan - is one of two companies that today said they would plead guilty in Darwin Magistrates Court to a charge of failure to do an act.

The other company is Alcan's contractor United KG Pty Ltd.

United KG worker Denis Boyd, 47, died after he was crushed by machinery during maintenance work at Alcan's Gove refinery, in north-east Arnhem Land, in August last year.

Prosecutor Tom Anderson, from the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines, said a charge against a third related company, United KG Maintenance Pty Ltd, would be withdrawn following the guilty pleas.

A United KG supervisor, William Rodney Francis, faces a similar charge - the first time such a charge has been laid against an individual person.

His case was adjourned until November for further mention.

The charges allege Alcan failed to meet its obligation to operate and maintain the refinery site to minimise risk to the health and safety of workers.

They also allege United KG and Francis failed to comply with the health and safety management system for the site.

The charge carries a maximum fine of up to \$550,000 for a company, with a maximum penalty of up to \$110,000 for an individual. The matter will be heard in February.

AAP

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Excavation work may range from shallow trenching and simple foundation excavation to large and complex excavations for buildings and structures and deep sewers where the risk of serious injury is very significant.

Production of the code is in its final stages, and it should be available next month.

Ms Lyhne said this week's court case served to illustrate that every employer has a responsibility to provide and maintain a safe workplace for everyone in that workplace.

"This company did not have adequate safe work procedures in place, and has suffered the consequences of having to pay a substantial penalty for breaching WA's occupational safety and health laws," she said.

"I strongly urge all employers engaged in excavation work to get a copy of the new code of practice when it becomes available.

"I also urge all employers - big or small - 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: DOCEP

Fine Leads To Reminder on Training and Safe Use Of Overhead Cranes

September 21, 2005

A Welshpool engineering company has been fined \$25,000 for failing to provide and maintain a safe working environment for its employees after a worker sustained serious hand and foot injuries.

J V Engineering (WA) Pty Ltd was convicted in the Magistrate's Court of WA Perth this week of failing to provide a safe workplace, and by that failure, causing serious harm to an employee.

In April 2004, an employee at J V Engineering was instructed to move a large asymmetrical tank with a lid, but was given no instructions on how to move the tank or what attachment points to use, and was not told the tank had a lid.

The employee moved the tank using a two-leg chain assembly and an overhead crane, as he had seen this method used by his supervisor to move the tank earlier the same day.

While the employee was moving the tank and it was suspended from the crane, the tank tipped to one side and the 300kg lid slipped off and fell onto the employee's left hand and left foot.

As a result of the incident, the employee suffered partial amputation of his left foot and injuries to his left middle finger. His injuries are likely to be long-term, with

inability to properly use his left foot, left middle finger and back.

WorkSafe WA Commissioner Nina Lyhne said today that the case was a reminder of the importance of implementing and enforcing safe systems of work and providing adequate training to employees.

"The employer in this case instructed the employee to undertake a task for which he had no qualifications or training," Ms Lyhne said.

"He was not a qualified rigger or dogman, and had not been trained to select the appropriate equipment, technique and points by which to lift and move the tanks manufactured at the workshop.

"Other employees at the workplace were qualified to do the job, yet the employer instructed a person who was employed as a welder to do a job that should have been assigned to a qualified and trained person.

"Working with overhead cranes can be hazardous, and is a specialised area requiring tasks to be undertaken in the correct manner and within the bounds of established safe work practices.

"The incident had the potential to be a lot worse - if the 300kg tank lid had landed on the man's head, he could easily have been killed.

"This workplace did not have adequate training or safe work procedures in place, and has suffered the consequences in a number of ways.

"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: DOCEP

Workplace bullying on the rise: study

September 22 2005

Bullying in the workplace is on the rise in Victoria, despite widespread policies to prevent it, new research shows.

Fifteen per cent of Victoria's workforce was subjected to some form of bullying last year, up from 14 per cent the previous year, a survey by WorkSafe has found.

