



**Special Interest:**

- NZ call for action to reduce workplace deaths
- Tas supports workers comp High Court challenge
- Vic: Workplace death at Epping
- NSW: \$449,000 in fines after 3 workers killed
- Happy Birthday to us!

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## From The Editor

### A Bad Day At Work

**Thought you might find this article by Jim Hatch amusing ...Ed**

Rob is a commercial saturation diver for Global Divers in Louisiana.

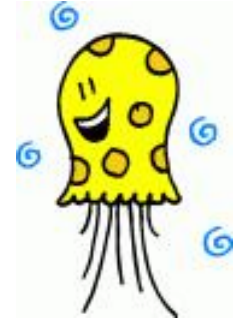
He performs underwater repairs on offshore drilling rigs. Below is an e-mail he sent to his sister. She then sent it to radio station 103.2 FM in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, which was sponsoring a "worst job experience" contest. Needless to say, she won.

"Hi Sue, Just another note from your bottom-dwelling brother. Last week I had a bad day at the office. I know you've been feeling down lately at work, so I thought I would share my dilemma with you to make you realize it's not so bad after all.

"Before I can tell you what happened to me, I first must bore you with a few technicalities of my job. As you know, my office lies at the bottom of the sea. I wear a suit to the office. It's a wetsuit. This time of year the water is quite cool. So what we do to keep warm is this: We have a diesel powered industrial water heater. This \$20,000 piece of equipment sucks the

water out of the sea. It heats it to a delightful temperature. It then pumps it down to the diver through a garden hose, which is taped to the air hose. Now this sounds like a darn good plan, and I've used it several times with no complaints. What I do, when I get to the bottom and start working, is take the hose and stuff it down the back of my wetsuit. This floods my whole suit with warm water. It's like working in a Jacuzzi. Everything was going well until all of a sudden, my butt started to itch. So, of course, I scratched it. This only made things worse. Within a few seconds my butt started to burn. I pulled the hose out from my back, but the damage was done. In agony I realized what had happened.

"The hot water machine had sucked up a jellyfish and pumped it into my suit. Now, since I don't have any hair on my back, the jellyfish couldn't stick to it. However, the crack of my butt was not as fortunate. When I scratched what I thought was an itch, I was actually grinding the jellyfish into the crack of my butt. I informed the dive supervisor of my dilemma over the communicator.



"His instructions were unclear due to the fact that he, along with five other divers, were all laughing hysterically. Needless to say I aborted the dive. I was instructed to make three agonizing in-water decompression stops totaling thirty-five minutes before I could reach the surface to begin my chamber dry decompression. When I arrived at the surface, I was wearing nothing but my brass helmet. As I climbed out of the water, the medic, with tears of laughter running down his face, handed me a tube of cream and told me to rub it on my butt as soon as I got in the chamber. The cream put the fire out, but I couldn't poop for two days because my butt was swollen shut. So, next time you're having a bad day at work, think about how much worse it would be if you had a jellyfish shoved up your butt.

"Now repeat to yourself, "I love my job, I love my job, I love my job."

And whenever you have a bad day, ask yourself: is this a "jellyfish bad" day?"

## NZ: Call for action to reduce workplace deaths

The Department of Labour is calling on all businesses and workers to make health and safety improvements in the workplace a key priority this year. This follows workplace deaths investigated by the Department of Labour rising to 65 in the year ended June 2006.

“One workplace death is one too many. The tragedy is that many of these fatalities are preventable,” Department of Labour Workplace deputy secretary Andrew Annakin said today.

“New Zealand workplaces have been making valuable improvements in health and safety - we want to see that momentum continued. We don't want to see complacency setting in.”

Until 2005-06, the number of workplace deaths had been progressively reducing. The Department of Labour investigated 73

workplace deaths in 2001-02 and 73 in 2002-03, reducing to 62 in 2003-04 and down again to 47 in 2004-05.

