

Finalists

Queensland Safe Work Awards 2011

Wednesday 26 October 2011

*Great Hall, Brisbane Convention
& Exhibition Centre*



Queensland
Government





Queensland Safe Work Awards 2011

This year's Queensland Safe Work Awards have been a great success, with a record 116 entries from businesses and individuals across the state.

Workplace health and safety is important to me as my father lost his life as a result of injuries from a workplace incident. I applaud this year's entrants for sharing their safety solutions through the Awards.

Thank you for joining me in celebrating the 2011 Safe Work Awards finalists. They share my passion for safety and are playing a vital role in making Queensland workplaces healthier and safer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mal Meninga', written in a cursive style.

Mal Meninga
Safety Ambassador

Category 1

Best workplace health and safety management system

This award recognises demonstrated commitment to a continuous improvement of workplace health and safety through the implementation of an integrated systems approach.

CS Energy Ltd

CS Energy is a Queensland Government energy provider that owns and manages power stations that supply Queensland with electricity.

In 2010, CS Energy reviewed its health and safety management system as the company's lost time injury frequency rate reached a level well above industry best practice.

A taskforce was established and played a key role in revising the health and safety policy and manual as well as developing:

- six non-negotiable health and safety rules known as 'Life Savers'
- principles and procedures for investigating health and safety incidents
- a five year health and safety strategic plan including key performance indicators
- a range of employee safety resources including a health and safety pocket guide.

As a result, lost time injury frequency rates have reduced over the past 12 months from seven to two. CS Energy has also improved its risk identification and mitigation systems, established a strong safety culture and strengthened its reputation in the community.



A CS Energy staff member using the pocket guide

ENERGEX Ltd

ENERGEX is a major distributor of energy to South East Queensland, employing more than 3500 employees and distributing electricity to approximately 2.8 million people.

During the January 2011 floods across South East Queensland, ENERGEX's safety management system and plans to manage severe weather events ensured:

- there were no electrical safety incidents involving ENERGEX staff, contractors or the public
- all staff and contractors were briefed on the weather conditions and risks before they commenced their shifts
- informative community forums were held to keep the community updated and assured
- field crews provided on-the-ground safety information to locals through door-to-door visits.

During the flood crisis ENERGEX safely restored power to around 60 000 homes and replaced almost 100 km of overhead lines.



ENERGEX flood response team at work during the 2011 South East Queensland floods

WorkPac Group

WorkPac Group is a labour hire service provider managing a workforce of more than 6000 employees across all industries including mining, construction and engineering.

WorkPac developed a custom built safety system 'MaxSafe' to ensure its workforce maintains the highest level of safety without the need for strict supervision or system controls. MaxSafe is supported by a national team of OHS risk managers and injury management coordinators.

MaxSafe conducts:

- background checks on candidates, including tickets, licences and safety performance reports from previous employers
- risk assessments of proposed work sites
- pre-employment medical screenings and assessments
- safety inductions, training programs and online reporting systems with 24 hour client access.

MaxSafe has seen WorkPac achieve lost time injury free operations for seven years, a reduction in worker compensation premiums of more than 20 per cent and an ingrained zero harm safety culture across its workforce.



*WorkPac's General Manager, Risk, Cameron Hockaday,
and Queensland Regional Risk Manager, Mark Knowles*

Category 2

Best solution to an identified workplace health and safety issue

This award recognises excellence in developing and implementing a solution to an identified workplace health and safety issue.

Cement Australia Pty Ltd

Cement Australia employs more than 300 tanker drivers to deliver a range of products and services from bulk cement to alternative fuels and waste management.

Cement Australia's 'SAFER on the GROUND' initiative implemented solutions to ensure drivers could conduct pre-start checks with their feet firmly on the ground to prevent slips and falls.

Solution 1:

Clear glass was installed on coolant header tanks to allow drivers to check coolant levels at ground level instead of from the top of the vehicle or from the vehicle's tyres.

Solution 2:

Different sized dry-break fluid couplings were connected to the radiator and engine through hoses that could be serviced using a trolley. This top up procedure previously required drivers to climb onto vehicle tyres while holding containers of coolant and oil.

Solution 3:

The vehicle's toolbox was relocated to the side of the vehicle, eliminating the need for drivers to climb onto a platform behind the cab to access the toolbox.

Solution 4:

Non-slip insert and hand-grabs were added to each vehicle to provide extra grip and safer access for drivers.