Victorian WorkCover Minister John Lenders said the government would step up its fight against bullies by funding anti-bullying public forums across the state, in response to the figures.

"The personal and financial cost of bullying to the community is enormous and growing," Mr Lenders said.

"Since July 2000, when it first became possible to make a WorkCover claim for harassment, the number of claims have steadily increased.

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"The cost of these claims indicate the full extent of bullying on employees health, the average cost for a stress claim is \$41,186 compared to \$23,441 for a physical injury claim," he said.

He said most workplaces had anti-bullying policies.

The public forums will begin in Wangaratta next week and will also be held in Shepparton, Geelong, Warrnambool, Bendigo, Ballarat, Horsham, Warracknabeal, Traralgon, Swan Hill and Melbourne.

The aim of the forums is to provide information on how to introduce anti-workplace bullying policies and on what to do if bullying occurs.

The forums will rely on the research found in a WorkSafe survey of 1,000 companies in April and May last year.

The survey found community services and health employees were most likely to report bullying, while apprentices and casuals were most likely to be the targets of bullies.

ADVERTISEMENT

Customised Safety Publications

Recently the publishers of **Safety At Work** magazine completed the production of a guide on manual handling for one of the fire services in Australia.

Manual handling is the major hazard for firefighters and the Brigade needed a plain English guide for the firefighters to read, follow and understand.

The guide is over 30 pages and includes



photographs of hazards and control measures of the firefighters during their daily tasks.

The control suggestions are in line with current Australia manual handling regulations and have been verified by a qualified Ergonomist.

At the launch of the guide, a WorkSafe representative said the guide was

"fantastic, nicely presented...it makes people think through the process".

The guide was written by an OHS Safety Practitioner in detailed consultation with Fire Brigade representatives.

If your company or industry could use a guide that includes photos of real tasks in your workplace with text and a format that your employees will understand, contact Kevin Jones of Workplace Safety Services P/L through

www.safetyatwork.biz or directly at jonesk@safetyatwork.biz

Hospitality workers were more likely to have bullying continue than have it stopped or resolved and, with retail employees, were less likely to seek help about bullying.

AAP

Serious neck injury leads to employer conviction

22 September 2005

JDA Homes was today convicted and fined \$8000 by the Melbourne Magistrates' Court, after the serious neck injury of employee Rhys Knightley.

Jason Ashcroft, the proprietor of JDA Homes, pleaded guilty to three offences under the Health and Safety Act 1985 and one offence under the Occupational Health and Safety (Incident Notification) Regulations 1997.*

Mr Knightley's neck was broken in two places after he was struck on the head by an Oregon timber beam on 23 June 2004. Mr Knightley was working as an apprentice carpenter for Mr Ashcroft at a domestic construction site in North Balwyn when the incident occurred.

WorkSafe's Construction Industry Program Director, Geoff Thomas, said that the decision reflected the importance of workplace safety to the Victorian community.

"This incident highlights the need to provide adequate supervision of staff, and safe systems of work," said Mr Thomas.

"Once someone has been killed or injured, it's too late, the damage is done. Prevention is better than cure."

Advice on improving workplace health and safety is available by calling WorkSafe's Advisory Service on 1800 136 089 or at www.worksafe.vic.gov.au.

Source: WorkSafe Victoria

Fishing Vessels Should Establish Crew Fatigue Guidelines

September 21 2005

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau has called for improved crew fatigue management guidelines after establishing that failure to keep a proper lookout was the cause, yet again, of a collision between two vessels.

The bureau was delivering its report into a collision between a trading ship and a commercial fishing vessel off the West Australian coast in April this year.

It found failure to keep a proper lookout was the major cause of the collision 17 nautical miles west of Cape Bouvard between the Greek registered bulk carrier Spartia and the WA cray fishing vessel Hannah Lee.

The bureau said it had investigated 23 collisions between ships and fishing vessels since 1990 and failure to keep a proper lookout was a factor in every one.

