

June 2019

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Winter greetings

You'll be aware that particulates from winter fires are a real health hazard. If the levels are too high, peoples' health can really be impacted, especially those with already compromised chests.

If you aren't already aware, after [recent media coverage](#) I need to alert you to a similarly serious health issue involving silicosis which while not directly affecting our extractive sector staff, certainly highlights wider concerns.



Last month I attended the first-ever New Zealand conference of Occupational Hygienists – those who protect the health of people in the workplace. A keynote speaker there was Australian GP Dr Julia Norris. She outlined the terrifying results of a Queensland survey of 800 workers engaged in making stone benchtops; more than 1 in 10 of them had silicosis and one has already died. He was 36 years old. WorkSafe has now put out a [Safety Alert](#) on the dangers of Accelerated Silicosis.

No-one working in a quarry or a mine would be exposed to anything like the amount of Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) that someone fashioning benchtops out of crushed quartz is exposed to. However, an extractive sector worker will potentially have exposure to silica dust, perhaps over as much as a lifetime.

What's emerging in stonemason and joinery factories is a signal to us to be aware of the dangers of RCS. WorkSafe is currently consulting on a proposal to cut Worker Exposure Standards (WES) from 0.1ppm to 0.05ppm. MinEx is submitting on that. Frankly, I think there are problems with what is proposed because monitors currently can't accurately detect silica at levels below 0.05ppm. I also believe we should be focussing on the controls for managing worker exposure to dust rather than tampering with the WES. However, the message to the extractive sector is to lift its efforts at managing dust – all dust, because any dust can impact health and you don't know what's in it if you are exposed.



To that end, I'm really pleased to see the new Code of Practice emerging for quarries in greater Christchurch; it includes strong references to the crucial importance that needs to be attached to managing dust (see next story).

Also, the WorkSafe review of CPD is now nearing to a close for submissions – and in this MinEx newsletter I outline why we as an industry need to make our voice heard.

So, settle back by the fire (or heater) and read our latest offering.

Stay warm and safe

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Wayne'.

Wayne Scott
CEO
MinEx & AQA

Dust and noise addressed by new code

A new voluntary Code of Practice developed by quarry operators in the greater Christchurch area will provide reassurance to neighbours – and to staff – that every effort will be made to reduce effects such as noise and dust.

A big thumbs up to the Canterbury quarry sector who are showing they want to work with communities and councils to find sustainable solutions to environmental issues. The code addresses wider community concerns by promoting minimum and best practices as well as longer-term goals in quarry management across such issues as dust, air and water quality and vehicle movements.

While the focus of the code reflects a need to improve the environmental outcomes for neighbours affected by dust and noise issues, this will no doubt also bring benefits for those working in quarries or those visiting them regularly, such as truck drivers.



Dust suppression in action at Winston Aggregates Belmont quarry

As noted in the commentary above on silicosis, the extractive industry has to lift its game on issues such as dust. The code requires any quarry to have sufficient water and dust suppression equipment, that loading out can only happen when dust discharge is minimal or effectively controlled, and sealed haul roads and dust monitoring are required. And these are only some of the minimum practice requirements. The code will be available soon.

What Canterbury quarries have done looks like a first for any New Zealand region; if the local industry, councils and communities all see improvements, then such codes may become a model for other regions.

I support codes being developed and adopted across the country as a way to provide transparency and reassurance to communities and quarry staff.

CPD Review

Next Monday July 1 is the close-off for submissions to WorkSafe on its proposals for welcome changes to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in the extractive sector.

If you want to make a submission, email

BoE_Secretariat@worksafe.govt.nz.

I'd also value seeing your views -

wayne@minex.org.nz



And/or you could attend either of the two remaining consultative workshops WorkSafe/BoE is running - Hotel Nelson on Tuesday (25 June) and at Greymouth's Ashley Hotel on Wednesday (26 June). Register [here](#).

WorkSafe and the BOE have been open to ideas about the future of CPD for our extractive sector so let's use the opportunity provided.

The MinEx Board was briefed last month by WorkSafe and it signalled it is all ears on the draft proposals, with input particularly sought on transitional arrangements between the existing CPD regime and what will replace it; there are 800 renewals due by 2021.

If WorkSafe's proposals are confirmed, the current year by year need to clock up the specified number of hours will be removed and you will have five years to meet your CPD requirements.

Things to note in the proposal are:

- You can do a third of your 5-year total hours in one year
- You can take a two-year break from doing CPD
- Once the five-year period is over you can't carry any CPD hours earned into the next five years.

View the [full proposal here](#).

QuarryNZ conference just weeks away

If you haven't already booked, the annual quarry industry get-together is less than a month away.

Southern Rock - Anchoring New Zealand is the bold theme that our Invercargill



hosts have established and they are promising to feed, stimulate and entertain us with southern hospitality we won't soon forget.

There's also a first-class programme, including the field trip, three dinners, the chance to engage with Government and Opposition MPs as well as old mates and colleagues. Registrations [here](#)

If you have any queries about QuarryNZ's July 17-19 conference, ring the ever-helpful Hayley on 0211525763.

