



The Net

From The Editor



BP Ultimate/BRW – Melbourne

Congratulations to Team C-Net on their participation in the BP Ultimate/BRW Corporate Triathlon Series.

After months of discussions and various training regimes ranging from short runs to the pub, burger days and big breakys the big day arrived, Bryce, Jane and Jamie all decked out in their C-Net Lycra headed of to challenge the picturesque Elwood course. All anxiously looking forward to the 400m, swim, 10km Cycle, 4km Run that awaited them.

The day was a little cloudy at first but later the conditions turned out great and team C-Net did us proud as they all finished, in fact in the overall results they finished in 1386 place in field of 5000 super fit, fit and not so fit athletes, and were placed 20 in the category with an aggregate time of 3 hours 10 minutes and 20 seconds

The Melbourne BP Ultimate/BRW Corporate Triathlon is located in a great venue and has a huge atmosphere with over 80 corporate marquees, BBQ's, a band and lots of fun! The Elwood course has an excellent flat cycle and run overlooking Port Phillip Bay. ED



Special Interest:

- **WA: Wildfire Electrical Fire Incident**
- **Vic: Work Related Death at Equipment Hire Yard**
- **NZ: Chairlift Drama**
- **Vic: Scalping Victim warns of the Perils of the Workplace**
- **NSW: Car Airbag Thefts**

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Elwood Beach

“The Team” [More photos on Page 4...](#)



WA: Wildfire Electrical Fire Incident Report Released

Energy industry safety regulator EnergySafety has released its Electrical Incident Report on the wildfire of Saturday February 3, 2007 near Chatcup Road, Today, with findings showing that clashing conductors of a Western Power 22,000 volt power line caused the fire.

Director of Energy Safety Albert Koenig said today that EnergySafety had worked with Western Power, the

Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) and the WA Police Service to investigate the incident.

“EnergySafety investigated the fire and found a short circuit fault had resulted from conductors clashing on a Western Power 22kV overhead power line north of Toodyay,” Mr Koenig said.

“However, the reason for the clashing hasn’t yet been determined.

“In the strong gusty winds the red phase conductor and the underslung earth conductor made direct contact with each other, short circuiting and dropping hot metal particles, igniting dry stubble underneath the power line.

“What is significant is that this power line is of a construction that is different to other power lines that in recent times have caused wildfires due to conductor clashing”.

Mr Koenig said that further major engineering investigations will be required by Western Power, in conjunction with EnergySafety, to assess and determine what action needs to be taken to prevent other incidents of this type.

Docep – Department of Consumer and Employment Protection WA Feb07
http://www.docep.wa.gov.au/Corporate/Media/statements/2007/February/Toodyay_Wildfire_Ele.html

Vic: Work-Related Death at Equipment Hire Yard

WorkSafe is investigating another work-related death after a man died on Friday at Dandenong South. The 44 –year-old man from Endeavour Meadows was loading a boom lift on to a trailer at an equipment hire yard in South Gippsland Highway, Dandenong South, when he was struck by the machine and died. The cause of the incident is not yet clear. WorkSafe is investigating another work-related death after a man died on Friday at Dandenong South. The 44 –year-old man from Endeavour Meadows was loading a boom lift on to a trailer at an equipment hire yard in South Gippsland Highway, Dandenong South, when he was struck by the

machine and died. The cause of the incident is not yet clear.

WorkSafe is currently running a program targeting safety in equipment hire yards. WorkSafe’s Executive Director John Merritt said the state’s work-related death toll was now double that of the same time last year. There were five deaths in January alone. Twenty-nine deaths were reported to WorkSafe in 2005. “To have six deaths in a little over four weeks is a major concern because we know the overwhelming number of workplace deaths and injuries can be prevented. “We also know that most businesses and individuals are doing what they can to maximize safety.

“What these figures tell us is that our earlier calls for everyone to go ‘back to basics’ on their safety assessments and actions, was justified and needs to be re-stated.

“Everyone - workers, employers and contractors – have clear roles to play in reducing the risk of death and the 30,000 injuries - 82 a day – which are reported each year.

“They don’t get much media coverage, but what we know is that there is little difference in the incident that kills or maims and the one that someone walks away from.

“WorkSafe is helping to educate and support businesses

and workers on ways to improve safety, but it is their legal, commercial and personal responsibility, with all the consequences that flow from it, to ensure standards are constantly maintained. “Where there are breaches of the state’s workplace health and safety laws there is potential for prosecution,” Mr Merritt said. “The human costs of these incidents, the lost or stolen opportunities. , cannot be measured.

“Even the most modest penalty imposed by the courts, along with legal costs, damage to reputation and potential for civil damages claims, can cost tens of thousands of dollars,” Mr Merritt said.

