

### **EXPLODING TYRE KILLS WORKER**

A Kent tyre company has been sentenced for safety failings after 21-year-old Matthew Hoare, from Canterbury was killed when a tyre exploded.

Canterbury Crown Court heard how Matthew, an employee of Watling Tyre Service Limited of Kent, was repairing a puncture to the tyre of a 'dresser loading shovel' when it exploded.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Matthew was working on his own with inadequate work equipment which was not properly maintained. He was not trained or competent to undertake the work he was told to complete.

After the hearing, HSE Principal Inspector Mike Walters said: "Employees need to be provided with properly maintained equipment and the correct equipment to undertake tasks whilst out on site. Employees also need to be trained and competent in the tasks they were asked to undertake."

Watling Tyre Service Limited pleaded guilty, at a previous hearing on 29 January 2016, to breaches of Section 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 were today fined £1 million and ordered to pay costs of £99,485.

### **CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

Shroud of Turin corner sample was carbon dated to 1290 approx. The sample was contaminated with interwoven cotton into the original.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSotRtPArl>

### **ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORTING**

All clients should take note that DoL or Worksafe do not consider a serious harm has occurred unless there is a serious injury and the victim has been admitted as inpatient at hospital.

### **SUBBIE SYSTEMS REQUIRED**

We can now provide three versions of subbie system: The standard set is for contractors that carry out work for a principal contractor or act as mini contractors in their own right. They usually have 2-3 helpers and work from small base.

The second set is for small shops, churches and child care and a thousand types of mini suppliers that provide goods for consumers. Doctors, Dentists, Accountants and lawyers etc etc.

The third set is less well known but more defiant. It comprises a thousand types of itinerant travellers that provide services to farmers and residential sites plus some commercial. Examples include real estate, stock and station, fertiliser. This group includes allied health nursing etc.

SSL Manager Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/Fax \_\_\_\_\_

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**HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: 77 Tarewa Road, Morningside, Whangarei 0110**  
**TELEPHONE 09 438 7555 or 7550, FACSIMILE 09 438 7556, MOB 021 070 9141**  
**EMAIL [safetynz@xtra.co.nz](mailto:safetynz@xtra.co.nz) [gpaul\\_134@hotmail.com](mailto:gpaul_134@hotmail.com) [www.summitsystems.co.nz](http://www.summitsystems.co.nz)**  
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## News & views from Summit Systems December 2016



### **JAIL TERM POSSIBLE FOR DREAM WORLD MANAGERS**

A fatal accident at Dreamworld on Australia's Gold Coast, which is believed to have claimed the life of a New Zealander and three other people, comes after a series of incidents at the park over the past two decades.

Since 1995, Dreamworld has had at least five incidents where rides malfunctioned or had to be temporarily closed down. Some of these incidents left visitors injured or stranded. The most recent incident unfolded six months ago, when a man almost drowned when he fell from the Rocky Hollow Log Ride.

Kiwi Dreamworld visitor Kaylah Walker, 25, and her mother Lisa, said the Thunder River Rapids ride – on which four adults died on Tuesday – was not working earlier on Tuesday. "Earlier in the day it had broken down," said Lisa Walker. "It had broken down and we went back a couple of times to this particular ride," she said.

Rattray (understood to be a teenager attendant) claimed he was responsible for building rides at the Coomera theme park and soon after joked that he had forgotten to "tighten up the conveyor belt".

"Just heading back to Dreamworld to tighten up the conveyor belt. Was supposed to do it after smoko (sic) but forgot ..." he wrote, according to the Courier Mail.

Rattray posted another heartless message two days later, which read: "On a positive note ... At least they died having fun ..." One of the worker's Facebook friends replied: "I knew these people ... Their kids aren't laughing."



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## **EXPERIENCED FARMERS GET KILLED**

WorkSafe's data from 2015 shows that experienced farmers carrying out routine jobs with vehicles are getting caught out. In 2015, there were 19 fatalities on farms – 16 of those involved vehicles. In over 50% of the incidents, farmers were aged over 55 and driving vehicles on sloping or uneven ground.

"These were mature and experienced people doing jobs they would have done many times before," says Al McCone, WorkSafe's Agriculture Programme Manager. "Examining vehicle fatalities from the last three years, we find that often the driver/rider had set out to do a fairly routine task like spraying or stock work."

