SYSTEM DRIVERS
SAFETY BY DESIGN

H&S NEWS

OCTOBER 2026



KNOW. VERIFY. THEN PROCEED.

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LESSONS FROM THE FIELD

ASSUMPTION IS NOT A CONTROL



CONCRETE CUTTING INCIDENT

The cable was not where it "should" have been

A recent incident provided a timely reminder about underground services. A cable was located just below the surface, but concrete cutting had proceeded based on an assumption about where the service should have been rather than positively identifying where it actually was.

Plans, drawings and expected depths are useful information - but they are not verification.

Before breaking ground, drilling or cutting, services need to be positively located. If the location is uncertain, that uncertainty itself is a risk that needs to be controlled.

KNOW. VERIFY.
THEN PROCEED.

H&S CLICHE GREATEST HITS

06 "That's where it should be."

Ah yes. The lesser-known critical control: hope.

07 "I'm pretty sure it's been isolated."

A young worker was once told exactly that before dismantling equipment in a hot-water cupboard. It had not been isolated. He received an electric shock.

"Pretty sure" is not an isolation procedure.

"Should be" and "pretty sure" are cousins. Neither is a critical control.

PROSECUTIONS CORNER

LEARNINGS FOR BUSINESS

WORKSAFE | 14 OCTOBER 2026

Power off does not always mean safe

Pukepine Sawmills was sentenced after a worker's hand contacted a rotating edger drum during maintenance. The worker lost his middle finger and part of his ring finger and narrowly avoided losing two others.

The critical issue was residual energy. Although the power could be switched off, the edger drum could continue rotating for around 15 minutes. Guarding and safety controls did not adequately prevent access while the equipment was slowing down.

THE BILL

$210,000
FINE

$34,300
EMOTIONAL HARM

$5,712.95
CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS

$5,000
COSTS

WHAT SHOULD YOUR BUSINESS CHECK?

- **Identify all forms of hazardous energy - not just electricity.**
- **Understand run-down time, momentum, pressure, gravity, heat and stored energy.**
- **Physically prevent access while hazardous movement remains.**
- **Review older machinery against current standards and good practice.**
- **Where regular access is required, consider interlocked or guard-locking systems.**

ISOLATION MEANS CONTROLLING THE HAZARDOUS ENERGY - NOT JUST THE SWITCH.

THREE QUESTIONS FOR YOUR NEXT MAINTENANCE JOB

1. What can still move, fall, release, rotate or retain pressure after shutdown?

2. What physically prevents a person entering the danger zone before it is safe?

3. How do we verify zero energy - rather than simply assume it?

ON OUR RADAR

WORKSAFE + ALASTAIR'S CPD NOTEBOOK

WORKSAFE WATCH

Less paperwork. More proof.

The direction of travel is becoming clearer: businesses need to show that controls for serious harm are actually working - not simply that a procedure exists.

CRITICAL RISK

Know the controls that prevent fatal and serious harm - and verify them.

COMPETENCE

Training records matter, but practical verification of competency matters too.

OVERLAPPING DUTIES

Where PCBUs share a workplace, coordination and clarity of responsibility are essential.

WORK-RELATED HEALTH

Dust, hazardous substances, noise and long-term exposures deserve the same discipline as acute safety risks.

FROM MY CPD

Assurance is not reassurance

One theme keeps surfacing in my professional development work: assurance means gathering evidence that the management system and its critical controls are actually working.

ASK A BETTER QUESTION

Not: "Do we have a procedure?"

Ask: "If this critical control failed today, how would we know?"

That same thinking applies to non-routine work, mobile-plant interfaces, competency, contractor management and officer due diligence. The evidence should be visible in the way the work is actually done.

THE PRACTICAL CPD TAKEAWAY

THE FORM IS NOT THE CONTROL.

A signed JSEA, inspection sheet or training record can be useful evidence - but only if it reflects the job. For non-routine, changing or high-risk work, the people doing the task need to understand the plan, the critical controls need to be present, and somebody needs to verify that they work.

