



Issue: 05

Site: All

Date: March 2008

## Address from the Managing Director

I welcome you to the first safety newsletter for 2008, in particular the new employees and contractors, and look forward to the improvement of our company's safety compliance outcomes over the following 12 months.

### Risk Assessment & JSA Replacement

In my last article of 2007, I mentioned the importance of onsite planning. This has been further highlighted by WorkSafe's introduction of the Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) which is replacing the current Risk Assessment and JSA documentation, and will become a focus of our compliance outcomes for the foreseeable future.

### Housekeeping

The housekeeping requirements of quarry haul roads, overburden management and spillage around both the fixed plant and mobile equipment areas must be at the forefront of your daily activities and be reported to your manager when there is an issue.

### Plant Isolation

Conundrum Holding's isolation process, tracking and management of isolation tags is to be upgraded to a colour padlock system. These padlocks will be stored at two key points of use, being the plant control rooms for fixed plant usage, and the Weighbridge Office for mobile plant usage.

### Reports on employees

We welcome the following employees who have recently commenced employment with Conundrum:

#### • Stawell Quarry:

Garry Meadows – Trainee Quarry Face Excavator Operator  
Ashley Howard – Quarry Face Excavator Operator  
Brant Morris – Trainee Sales Loader Operator

#### • Northern Quarries:

Eric Kuzmich – Sales Loader Operator  
Shane Henden – Trainee Quarry Face Dump Truck Operator  
Andrew Thompson – Plant Maintenance & Fabrication Employee

Ron Kerr, Managing Director

## Employees Safety Noticeboard

### Revised Isolation Procedure

Conundrum's tag-out isolation procedure is currently under review. This review is necessary for the following reasons:

1. The new crushing plant at Northern and Wim Mix's batching plant are connected to mains power;
2. Circuit breakers at Stawell and on the new plant at Northern are located in a centralised control room, remote from the plant and motors;
3. Computerised plant control systems are currently in place at Stawell and being introduced at Northern;
4. The consequences resulting from unexpected start-up due to inappropriate isolation are likely to be severe (i.e. serious injury or death).

The current tag-out system does not provide the same level of safety that is achievable with a lock-out system. As such the revised procedure will involve using padlocks to lock isolation devices in the off position to reduce the risks as far as practicable.

### Motor Control Circuit Devices ARE NOT Isolating Devices

Plant isolation means *disconnecting or separating an item of plant or equipment from all power supplies*. Emergency stops, lanyard switches, button controls, and safety interlocks are all control circuit devices and ARE NOT effective energy isolating devices.

The following situations could cause unexpected start-up if control circuit devices are used instead of isolating units:

1. A malfunction of the switch;
2. A relay or motor controller failure (e.g. defective spring; fused contacts);
3. A loose wire contacts the conduit/enclosure;
4. Two wires short out inside a damaged conduit/enclosure (e.g., vibration causes wires to rub and wear through the wire's insulation resulting in an electric short and bridging of the control circuit);
5. Water, dirt, metal particles or other conductive foreign debris enters the control circuit enclosure causing the switch to operate because the material sufficiently bridges and closes the circuit, allowing current flow; or
6. Ice, grease, dirt, wood, metal particles or other debris causes a push type control mechanism to stick in the closed position, allowing current to flow.

A switch or other device in a control circuit is not an energy isolating device and interrupting the power circuit at the motor isolating switch (circuit breaker) is the safest and most reliable way to control unexpected start-up.

Tom Kerr, OHS Manager



## External Reports on OHS Incidents

### Transfer of OHS Regulation

On 1 January 2008 the responsibility for OHS regulation of the earth resources industry transferred from DPI to WorkSafe as previously announced by the Ministers of the Department of Primary Industries and WorkSafe in 2006 in order to 'cut red tape' and ensure 'consistent and independent regulation'.

The decision is consistent with Neil Pope's report commissioned by Minister Theophanous, but without any resource transfer from DPI to WorkSafe.

Under the new arrangement, WorkSafe's responsibilities include:

1. Safety related inspection, audit, compliance monitoring, advice and enforcement under the OHS Act and Dangerous Goods Act,
2. Explosives licensing and safety regulation of blasting under the Dangerous Goods Act, and
3. Reviewing the OHS component of work and operations plans.

The DPI will continue to regulate the earth resources sector under the Extractive Industries Development Act which includes matters concerning public safety, rehabilitation and site planning.

*Source: CMPA Newsletter, Dec/Jan 2008 Issue*

As a result of this transfer, incident reporting obligations at our quarry sites have changed as follows:

- **Serious injuries** are now required to be reported directly to WorkSafe's Incident Notification Unit on 132 360
- **Other notifiable incidents** must be reported to:
  - DPI if they occurred at a quarry site and were related to public safety and amenity (e.g. environmental discharge), operation design and licensing (e.g. face stability) or blasting impacts (e.g. airblast and ground vibration),
  - WorkSafe's Incident Notification Unit for all other incidents (e.g. plant collapse or rollover)

*Tom Kerr, OHS Manager*

## Upcoming Dates of Importance

### Safety Meetings

Upcoming "Safety Meetings" {869} include:

- 5 – Hazard Risk Assessments  
April 2008

- 6 – Mock Emergency  
May 2008

- 7 – Site Security  
May 2008

- 8 – Safety Newsletter and Daily Checklists (Fixed Plant)  
June 2008

### Safety Newsletter

The next *Safety Newsletter* [CH 4.xv.0860] will be published in June 2008.