“The downward trend was particularly pleasing as it occurred against a backdrop of large employment growth in New Zealand over the past six years. The workforce grew by 316,000 people between March 2000 and March 2006 – an increase in the workforce of 18 per cent,” Mr Annakin said.

There are a range of things workplaces – employers and employees - have been doing to improve workplace health and safety. This includes training health and safety representatives so they can make a difference in individual workplaces – with more than 15,000 trained in the past three years with support from the Council of Trade Unions and ACC

Workplaces have also been developing best practice guidelines for their own industries, and innovative new systems to make their workplaces safer.

Excellent examples include construction and roading firm Fulton Hogan, which introduced a new method of storing and decanting hydrochloric acid so workers are not exposed to acid mist. The initiative involved staff, and improved productivity and employee health. Another example is Hawkins Construction, which introduced a Leadership in Safety initiative, linking workplace safety management with productivity and product quality.

Looking forward, government and employer and worker groups have committed to work together on a nationwide workplace health and safety strategy, aimed at

making permanent improvements in health and safety.

“Improving health and safety not only makes workplaces safer for staff and saves lives, but also has business benefits. Businesses should not view good health and safety systems as a cost or impediment but as an investment,” Mr Annakin said.

“The death or injury of a worker can have a massive cost, both human and financial. This includes the loss of productivity through lost skills and experience, effects on staff morale and confidence, and possible fines. The loss of loved ones, the suffering of family and friends, and the wider social impacts are immeasurable,” Mr Annakin said.

21 July 2006

NZ Dept of Labor

<http://www.dol.govt.nz/News/Media/2006/workplace-deaths.asp>

## Tas supports workers comp High Court challenge

HOBART: The Tasmanian Government said it supports four other Labor states in a High Court challenge to workers compensation changes. Victoria, NSW, South Australia and Western Australia are opposed to big corporations abandoning state-based schemes to join the federal Comcare scheme. They are challenging the power of federal Workplace Relations Minister, Kevin Andrews,

to approve the shift. The states fear the absence of national companies from local schemes will drive up premiums

Victoria is also arguing Comcare provides “inferior” protection for workers. Tasmania's Workplace Relations Minister Steve Kons said he holds grave concerns the federal move will undermine state-based schemes.



3 August 2006  
OHS Daily News

## Vic: Workplace death at Epping

WorkSafe Victoria is investigating the death of a worker at Epping in Melbourne's outer north today. It is the 18<sup>th</sup> death reported to the workplace health and safety regulator this year.

The incident happened at an exhaust pipe manufacturer in Miller Street Epping late this morning.

The man who died was aged 55 and from the northern suburbs.

It is thought he was carrying out maintenance on a machine that was somehow activated causing fatal injuries.

WorkSafe's Executive Director, John Merritt said the investigation was at an early stage.

"WorkSafe will speak to people who were in the immediate area at the time, look at training, supervision and procedures for operating the machine

"Our priority is to understand what happened to ensure a similar incident is not repeated, at this site or anywhere else.

"This is another needless death in a Victorian workplace.

"Experience shows us that if you look at the places that have the very best safety systems there is often a dreadful incident that has sent that business toward a rigorous safety regime.

"It does not have to be that way. Learning from the mistakes of others, working together to ensure potential hazards are identified and eliminated is not hard.

"WorkSafe urges all employers and workers to not wait until tragedy strikes, but work together to protect themselves, their workmates and business.

"The overwhelming majority of workplace safety incidents occur when people are carrying out routine tasks. The things that hurt people can be predicted and prevented.

"The impact of workplace deaths and injuries cannot be calculated."

Victoria recorded 18 workplace deaths in 2005, 29 in 2004 and 27 in 2003

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14 August 2006  
Worksafe Victoria  
<http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/vwa/media.nsf/docsbyUNID/36EE31C12B1114B2CA2571CA0032690E?Open>

## NSW: \$449,000 in fines after three workers killed

A Hunter Valley company has been fined a total of \$449,000 in the NSW Industrial Court following an explosion at a Rutherford plant where three workers were killed.