The incidents had some common factors like operators or others being hit by the vehicle, or being killed during a rollover. "To keep yourself safe make sure the vehicle won't move when you get out, and wear seatbelts when in the cab or roll frame. Extra care is needed when working on or near slopes, especially on tracks with steep drop-offs."

The quads involved in the fatalities ranged in age and size, and were often in sound mechanical condition. However, low tyre tread depth and under-inflated or uneven tyre pressure was noted as a possible contributing factor in some cases. Often the vehicle had slid on a slope and a number of incidents involved quad bikes overturning into drains, ditches or waterways. "Good practice like keeping at least one metre from a stream or culvert edges, stopping and dismounting to spray, and working out 'no go' areas on farm in advance could all help prevent incidents.

"Any vehicle is only as good as the way it is maintained and used," says Al McCone. "Make sure tyres and brakes, especially the handbrake on tractors, are in good condition, and it is essential operators know how to use the vehicles properly."

Farmers, both employers and employees, are also more likely to be working alone at busy times, so having a plan in place for lone workers meant if anything went wrong, the alarm could be raised. "Like most risk management processes, it doesn't need to be complicated," says Mr McCone. "There are a number of solutions that send out 'man down' or just location signals. If you can't afford these, then get a simple system in place where people check in at agreed times. If they don't, then check on them."



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## **FARM VEHICLES CAN BE MADE SAFE – 10 STEPS**

Farm vehicle fatalities highlight the importance of good risk management and following safe practices. WorkSafe advises the following:

1. When driving any enclosed vehicle, or vehicle with a roll frame, seat belts must be worn. If there is likelihood of head contact with the frame, helmets should be worn.
2. Drive the vehicle at a speed suited for the conditions and terrain.
3. When riding unenclosed vehicles, wear a helmet.
4. Don't take any vehicle onto slopes beyond the capabilities of the driver/rider or vehicle - especially when carrying spray tanks or towing trailers.
5. Make sure carried equipment does not exceed the vehicle's capabilities and that equipment is properly installed on the vehicle.
6. Stay clear of drain or stream edges, especially where poor light and/or growth obscures irregularities in the surface of the bank's edges.
7. When getting off a tractor, make sure the brakes are on properly and will not move.
8. Quad riders must be physically able to ride actively and to escape the vehicle quickly if need be. Stop riding the quad if your attention is diverted to other tasks, such as working your dogs or spraying. This is especially important on slopes or uneven terrain.
9. Take care on uneven ground where a vehicle's front wheel can drop unexpectedly.
10. Make sure quad tyres have tread depth in line with manufacturers' instructions and that they are correctly inflated.

## **CHANGES CAN BRING RISKS AND DEATHS?**

On 30 November last year, an employee of Corboy Earthmovers Limited in Te Awamutu was killed when emulsion was being transferred under pressure from a transport tank (an "emulsion pig") to a heating tank. A blockage in the transfer line caused a build-up of pressure in the emulsion pig.

This caused the rear plate welds to fail, and rear plate swung around and hit the victim.

"The issue here, and what industry needs to be very aware of, is that the emulsion pig was not constructed to take pressure and nor was there an over-pressure safety device fitted to it," says WorkSafe Chief Inspector Keith Stewart.

"This company had used pumps to transfer the emulsion up until 2007, and that was a far safer process. When Corboy started using compressed air it did not identify pressure build-up as a risk and it should have used a properly designed and constructed pressure vessel – that would have avoided this tragedy.

"Using pressure to transfer materials between containers has inherent risks which must be identified and managed no matter what the circumstances are, and under no circumstances should containers which are not pressure-rated vessels be used," Mr Stewart said.

Corboy Earthmovers was charged under S6 of the Health and Safety in Employment Act with failing to take all practicable steps to ensure the safety of its employee while at work. The charge carries a maximum fine of \$250,000 (This incident occurred prior to the introduction this year of the Health and Safety at Work Act.)

The company was ordered to pay reparations of \$140,319.80 by the Hamilton District Court today. The Judge considered that an appropriate fine would have been \$73,800, but noted that the company is in liquidation so no fine was imposed.