Spartia's crew detected the fishing vessel about 20 minutes prior to the collision, using the ship's radars, the report found. It said Hannah Lee's skipper was preoccupied with keeping his vessel on course and had failed to see Spartia in the time leading up to the collision.

The bureau's report concluded that the lookout being kept by the skipper of Hannah Lee in the period leading up to the collision was manifestly inadequate. It said that the skipper's "judgment, actions and situational awareness ... were affected by fatigue".

"This was probably as a result of his work routine and other activities he had undertaken in the week prior to the collision," the bureau said in a statement.

"The report recommends that state and territory marine authorities consider reviewing current work practices on fishing vessels, with a view establishing crew fatigue management guidelines."

AAP



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Former SAS Officer's Tips for Terror Planning

Adam Lawrence is a former SAS officer and terrorism analyst with background in counter-terrorism response and operational service against al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. He spoke to the Victorian Division of the Safety Institute of Australia at a special seminar in August. Since then he has been interviewed by the ABC's LATELINE program on September 20 2005. Below is an edited transcript of his SIA presentation.

I want to draw your attention to the Australian context and for us, the turning point and loss of innocence were the Bali bombings.

Bali generated some important Australian Government lessons.

- All players should be predefined.
- Establish a formal chain of command to make sure that the information is managed so that effective communication can take place.
- Delineation of jurisdictions is predefined. Here in Melbourne, the municipal emergency response plans link at a State level with certain agencies and then, if the event reaches a certain level of magnitude, they can ask for the assistance of the Commonwealth to coordinate additional resources from other States.
- Victims' families need one point of contact. I have been involved with the notification of next-of-kin for injuries and fatalities and if the framework allows from multiple contact points, the grieving families face additional frustrations and upset.
- Detailed and regular briefings to the media. This provides you the opportunity to control the agenda and also to communicate with your own workforce and the families of those affected. It is also important that you have a regular review of response outcomes – regular, periodic, situational updates so that everyone involved in the process has an opportunity to enhance their own situational awareness of what's going on. Potentially this update could be hourly or 6-hourly.

All of this boils down to having a plan in the first place. Any existing plans needed to be dusted off after the Bali bombings.

Al-Qaeda has three tenets in its strategic targeting intent:

1. To cause mass casualties
2. To discredit and its instruments
3. To cause gross economic harm.

It is important to note that infrastructure damage is not usually a principle aim of Al-Qaeda's targeting doctrine.

The 3 points above are driving their agenda and the important issue here is that harming people is their number one priority.

Another point to make in business and managing response and having appropriate redundancies and workarounds, in the event that something serious occurs here in Victoria, especially in Melbourne, is that the risk of incidental harm is increased for those offices near popular public areas.

There are a couple of common preparedness gaps that we often see in our clients' contingency plans.

- Unspecified or vague roles and responsibilities.
- A lack of an alternate venue, or that the alternate venues are only one block away.
- Limited strategic executive oversight. They are often limited only to site procedures or business unit functions. So there are evacuation practices and fire drills while the people in the boardroom are busy working on other priorities, as they see it.
- Callout communications systems and procedures are rarely tested. You might have a list in a plan of mobile phone numbers but it doesn't specify home telephone numbers. We are all accustomed to using mobile telephones but if something serious goes wrong in the city, the mobile phone network will not work.
- Unrehearsed plans. It's no use scripting the play, putting the cast together and then going straight to the opening night without a rehearsal. Some of our clients have plans that if they had been rehearsed only once, the plans would have been seen as impractical.
- Lack of awareness of government resources and terrorist response plans. Your assembly points in your evacuation plans may conflict with the plans of the government's emergency services.
- No emphasis on clear communication with the workforce. I am sure you have all been in a workplace where there has been a rumour or an issue rose in a meeting and you have thought "wouldn't it have been nice to have heard that through the normal communication channels".

Despite what most people who study terrorism think, like me, it is a matter of when not if, there is a lot that can be done to reduce the vulnerability of your people.

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