Cement Australia has had no injuries related to the activities addressed by the 'SAFER on the GROUND' program since its inception.



Service trolley for topping up oil and coolant

Kagan Logistics Pty Ltd

Kagan Logistics provides specialist third party logistics, warehousing, distribution and supply chain services.

One of Kagan's contracts involved receiving large container loads of 50 kg bags of soybean meal. These loads presented a manual task risk to workers — if pallets were not adequately wrapped, bags could fall off the pallet, requiring staff to manually lift and carry them.

To eliminate this risk, Kagan requested the product be supplied in 850 kg bulk bags allowing workers to use a forklift and jib to remove and transport loads from the container.

This solution ensures:

- improved product quality as a result of decreased damage
- a reduction in costs and an increase in productivity as it takes less time to unpack the product
- manual task risks are eliminated not only for Kagan workers but also for the rest of the supply chain, including the importer, manufacturer, transporters, logistics companies and end users.



Original packaging method



Improved bulk packaging method

Russell Mineral Equipment Pty Ltd

Russell Mineral Equipment (RME) is a technology manufacturing company that identifies issues in the mining and mineral processing industries and manufactures mechanical, electronic, hydraulic and pneumatic systems to solve these problems.

RME designed and implemented the 'self dumping steel waste pallet', eliminating the need to manually collect and dispose of steel off-cuts. This task was labour intensive and carried a high risk of finger crush injuries.

Once loaded, the self dumping steel waste pallet is transported using forklift tines positioned under the pallet. The forklift operator places the front feet of the bin inside the edge of the steel scrap recycling bin then drives backwards until the tines clear the pivot point. The tines are then raised to allow the bin to tip forward and empty its contents.

Since implementing the self dumping steel waste pallet, no scrap metal disposal related injuries have occurred.



The self dumping steel waste pallet

The Australian Reinforcing Company

The Australian Reinforcing Company (ARC) processes and distributes reinforcing steel to the construction industry.

ARC developed three safety solutions to manage risks associated with working at heights.

Solution 1:

Multi-height platforms and barriers to allow safe access to the top of trucks of any height during loading and unloading.

Solution 2:

A transi-flat and mobicon system allowing loads to be assembled at ground height. Material is loaded onto the transi-flat (container base) at ground level and the mobicon machine straddles the transi-flat and manoeuvres it onto trucks.

Solution 3:

Transi-barriers to fit the side of transi-flats providing load containment and enabling semi trailer side loaders to safely unload transi-flats. The semi trailer side loader accesses corner lifting points of the transi-barrier and the entire unit is lifted off the semi trailer and placed on the ground.



Mobicon machine transporting transi-flat

Category 3

Best workplace health and safety practices in small business

This award recognises high standard workplace health and safety practices in small business.

River Logic Pty Ltd

After several cuts to the hands and fingers while working as a nurse, Glen Riverstone, Manager of River Logic, invented the SnapIT safety device for opening glass ampoules containing injectable medications.

Over 10 million ampoules are opened each year in Australian hospitals and this task is the most frequently reported cause of sharps injuries.¹ SnapIT eliminates the need to handle glass ampoules during the opening process, taking the place of the user's hand when snapping off a glass ampoule lid.

SnapIT is placed over the ampoule and levers off the glass lid, which remains securely retained until ejected by the user using a spring forced plunger.

SnapIT is now used in health facilities around the world. SnapIT prevents cuts, medicine wastage, stress on the wrist and risks of blood born infection and contamination.



Using SnapIT

1. 'Needlestick and sharps injuries among nursing students', Journal of Advanced Nursing

Category 4

Best individual contribution to workplace health and safety

This award recognises individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to workplace health and safety.

Joanne Crotty, Danger Sun Overhead

Joanne Crotty's husband Rohan, a carpenter, died from melanoma skin cancer aged 43, leaving Joanne a widow with four young boys.

Recognising the lack of education and awareness about preventing skin cancer in the workplace, Joanne established Danger Sun Overhead.

The not-for-profit organisation educates outdoor workers and employers about sun safety. Joanne conducts talks on work sites and shares the experience of her husband's tragic but preventable death. Each worker is given a kit containing sunscreen, stickers, brochures and information on skin cancer.

To date, Joanne has conducted over 27 workshops, educating more than 2500 workers on the prevention, awareness and early detection of skin cancer and relevant workplace health and safety regulations.

