



ETU OHS NEWSLETTER

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MAIN STORY—WORK DEAD OR BE DEAD

An electrical worker's life changed forever on Wednesday 19th October. No he didn't win lotto or anything fantastic as such, he worked on a live switchboard and paid the awful price.

He didn't die, but as has happened on many an occasion previously, the injury and the pain associated with recovery often lead people to that one thought, maybe it would have been better if they had of.

Electrical workers are not immune to the ravages of electrical current on their bodies. The damage from current flow and heat to the human body is often not considered when workers take that chance that nothing will happen. That they are safe.

Electrical safety management is a key concern but is little practiced within our industries. We are often well versed in OHS and how it is to be implemented into the workplace, but many workers consider that an electrical shock is not considered an injury at all.

Electrical shocks are injuries and should be treated as such. It is an unwanted and unnecessary invasion on a person. The longer the time and the more intense the current flow, the more damage that occurs to the human body.

The Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector (OCEI) has issued an Alert on the 20 October 2004 titled " The dangers of working on live electrical equipment. Disconnect the electricity supply before commencing work " .

The ETU has previously put out an Alert and Policy in regards to this issue. We must consider safety prior to performing work.

It is incumbent on all of us to put our safety , and that of our fellow work mates first.

For a copy of the OCEI Alert, go to the ETU web site and look under OHS Issues.



The aftermath of not turning off the power to do the job. Damage to worker and equipment is substantial.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Next OHS Reps meeting 15th December

WORK SAFE WEEK 2004 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES TRAINING DAY

The health and safety representatives 1 day training day was held at Mooney Valley Racecourse on the 27th October.

The day was a great forum for all HSR to meet and hear from guest speakers, over 1500 reps attended the day. Well above the expected 1200.

The stalls had informative displays with plenty of information to assist Reps on the job.

Speakers, forums and networking all provided an opportunity to discuss the latest developments in OHS, as we prepare for the implementation of the Maxwell report.

The training day discussed why HSR contribute to a safer and healthier work place.

In all a fantastic opportunity for all attendees to network with other reps, enhance their

knowledge, and support each other.

Don't miss out next year!

Danny

OHS PERSON IN FOCUS

DANNY TIMMERS

Hi all,

My name is Danny Timmers, I have accepted a 12 month stint working for the ETU as the OHS Rep Support Officer. This project has been principally funded by Work Safe Victoria.

In the next 12 months I will be endeavouring to assist the OHS reps in the workplace and set up systems to improve networking and communication between our OHS Reps.

I will also be visiting workplaces to see if they have elected OHS reps and if not, to provide assistance to workers to have OHS reps elected.

Some of the things we will be doing in the new year include the co ordination of rural meetings for our OHS reps throughout country Victoria, and also developing a monthly newsletter for ETU OHS reps.

Allan Mulvena and myself will be looking for you to have some input into the newsletter, any stories can be forwarded on for publication.

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Photo Danny Timmers

DOCUMENT IN REVIEW—NEW ETU OHS MANUAL

The ETU Safety Committee have been hard at work over the past year putting together the new manual.

There have been plenty of drafts and input from many people to get the document into shape.

This version will have a compilation of all of the OHS Alerts and Policies at the back of the book.

New sections in the manual include:

- Locking out and tagging out of plant
- Energisation procedures for electrical equipment and construction wiring
- Glass and rock wool
- Silica
- Wood dust
- Working at height

The manual hopefully will be ratified this month and will

be published and available from late December or early in the new year.

Watch the space on **Special Points of Interest** (Page 1) to find out availability of the manual at the ETU Offices.



Some of the members of the Safety Committee at a recent meeting.

OHS HAZARD – SKIN CANCER

How do you know if you are at risk?

Several factors contribute to an increased risk of developing skin cancer. These include:

Exposure during child hood; outdoor activities for example, a job where you work outside; being outdoors when solar UV radiation is more intense, between the hours of 10.00am

and 2.00pm; having a fair complexion, blue eyes and freckles.

People who have already had a skin cancer or Keratoses also have an increased risk of developing skin cancer.

Solutions.

Clothing, a hat and a long sleeve shirt with a collar.

Sunscreens, with an SPF factor above 15+.

Lip protection, with an SPF rating the same as sunscreen.

Eye protection, use sunglasses that meet Australian standards AS 1067.1.