

QESH

Quality Environmental Safety & Health Update April May June 2006

*Welcome to the 23rd client Update Newsletter from QEC, and the first financial quarter of 06/07, where is time going! In this newsletter we welcome yet another new face to the team Julian Booker, and congratulate Nicole who now has a baby son Connor.
Leigh-Anne Cronin.*

Our Newest Members!

Julian Booker joins QEC in April; he has a waste water and consent compliance background, having worked at Wallace Corporation for five years. His email is jbooker@qec.co.nz.

We have also employed an undergrad student Andrew Corkill part time to assist us with our ever-increasing research and admin type workload. Andrew is in his third year of a social sciences degree at Waikato taking geography and environmental planning papers.

And congratulations to Nicole and her husband Stephen who now have a son Connor to keep them busy! We live in hope that Nicole returns to us soon....

Test or Chance?

Any work environment with electrical appliances is required to have them regularly tested and tagged for electrical safety. Depending on the type of application and appliance, testing should occur every 3, 6 or 12 months. Tested appliances are usually fitted with a triangle shaped tag showing test date, and expiry date. Employees learn to not use an appliance that has an expired tag or no tag. If your appliances aren't carrying test tags, or you know you don't have a programme in place, you are in breach of regulations. There are many companies that offer the service, including your local sparky who would appreciate the regular work. However before you start, you need to prepare a database of electrical equipment and appliances, determine the test frequency, and then seek quotes. And of course if you need any help with this process we can help.

Hazardous Waste Collections

The free HazMobile is doing the rounds again collecting hazardous waste. They will take things such as cleaners,

Fluorescent tubes, garden chemicals, pool chemicals, gas cylinders, batteries, smoke alarms, pesticides, paints, banned or obsolete chemicals, so long as the containers aren't leaking! Don't take explosives, syringes, asbestos, or commercial hazardous waste. Pickups are on in the following areas from 10am to 2pm:

- Murupara 29th April, transfer station.
- Te Kaha 5th May, resource recovery facility.
- Kawerau 13th May, transfer station.
- Whakatane 27th May, recycling park.

HSNO Emergency Training

If your site has triggered the need to have an emergency management plan prepared under HSNO, you will also need to practice the plan at least annually, to verify it works and is adequate. We have recently designed and run an acid spill scenario for AgriQuality Lab in Lower Hutt. Check out our webpage www.qec.co.nz for the debrief and photos. It was a really exciting and informative way to test an emergency plan. We can tailor any such scenario to your site requirements.

Did You Know?...

- During the age of dinosaurs a species went extinct every 1,000 years. Now species are believed to go extinct at the rate of several per day.
- 6.5 billion people live on Earth. If the current rate of population growth continues, by 2050 there will be 15 billion.
- Each person in US creates 1 tonne of hazardous waste per year (average).
- Each year the average car emits more than its own weight in carbon.
- Of the 35,000 pesticides introduced since 1945, 10% have been tested to assess their impact on human health.
- If 1% of the Sahara desert were a solar electric plant it would produce all of the electrical energy used on earth.
- At current consumption rates, the world will use up its known usable oil reserves in less than 50 years.
- It takes 1 million years for nature to produce the amount of fossil fuel humans burn in 1 year.
- It takes 0.3g of uranium to produce as much energy as burning a tonne of coal.