PLAN THE WORK > INVOLVE THE CREW > VERIFY THE CONTROLS > RESPOND TO CHANGE

That is where good CPD earns its keep: not in collecting hours, but in sharpening the questions we ask when we are standing in front of real work, real plant and real people.

DOING IT DIGITAL

SITE APP PRO | EVIDENCE THAT BUILDS WHILE YOU WORK



SITE APP PRO

Good H&S evidence shouldn't live in the glovebox.

We are seeing excellent uptake of Site App Pro across System Drivers clients - and the businesses actively using it are getting real value from it.

Your team can complete and retain inspections, inductions, toolbox meetings, incident and hazard reports, forms and other H&S evidence digitally instead of chasing paper around vehicles, offices and site folders.

And when SiteWise, Totika or another accreditation rollover arrives, System Drivers can use the records built through the year as evidence that your H&S system is operating in practice.

LESS SCRAMBLING FOR EVIDENCE.
BETTER VISIBILITY.
A STRONGER ACCREDITATION TRAIL.

SYSTEM DRIVERS + SITE APP PRO

We can introduce your team, help configure the system around the way your business actually works, and help turn day-to-day site activity into usable H&S evidence.

READY TO GET YOUR TEAM DIGITAL?

TALK TO ALASTAIR ABOUT SITE APP PRO.

A practical system is valuable every day - and especially valuable when somebody asks you to prove it.

TOOLS, SYSTEMS & EVIDENCE

QUARRY CPD MATE + SITEWISE PROCESS UPDATE

COMING SOON

Quarry CPD Mate

Keeping your CPD should not be harder than doing it.

We have been working on something especially for our quarry mates - a simple, phone-friendly tool to make continuing professional development easier to record and easier to retrieve when renewal comes around.

- **Track progress against CPD hours**
- **Record learning while it is fresh**
- **Cover the four learning areas**
- **Keep supporting evidence together**
- **Export and back up your logbook**

A little learning. A stronger quarry.

KEEP THE KNOWLEDGE.

LOSE THE PAPERWORK.

INDUSTRY UPDATE

SITEWISE

A GOOD PROCESS CHANGE

After we challenged an assessment where relevant client evidence had not been seen or taken into account, SiteWise listened.

The improved process now includes a QA step and, where appropriate, an opportunity to provide or resubmit evidence before the final result is published - without the additional $115 resubmission fee.

Constructive criticism was taken seriously and the process improved. Credit where it is due - thank you, SiteWise.

WHY WE ARE BUILDING CPD MATE

THE LEARNING MATTERS. SO DOES KEEPING THE RECORD.

For experienced quarry people, the problem is often not a lack of learning - it is capturing that learning while it is fresh and keeping the evidence together. CPD Mate is being designed to make that job smaller.

The aim is simple: do some learning, record it, keep the evidence, and know where you are up to before renewal sneaks up on you.

QUARRY CPD MATE WILL BE ROLLING OUT SHORTLY.

FROM OUR DESK

A NOTE FROM PAM + A FINAL WORD FROM ALASTAIR



PAM'S DESK

Almost a year in New Zealand!

I'm feeling a little more acclimatised now and, surprisingly, not homesick at all.

I can't believe how great all of our clients are. Getting to know you has been a real joy.

I'm learning the ropes in the business and helping Alastair keep your evidence on track for those important accreditation rollover dates.

See you soon,
Pam

FROM ALASTAIR

LESS PAPERWORK. MORE CERTAINTY.

That is the thread running through this month's newsletter. Whether we are locating a buried service, isolating machinery, proving competency, preparing for accreditation or keeping CPD records, the aim is not paperwork for its own sake.

The aim is to know what matters, verify it, and keep enough evidence to show that the system is working.

Thanks, as always, for letting us work alongside you. Stay safe - and if something "should be" right, check it anyway.

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