6Feb07 Vic Workcover
<http://www.workcover.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/WorkSafe/SiteTools/News/Fatality+six+and+its+only+February>



Asian Skier falls in New Zealand Chairlift Drama

WELLINGTON: Anxious skiers watched as a 33-year-old Asian tourist was left dangling from a chairlift at Mount Hutt skifield this week, eventually falling five metres to the ground. The man's skis became tangled as he tried to mount the Summit Six chairlift on the mountain.

Mount Hutt ski area manager Dave Wilson said one ski had clipped the snow and the man lost his balance as he tried to get on the lift. He grabbed hold of the foot boards and was carried up the mountain past nine pylons before skifield staff could stop the machine. Five other passengers

clutched the man's hands as the chairlift continued up the mountain. Finally, the lift was stopped and skifield maintenance staff tried to climb a pylon to reach the man. But after several minutes clinging to chair rails, the man lost his grip. Mr Wilson said medical staff were already at the site when the man fell and he was

immediately flown to Christchurch Hospital with suspected spinal injuries.

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Scalping Victim Warns of the Perils of the Workplace

Three years after being scalped and losing his right ear in a horrific drilling accident, David Holland wants the public to know his injuries could have been prevented.

"I'm just a quiet Australian, a quiet Melburnian who went to work out there one day. It could happen to each and every one of us," he said outside the Melbourne Magistrates Court yesterday, before urging people to report workplace dangers to their employers.

The 38-year-old Albert Park man had just recounted the terrifying accident that nearly took his life three years ago.

The accident happened on a Braeside housing estate where he was doing soil testing work for Chadwick Group Holdings Pty Ltd.

The company was convicted and fined \$30,000 after pleading guilty in the Magistrates Court yesterday to one count of failing to provide a safe workplace.

Mr Holland, a geotechnical soil technician, was operating a drill at the Braeside housing development in 2004 when his hair became caught in a rotating auger connected to the machine.

In a victim impact statement tendered to the court yesterday, Mr Holland graphically described how his ear, scalp and half of his face was ripped off by the drill, from which he had to physically tear his body in order to save his life.

"There was a loud tear and suddenly I was looking at the inside of my face as it was pulled horizontally off the front of my skull to the end of my nose," he said in his statement.

Realising he had fractured his neck while freeing himself, Mr Holland said he was forced to balance his head like a basketball on his index finger as he walked towards help.

"I could hear a voice on a phone and I knew there was a building site close

to where I was so I methodically started to walk towards it," he said.

"I'm told that I covered more than 70 metres — probably the most painful exercise I will ever encounter in my existence."

The court heard the help button installed in the drill was too far away for Mr Holland to reach and that the model did not have any physical guards on it to prevent such accidents.

For the company, Dr David Neal, SC, told the court that at the time of the accident similar drilling machines were routinely used without any guards because it was believed none were available. But the company, which pleaded guilty to breaching the Occupational Health and Safety Act, now conceded it was possible to have guards fitted, he said.

Dr Neal apologised to Mr Holland in court on behalf of the company, saying it had already attempted to provide compensation for his pain and suffering.

While Mr Holland's face and neck have been painstakingly pieced together over the past three years, he still lives with chronic pain, terrible flashbacks and post-traumatic stress disorder.

"The flashbacks are all-encompassing, they're physical in their response and they take time to recover from, in the same way you recover from sickness," he said outside the court.

Mr Holland is now studying for an Occupational Health and Safety diploma and he hopes his story will encourage others to prevent workplace accidents.

28Feb2007 "The Age"
Julia Medew
<http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2007/02/27/1172338625813.html>



NSW: Car Owners Warned by Police about Airbag Thefts

Drivers are being put at risk by thieves stealing car airbags, and a spate of the thefts has prompted police to warn car owners to be vigilant.

Nine late-model Toyota Corolla sedans were broken into in Sydney's inner west recently. Airbags were removed from the cars' steering wheels.

A spokesperson for Victoria Police said there have also been airbag thefts in Melbourne.

"The Organised Vehicle Theft Squad said they have heard reports of airbag theft, but certainly not at the level being seen in Sydney," she said. Benton James, insurance fraud partner at law firm Hunt & Hint, said the

thefts were part of a wider insurance scam, involving a lucrative black market. He said unscrupulous car repairers might replace a damaged air bag with one bought on the black market and charge insurance companies full price.

They might also replace an undamaged airbag with a damaged or used

one to convince an insurance inspector to authorise a replacement.

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Go Bryce!!



Jamie finishing his run for changeover to the swim leg – what a star!!





**“Do you carry
safety books for dummies?”**



Spy Eye: C-Net News!!



Pretty quiet this month – no news to report, but I have a hunch there will be some next month!! Stay tuned...

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.

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