All sponsorship and funds received for Joanne's workshops go to Melanoma Patients Australia, the only national support group for people diagnosed with melanoma.



Joanne Crotty at a Danger Sun Overhead workshop with RoadTek workers

Rodney McFarlane, Group Linen Services

Rodney McFarlane, Logistics Coordinator for Group Linen Services, developed a safer way for staff to collect and deliver linen products to and from Queensland Health facilities.

The stainless steel trolleys traditionally used to transport linen were heavy and hard to manoeuvre, posing the risk of serious sprain and strain injuries. The corners and edges of the trolleys were also common causes of injury.

After many hours of research, Rodney designed a plastic trolley suitable for transporting, distributing and storing linen.

The plastic trolley has improved services in a number of ways:

- It is moulded smooth with soft corners and edges to prevent injury.
- It is towed mechanically by an 'electrodrive' system, eliminating unsafe manual handling such as pulling and pushing heavy loads.
- It is 26 kg lighter than a stainless steel trolley.
- It is water and dust proof, with lower maintenance costs.

The plastic trolleys have now been developed in ten different styles to meet the needs of a range of industries.



Rodney McFarlane with his plastic linen trolley

Christopher Meadows, Westside Christian College

Christopher Meadows, Principal of Westside Christian College, has been instrumental in changing the culture of health and safety management in Queensland schools.

Christopher developed the SAFE health and safety management system that is used in 35 Queensland Christian schools. This system consists of electronic forms, audit checklists for health and safety procedures and a safety education program for primary school students.

Christopher volunteers much of his time sharing his knowledge and providing health and safety advice and training to Queensland schools, including travelling to rural and remote areas to introduce schools to the SAFE system.

Christopher has completed further workplace health and safety training including a Graduate Certificate in Risk Management, and has travelled overseas to study the health and safety of school students.



Christopher Meadows and Citipointe Christian College representatives. Left-right: Eric Tham, Ron Woolley, Christopher Meadows and Lynne Doneley.

Category 5

Best solution to an identified electrical safety issue

This award recognises excellence in developing and implementing a solution to an identified workplace electrical safety issue.

Boulderstone Pty Ltd

Boulderstone is a building and engineering company with more than 1400 employees servicing the Australian building and infrastructure industry.

Boulderstone identified working near power lines with plant as a high risk activity following a near miss on a project. With a number of devices available to prevent contact with power lines, Boulderstone undertook industry-wide research before developing its spotter warning device.

The spotter warning device provides the safety observer and plant operator with a direct communication warning system using both audible and visual signals.

The device is now a mandatory safety requirement on all Boulderstone projects. It is cost efficient, portable, easy to operate and exceeds existing controls for working near power lines.

Boulderstone is sharing the device with the construction industry and it is now available for purchase from electrical retailers across Queensland.



The spotter warning device with visual attention alarm armed

Queensland Rail

Queensland Rail is a government owned corporation that manages 8000 km of rail network and provides suburban commuter services in Queensland.

To ensure the safety of workers and eliminate the risks associated with installing high voltage overhead line electrical equipment, Queensland Rail made improvements to its isolation and authorisation process.

The improvements, developed by Queensland Rail workers and electrical traction engineers, include a site earthing plan and an access authorisation work package. These processes control access and outline the electrical safety risks and necessary safety controls for workers entering construction sites.

To further manage safe access, Queensland Rail introduced a traction construction access permit. This permit is issued to authorised persons responsible for maintaining site safety and is cancelled once work is completed.



A Queensland Rail construction site

Queensland University of Technology

Queensland University of Technology (QUT) is a leading tertiary education institute with 40 000 students.

Following an electrical safety review, QUT discovered live electrical testing and fault finding activities were presenting a number of safety risks to staff and students. The solution, the 'LV test box', was developed by a specialist team to eliminate these risks. It consists of a combination of isolation, engineering and administrative controls.

The LV test box is a prototype acrylic LV testing enclosure designed to house circuiting and prevent contact with exposed terminals. Safety switches and interlock devices are incorporated into the design to ensure the enclosure cannot be opened while the circuits are live.

QUT has also produced a standard operating procedure, including online training, to ensure testing and fault finding is conducted safely.

QUT plans to manufacture 12 LV test boxes for use in the Built Environment and Engineering Faculty's electrical laboratories.



The LV test box

Notes





Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

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Electrical Safety office

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