

Safety First

Re-assessing Risks in a changing Work Environment

10/06/2010

Target audience: All Divisions and Business Groups within RailCorp that Assess Risks in their Workplace

We remind all Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewals staff to STOP WORK and reassess all risks when new Hazards are identified or the work environment changes.

Recently, during a weekend possession a RailCorp Employee suffered a broken leg as a result of a failure to identify hazards and reduce risks on the worksite.

At times not all hazards may be identified at the initial pre work briefing, this may occur for many reasons including but not limited to:-

- changes in scope due to unforeseen circumstance,
- changes in environmental conditions e.g. rain, wind, extreme heat.
- Alteration or failure of plant and equipment to arrive (modification of SWMS/SWI),
- fatigue,
- different plant arriving on site than previously arranged,
- progress through varied work stages

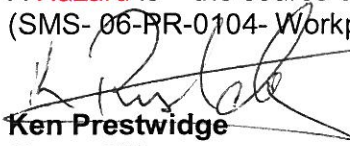
In these cases when new hazards are identified the following process is to be followed:-

- Identify HAZARDS,
- NOTIFY Site Supervisor,
- STOP WORK,
- Re-assess RISKS,
- CONTROL Risks,
- DOCUMENT new or additional hazards, risks and controls using the Pre Work Briefing form SMS-06-FM-0163,
- Conduct a new BRIEFING,
- Continue Work.

At times it is often beneficial to stand back, take 5 and reassess the hazards and risks on our worksite. Remember, proactively assessing hazards and reducing risks helps prevent accidents and injuries.

Glossary.

A **Hazard** is – the source of potential harm or a situation with a potential to cause loss. (SMS- 06-PR-0104- Workplace Risk Management).



Ken Prestwidge
General Manager
Safety Support Services