Coupling up with Australia 2019 IQA Conference



Meanwhile, our friends at Institute of Quarrying Australia are keen to encourage some Kiwis to fly over the ditch for the 2019 IQA conference, being held October 1–3 in Geelong.

The conference includes a detailed, fun and informative programme including site tours, acclaimed industry speakers and experts on a diverse range of subjects. There's no doubt you gain a lot from seeing how things are done in another country and Geelong is only an hour from Melbourne.

Early Bird specials are now available conference.quarry.com.au

Hazardous substances in a page

As part of our ongoing effort to make sometimes complex issues readily understandable, MinEx has recently

completed a simple one-pager on hazardous substances.

This tells you the four simple steps to reduce risks from a wide range of substances with health effects and how to plan for an emergency and some effective controls. [Download here.](#)

If you are looking for more info, the more substantive guide MinEx produced to worker health in extractives is available [here](#).





Hazardous substances

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Hazardous substances cover a wide range of substances, with an equally wide range of effects. These substances could be hazardous to inhale or touch, acidic, affect reproductive health, or may be highly flammable or explosive.

Follow these four simple steps to reduce risk of injury:

| Identify | Assess | Control | Monitor |
|--|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Create an inventory of hazardous substances at your site, including information from the product Safety Data Sheet | Assess the potential harm to workers from each product's Safety Data Sheet | Use controls listed below to reduce the risk of harm from hazardous substances | Review your hazardous substance register Regular review of Worker Health Plan |

Hazardous substances used in the extractives industry include:

- explosives and detonators
- compressed gases
- cyanide
- lead
- mercury
- acids
- resins (eg polyurethane resins)
- paints and solvents
- petrol, diesel and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)

Plan for an emergency:

- train your workers on what to do in an emergency
- keep your inventory of hazardous substances readily accessible to emergency services workers
- label all hazardous substances and ensure the label is readable and stays on the container
- have a safety data sheet for each hazardous substance at your workplace, and make them readily accessible to workers and emergency services
- be prepared to deal with a spill or leak of hazardous substances

Controls include:

- Inform and train workers on the dangers of hazardous substances
- Ensure containers of hazardous substances are clearly and correctly labelled
- Install signs at key points where substances are used or stored
- Keep the amount of hazardous substances you store to a minimum
- Store them safely and in accordance with Hazardous Substance Regulations

For more information see [A guide to Worker Health in Extractives](#) on the MinEx website.

minex.org.nz office@minex.org.nz

MinEx 2019 workshops

The workshops are flying by - only 8 more to go. Next we head to the far north - to Kerikeri and Dargaville.

These workshops are run in two half day sessions (on the same day) - so you can gain 2 lots of 4 hours of CPD in one day.

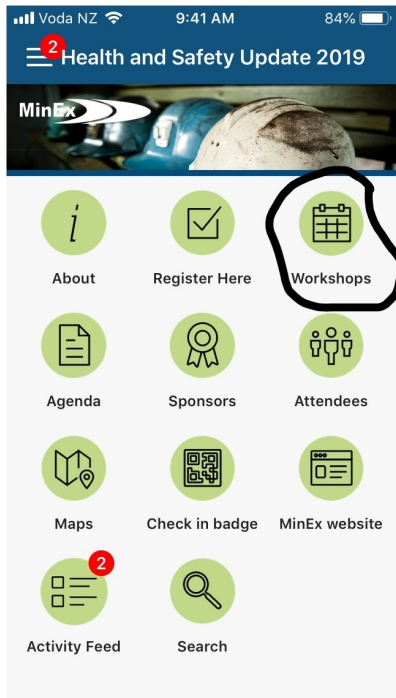
The focus is on Operating and Safety systems, Emergency Management, Leadership and Legislation - and we would like to acknowledge WorkSafe and Brofil for their support.

The cost to attend is a modest \$100 + GST and you MUST register beforehand. Register through the app (details below, or contact us at MinEx).

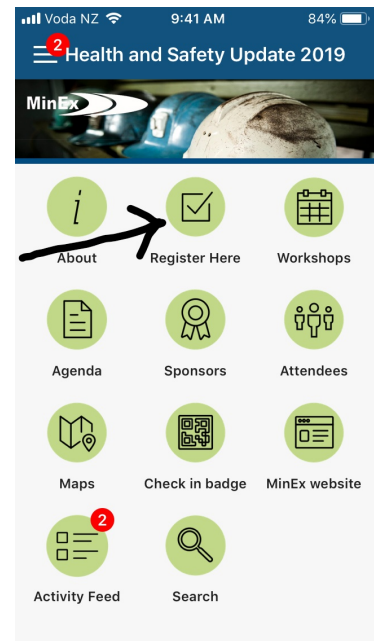
Kerikeri - July 2
Dargaville - July 3
Invercargill - August 20 & 21
Greymouth - Sept 19

North Canterbury - Sept 25
Ngaruawahia - Oct 16
Taumarunui - Oct 17
Whakatane - Nov 7

To register download the MinEx app on your Apple or Android phone (see links below) and click *Register Here*.



To find a date for a workshop (without registering), download the app and click on *Workshops*



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With a huge thanks to our 2019 workshop sponsors



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