



ETU OHS NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2005

MAIN STORY— LOCK OUT AND TAGGING OF PLANT

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Plant is the general name for equipment, machinery, appliances, tools and implements.

It can include things as diverse as a press in a factory or a computer in an office and it can range from electric drills to lifts and escalators. Every year people are injured at work, sometimes fatally, when plant is inadvertently activated or stored energy is released during inspection, repair, maintenance or cleaning activities. These injuries can be prevented by introducing and following effective isolation procedures. The effectiveness of isolation procedures relies on having the isolation procedure documented and accessible to all relevant people in the work place, the provision of information, instruction and training of workers involved with plant and appointing a person who through supervision

ensures isolation procedures are rigorously applied.

Isolation procedures in each workplace may vary in detail because of differences in plant, power sources, hazards and process. Isolation procedures should include the following basic steps.

1. Shut the plant down
2. identify all energy sources
3. identify all isolation points.
4. isolate all energy sources.
5. de-energise all stored energies.
6. Locking out all isolation points.
7. Tag plant controls, energy sources.
8. Test by "trying" to reactivate the plant, without exposing the

tester or others to risk. This ensures that the isolation procedures are effective and all stored energies have been dissipated.

All energy sources likely to reactivate the plant, and place people doing the work at risk should be identified. The energy sources include:

- Electricity
- Fuels
- Heat
- Steam
- Fluids under pressure
- Stored energy
- Gravity
- Radiation

For further information look at www.worksafe.vic.gov.au

OHS Reps Meetings 2005 10am—12pm

- 25th August—Melbourne
- 22nd September—Shepparton Trades Hall
- 27th October—Melbourne
- 17th November—Geelong ETU Office
- 8th December—Melbourne

PORTLAND OH&S REPS REGIONAL MEETING

In July ETU OH&S Reps from around the Portland district met at the Trades Hall to discuss OH&S issues in their work places.

The ETU's OH&S reps Support Officer Danny Timmers and Tim Stephenson Chaired the meeting along with 9 Reps from around the region in attendance.

Some of the topics were

related to testing and tagging in manufacturing and compliance issues. Discussion also around the changes to the OH&S Act and the impact on their workplaces were also highlighted. The members identified the need to meet on a regular basis to share information. A meeting will be planned for early 2006 at the Portland Trades Hall. Next regional meeting Shepparton 22nd September 10-12 at



Shepparton trades hall.

The picture above is of the Portland OH&S Reps after the meeting.

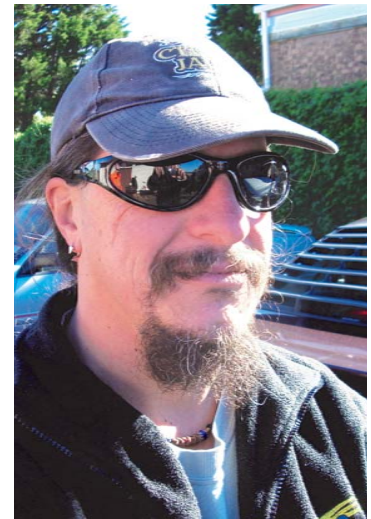
OHS PERSON IN FOCUS— BRAD GUY

I was asked to be the OH&S rep about 6 years ago and was not sure what it was all about, I took it on anyway and did the 5 day OH&S course in Melbourne and started to learn more about the role.

I see the OH&S role an important one especially in the electrical field it is so easy for a small mistake to be a fatal one. I believe that communication is an important factor in so many aspects of industry, if not every day life, and the success or failure of OH&S relies heavily on

good communication. Sometimes the outcome of unsafe acts are devastating and as a former member of the SES and an active member of the Emergency Response team on site brings home the reality of what can happen when things go wrong. Portland is relatively remote from larger cities for this reason I travel to Melbourne every two months to attend the ETU OH&S meetings and liaise with other Reps and officials

from the Union. I am now undertaking the Cert IV in OH&S to improve the way that I do my role and to hopefully better represent my members. Since becoming a rep I have noticed a change in my behaviour at home as well as work where safety “automatically” kicks in and passing this on to my family .My son has just started work and I hope some of my OH&S values rubs off on him at his work.



BRAD GUY—OHS Rep

STUDENTS UNDERTAKING WORK EXPERIENCE

The Electricity Safety Act and the Electricity Safety (Installations) Regulations indicate that all electrical installation work (installation, alteration, repair or maintenance) on fixed electrical installations must be carried out only by registered electrical contractors and licence holders. based on the current legislative and regulatory environment, a student undertaking work experience could be involved in the following electrical work under the direct supervision of a

licensed electrician: A work experience student under a contract of training could be trained to carry out electrical work in a training environment in a workshop owned by a registered electrical contractor where the wiring cannot be regarded as permanent. If a licensed electrician believes a work experience student possess the proficiency to carry out work on the installation of conduits,

wiring supports, cable trays or wiring enclosures and has been trained in the appropriate safety aspects and limitations to that work, then the work experience student could carry out that type of work on site. The work experience student could assist carrying out electrical work on suitable electrical equipment that is easily transportable where the electricity supply has been clearly disconnected

from electricity supply by the removal of a plug from a socket. The work experience student could work on any electrical installation or equipment in the process of manufacture at a place other than the place where it is to be fixed. In employing work experience students to carry out the type of electrical work as described above the Occupational Health and Safety legislation in Victoria would also apply. For further information contact the OCEI.

EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVE COMPETENCIES

.The *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* requires that, if an employer nominates someone to represent them in relation to the resolution of OHS issues, that person must have an appropriate level of seniority and be sufficiently competent. The employer must also ensure that the employer representative is not an elected health and safety representative or deputy health

and safety representative. It is not mandatory for employers to appoint a representative. In many cases, employers may be directly involved in the resolution of health and safety issues. It is a requirement that employer representatives have “an appropriate level

of seniority” and be “sufficiently competent”. The employer representative should have the necessary authority to resolve any OHS issue on behalf of the employer. This should be reflected in the employer representative’s position in the organisational hierarchy and position description. Ways in which employer

representatives can attain these competencies include OHS training, general management training, work experience and mentoring programs. WorkSafe is assisting training providers who wish to offer training programs for employer representatives by providing them with recommended learning outcomes for training courses.