The employees of Caines Pty Ltd received fatal burn injuries to more than 60 per cent of their bodies on December 6 1999 when an explosion occurred in a seed storage bin containing cottonseed meal dust.

A WorkCover investigation found that the company was aware that cottonseed meal dust was at risk of spontaneously combusting and igniting.

Caines Pty Ltd was fined \$400,000 under sections 15(1) and 16(1) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 for failing to comprehensively protect employees from the risk of the explosion.

General Manager Frank Heagney was fined \$22,000 and Managing Director Graham Hislop \$27,000 after they pleaded guilty to breaches under four sections of the Act.

In handing down judgement, Justice Boland said that the nature and extent of the offences was so serious that it should attract penalties at the high end of the scale.

WorkCover NSW Chief Executive Officer Jon Blackwell said this tragic incident serves as a reminder to all employers of the terrible consequences that can occur if they fail to fulfil their obligations.

"It is the responsibility of every employer in NSW to control risks and focus on the safety of their workers.

"While NSW workplace injuries are at an 18 year low, this case shows that everyone in a workplace needs to play their part to ensure their own safety and that of their colleagues," Mr Blackwell said

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11 July 2006 Workcover NSW  
[http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/MediaResources/MediaReleases/2006/fines\\_after\\_three\\_workers\\_killed.htm](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/MediaResources/MediaReleases/2006/fines_after_three_workers_killed.htm)

# Happy Birthday to US! ...

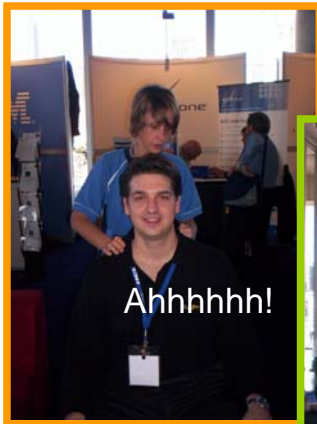


Happy Birthday to us, Happy Birthday to us Happy Birthday to us Happy Birthday to us, Happy Birthday to us, Happy Birthday dear C-Net.....

C-Net took the opportunity to share its 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations with the members of SAUG at the SAP Australian User Group Summit in Sydney last week.

We would like to thank all the people who visited our stand and took the time to wish us happy birthday.

As we reflect upon the last 10 Years we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our loyal customers for the support that they have extended to us and the ongoing belief in SafetySuite as an enabler for their risk management programs and ensure them of our commitment to Safety and the development of our Software



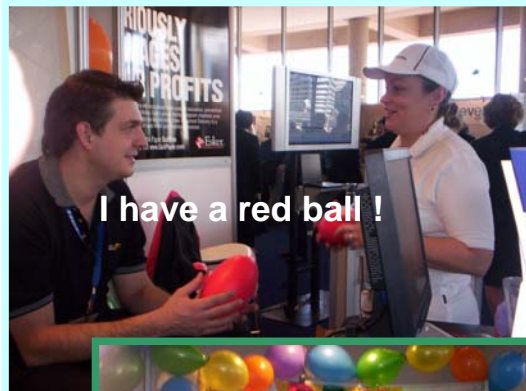
Ahhhhhh!



Comprende?



We do health *gulp* and safe *gulp* ty



I have a red ball !



ZZZzzzzzzz  
zzzzzzzzzz



I blew these up!



Do we blend in...





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## Spy Eye: C-Net News!!



After two years of hard work supporting our clients, Ziggy has left the building!

We wish you all the very best Zig and thank you for all you efforts.

## About C-Net

C-Net is an Australian owned company that specialises in SAP based OH&S Solutions. C-Net are the developers and distributors of "SafetySuite".

"SafetySuite" was developed for Australian & NZ companies who require an integrated, legislatively compliant and supported OH&S Solution to complement their integrated SAP infrastructure.

[www.c-net.com.au](http://www.c-net.com.au)



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