

MINERALS AND EXTRACTIVE OPERATIONS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2005



Dear Mine and Quarry Owner

This is the first of a series of newsletters that will be mailed out to all mine and quarry owners, Industry Associations and other stakeholders.

The newsletter should be forwarded to your mine or quarry managers.

1. DPI Seminars on the new OHS Act

The OHS Act 2004 comes into effect on 1 July 2005. The new Act introduces some significant changes in OHS requirement and it is important that managers, HSR's and other key staff are aware of their new responsibilities.

In addition to seminars that VWA has been running on the new OHS Act, DPI will be conducting three seminars for the minerals and extractive sectors.

The dates and locations of the seminars are set out below:

- 20 June 2005 – Melbourne DPI Office, Level 16/1 Spring Street, Melbourne
- 23 June 2005 – Bendigo DPI Office, Cnr of Midland Highway and Taylor Street, Epsom
- 28 June 2005 – Traralgon, Century Inn, Princes Highway, Traralgon

The seminars are free and a light lunch will be provided on the day.

To register for the seminar, please contact Jane Fay either on Fax No: 03 9658 4460 or email jane.fay@dpi.vic.gov.au, advising names of people attending from your company and which venue you will be attending.

2. Minerals and Extractive Operations Group

Following a recent restructure of the Minerals and Petroleum Operations group, the Department has appointed five district managers.

These managers are responsible for minerals and extractive operations staff located in the districts including mines and quarry inspectors, regulation officers and environmental officers.

The district managers are:

Graeme McLaughlan – Southwest District
Ian McLeod – Melbourne District
Greg Sleziak – Gippsland District
Mike Mathews – Northeast District
Colin Thornton – Northwest District

A map of the new districts boundaries is attached to this newsletter.

3. Emergency Contacts for Mines and Quarries

Certain incidents are defined as notifiable and must be reported by law.

Notifiable incidents must be notified to the relevant District Manager without delay as soon as the person with the duty to notify becomes aware of the incident.

Immediate notification may be verbal (by phone) or written and sent by facsimile or e-mail, it is important to confirm that your notification has been received.

Note: If in doubt about whether an incident is notifiable – contact your district manager.

District	Business Phone No:	After Hours Phone No:
Southwest	(03) 5336 6802	0408 334 751
Melbourne	(03) 9658 4424	0419 593 303
Gippsland	(03) 5172 2158	0419 375 842
Northeast	(03) 5761 1501	0428 541 169
Northwest	(03) 5430 4692	0409 541 160

If there is no answer from the District Office numbers, contact the Manager, Minerals and Extractive Operations on BH (03) 9658 4422 or Mobile 0418 506 172.

4. Significant Incident Reports

All the Significant Incident reports are published on the Department’s website www.dpi.vic.gov/minerals under Petroleum/Health and Safety/Significant Incidents.

The latest Significant Incidents Reports are attached to this Newsletter for distribution and discussion with your employees.

5. Blitz on Mobile Plants

In the last year there were eleven incidents involving mobile plant in mines and quarries. All the incidents had the potential to cause serious injury or a fatality.

In June, inspectors from the Minerals and Extractive Operations Group will be conducting unannounced visits to mines and quarries across the state regardless of size and risk profile to assess the safety of mobile equipment used at your worksites.

The inspectors will be reviewing critical controls that you have in place to ensure that your operators and your work force are safe. Traffic management, haul road design and layout, speed, training, operator fatigue, edge protection, working at heights, design of plant, ground conditions and supervision are some of the recurring themes with our industry.

Incidents and near misses can provide valuable information on how your safety management systems and your critical controls are working. You should encourage your people to report the near misses and to set up a process of investigation and review of your current controls.



JOHN MITAS
 Manager, Minerals and Extractive Operations