



ETU OHS REPS NEWSLETTER

NOTES

- AS/NZS 3000: 2007 has been released. Copies of 3000 are available from the ETU office at a cost of \$110 for paperback and \$125 for hardcopy.
- For those in the construction industry, if HSRs aren't aware, the ETU developed the Electrical Safety for Construction Handbook 2007, which was published in June of this year.
- In the next edition of the ETU OHS REPS NEWSLETTER will be an article relating to boots specifically designed for electrical workers.



- With Christmas Shutdowns occurring, where any incidents occur, the ETU still want to know what's happening, so make sure that an ETU Incident Notification Form is completed and sent into the ETU Office fax no 83290066.

Underground Utilities Dial before you dig

Serious incidents have occurred when underground assets were not identified prior to the excavation commencing. If the excavation activity has not included an assessment for underground assets then work should not proceed until a "Dial Before You Dig" assessment has occurred.

"Dial Before You Dig" is a free Australian wide service association between most of Australia's communication, gas, water and electricity providers. If you are planning excavation works, you need to ensure that the work won't damage any underground services.

As seen from the many incidents that have occurred over the years, damage to underground services can lead to serious injury and even death.

Tough laws and penalties are in place to prevent damage to pipes and cables.

Anyone who is intending to begin digging work should dial 1100 or lodge their application online at www.dialbeforeyoudig.com.au , at least two working days prior to commencing any work that may

be located near underground services.

To request "Dial Before You Dig" brochures, stickers or other items please contact Mark Binks on 03 9466 9633 or vic-tas@dialbeforeyoudig.com.au

Employers must:

- Ensure that all site drawings are up to date showing all underground services and provide them prior to any excavation work.
- Ensure that the route of all underground services are clearly marked on the ground and warning signs erected prior to any excavation work.
- Ensure that all employees and contractors working on the site of the location of any underground services are tool boxed prior to any excavation work.

SAFE USE OF LASERS

Laser technology is increasingly being used in workplaces, i.e., industrial lasers for cutting and welding, instrumentation, security systems, optical fibre, survey and alignment equipment.

Laser beams may cause biological damage to eyes or skin. The risk of eye injury from laser light and heat is particularly of concern as eyes focus and intensify light entering them. Repeated exposure to relatively low powered lasers, or from a single exposure to medium powered lasers may cause long term damage to sight and / or skin damage. Exposure to high level lasers may cause de-pigmentation, severe burns and possible damage to internal organs.

Lasers are rated by hazard classification, according to their ability to injure people. Class (1) lasers are not hazardous. Class (2) lasers are not normally hazardous as sufficient protection is given by normal aversion responses – the eye’s automatic reflex to look away from bright or sudden light exposure. Class (3) lasers are hazardous where eyes are exposed to direct laser beams or laser light from reflective surfaces. Even diffused reflections of Class (4) lasers are hazardous to the eyes, and the direct beam is a fire hazard and a serious skin hazard.

All lasers can be hazardous if appropriate controls and safe systems of work are not established.

Employers must ensure that lasers or laser products are not operated at a workplace unless they are classified and labelled in accordance with AS 2211. Class (3B) or Class (4) lasers or laser products must not be used in conjunction with construction work. All lasers or laser products used in conjunction with construction work must meet the requirements of AS 2397.

Lasers should only be used in a controlled environment, with special emphasis given to controlling the path of the laser beam. Only authorised trained personnel should operate lasers and spectators must not be allowed to enter controlled areas unless appropriate supervision and protective measures are applied.



2008 Calendar

EEIT OHS MEETING DATES

10AM –12PM

Melbourne –

Held at old ETU Office

Swanston St Carlton South

27th February

30th April

25th June

27th August

29th October

OHS REP TRAINING

Contact Tanya—0393269377 to book into the courses below.

Initial 5 Day OHS REPS Course

February 12, 13, 18, 19 and 20

June 11, 12, 16, 17 and 18

October 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22

1 Day Refresher OHS Rep Course

Melbourne

23rd April

16th July

12th November

Country

Geelong—19th March

Morwell—28th May

Portland—30th July

Shepparton—24th September

Mildura—26th November