



# Quality matters

A newsletter for Gusher employees & subcontractors

No 24 – January 2010

## 2010 looking good

Welcome back to everyone this year. It's been great weather for ducks but not so great for construction.

We are hoping to make this the best year yet and trust you will join in our enthusiasm to make 2010 a bumper year.

After all the Christmas festivities, it's timely to revisit some of the new and not so new changes/requirements in the construction industry.

## Adoption of national codes in 2010

NT WorkSafe is proposing to adopt two national codes of practice this year: Prevention of Falls in General Construction and Pre-Cast, Tilt-up and Concrete Elements in the Building Construction.

If you don't know much about these national codes you can log on to the NT WorkSafe website for a copy of the proposal.

You will see more and more adoptions of these codes of practice as OHS legislation is brought up to national standards.

## Prepare for the cyclone season



*Don't let a construction site become a destruction site.*

We all know it's definitely the cyclone season and NT WorkSafe has posted a reminder on its website for everyone to be prepared.

WorkSafe officers will be visiting workplaces and providing advice on clean up requirements.

Should a cyclone watch be declared, WorkSafe staff will return to identified workplaces with

potential hazards to ensure compliance with cyclone safety requirements.

## Modernised industrial awards

The Australian Government's Fair Work Act 2009 came into force on January 1.

This is the most significant change in the workplace relation arena for more than 100 years.

Changes include rates of pay, terms and conditions of employment and existing enterprise agreements that have traditionally been award free.

If this all sounds like unfamiliar territory then please call the Chamber of Commerce who can offer assistance for a fee.

## Annual leave

Gusher is implementing a new policy of limiting annual leave accrue up to 8 weeks. All annual leave over 8 weeks can either be taken or paid out in line with the new Fair Work Act 2009. If you are not sure how much leave you have available, please contact Janice.

## Gusher's site requirements



*Please contact Rebecca on 0438 893 815 with any concerns or questions.*

## National Code of Practice

The National Code of Practice for the Construction Industry (the code) and the implementation guidelines for this code which were reissued in August 2009 apply to all Gusher projects.

By agreeing to undertake work for Gusher, you will be taken to have read and agreed to comply with the code and its guidelines.

A copy of how you plan to comply with the code – a five-page questionnaire – is required for Gusher's records.

### **Inductions**

You may recall in our last newsletter we touched on the new requirement for the national White Card for the construction industry.

HIA and other registered training organisations are now offering courses to Territorians. It's important to understand that once you have completed this course, you can work anywhere in Australia and it only has to be done once.

It is not a mandatory requirement to have the card on Gusher sites but suggest that you do so.

It is a requirement that all persons/suppliers/subcontractors entering any Gusher site complete the company, site or visitor induction.

Records of all inductions are held on the Gusher intranet to satisfy legislative requirements.

### **Electrical**

A reminder to everyone that all electrical equipment is to be test and tagged at regular intervals and RCDs are to be used at all times.

All electrical leads must be off the ground on stands and be no more than 30 metres in length.

### **Ladders**

Ladders are to be industrial code and in good condition.

Please remember it is a condition of our FSC accreditation that ladders are to only be used for access and egress. They are not meant to be used as work platforms.

### **Mobile plant**

A reminder to make sure Gusher has a copy of your latest plant maintenance records and that a pre start must be carried out daily prior to starting work on site.

Ensure the plant operator is appropriately licensed and has carried out a plant risk assessment.

### **Chemical and hazardous substances**

A Material Safety Data Sheet is required to be available for any chemical or hazardous substance brought on to site.

These can be obtained from the supplier where you purchase the chemicals.

A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) is not to be confused with a Technical Data Sheet. These are two different types of information. If you are not sure, please ask your distributor.

### **First aid compliance**

Everyone is reminded to make sure all first aid kits are checked for use by dates and – where required – replenished.

Fire extinguishers need to be checked to ensure test tags are current and that they are in good condition.

### **Safe work method statement also called a job safety assessment (JSA)**

All works carried out on site require the completion of a Safe Work Method Statement/JSA.

The site specific section needs to be completed to identify and control any site specific hazards.

## **Gusher Christmas party 2009**



*Renee, Mark and Ethan Halpenny with Peter Warburton at the Christmas party.*



*Craig the bank manager shares a joke with Gusher managing director Mick Malady during the Christmas bash at the Darwin Turf Club.*