

PULLEYS CAN PULL & KILL

A woman in her 20s has died after being strangled by her clothing while driving a go-kart on the NSW central coast, police say.

The woman was with her family at the Port Stephens go-kart track on Thursday when the scarf she was wearing became caught in the vehicle's wheels and tightened around her neck.

Emergency services were called to the circuit at around 2.10pm (AEST) and she was flown to Newcastle's John Hunter Hospital where she later died. Police and WorkCover are examining the scene.



FREE AUDITS FOR FURTHER 90 DAYS. CONDITIONS APPLY

Down to 30 June 2010, Clients can have a free audit completed. This will take about one hour. It will help them identify key areas that they need to focus on during times of economic uncertainty.

One client in Whangarei with 15 staff had a RISK MANAGEMENT audit completed and found that \$182,000 of savings / benefits could be achieved with very little expenditure.

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**News & views from Summit
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ACC CHANGES CONTEMPLATED

It is believed that ACC officials may be engaged in a number of moves to make the scheme more accountable and market responsible for losses and to introduce more incentives.

It is likely that the ACC scheme - which is officially called ARCI, is an insurance scheme regulated by Govt, will be adopting a zero claims discount by the of this fiscal year.

This will mean that the current year will determine whether companies and organisations are successful in enjoying an improved risk rating and either refunds and reduced levies or their standard levy or a double levy in the event of excessive claims or poor claims experience.

This is officially called experience rating and our clients should benefit considerably by the introduction and application of this scheme.

What most small businesses do not realise is that it only takes one claim to destroy and zero claim preferential levy. Most businesses think that because they have not had claims in the past, that they are not likely to have claims again.

This is called the "gambler's fallacy" which is described by "flipping heads" three times in a row that they think they they will get "heads" next time. This is simply not true. They still have the same likelihood each and every time.

READ THE CONTRACT

We often have challenges from clients that since they did not have a visit they do not have to pay annual fees. This is quite untrue and usually they have frustrated or prevented the visit with the hope they can stop on-going fees. The fees are 33% for the visit (which is still payable even if not performed); 33% for bi-annual update of system/s and 33% for free hotline service where clients can ring Head Office for support and advice.

2.

SYSTEMS NEED TO BE UPDATED ON BI-ANNUAL BASIS OR AT LEAST COMPARED TO THE CURRENT MASTERFILE

Clients are reminded that both the Human Resource System and the TQS1 Quality Management system have been subject to major updating within the last two years.

Systems older than March 2008 will be substantially out of date and they must be updated to offer maximum legal protection.

The changes in the HR system are to the employment contract or agreement, to the forms and there are additional policies.

Changes to the TQS1/QA system include new forms, major revision of the tendering process and major revision of Company Profile and files 6 and 7 are now offered.



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY SYSTEMS WILL NEED TO BE UPDATED SOME TIME IN 2010

It is probable that the OHSIP Injury Prevention system will require updating in the next few weeks or months. The changes may include

- (a) new definition of what is classified as “serious harm”;
- (b) changes to the Act to allow Dept of Labour to prosecute the company officers and/or directors at the same time as the Company;
- (c) removal of the defence that has prevailed under section 31, subsection (6) whereunder a person being examined is not required to incriminate himself or herself.;
- (d) there may be changes to require that where there are several parties operating at a site such as construction, there must be measures in place to ensure collaboration and agreed responsibilities.

For clients who intend to purchase a system in the near future we will arrange for the changes to be made available at no addition cost for a period of one year as from 1 April 2010.

3.

FIRM FINED FOR DEATH

The death of a worker has cost Dunedin company \$ 140,000 and prompted a Department of Labour warning that employers should treat workplace hazard identification as a priority. Transpacific Industries Group (NZ) was sentenced in the Dunedin District Court yesterday and fined \$ 60,000 and ordered to pay reparation of \$ 80,000 over the death of Andrew Sime, who was hit by a vehicle while collecting rubbish a year ago.



DID YOU GET A TICKET RECENTLY? BAD LUCK?

If you were speeding recently there is a good chance you may have got a ticket. The Officials tell you in the media that they collected maybe \$9 million from fines in the last financial year. If you happen to think that is true you have better buy another calculator. We are informed on good advice that the annual Blossom Festival in Alexandra normally nets \$2 million for the weekend with nearly all fines in the big dip just north of the Roxburgh dam. We also know that the northern Motorway out of Dunedin can net \$50,000 per day any day that they like in the down run from the summit. We also know that normally there are 15 squad cars perched between Arthurs Pass and Porter Heights on the day of the Food Festival at Hokitika. We know that the motorway out of Wellington produces huge revenue. We think that \$9 million per week would be more accurate.

One thing you need to be aware of is that we are advised from some friends in the North Island that the South Island patrols are not only on a performance based system but they are known to try tricks when they reach the end of the day and do not have the numbers in the bag. They will snap a motorist at 70-80 kph in Johns Rd and then dart into one of the arterial roads leading to the city of Christchurch. The next poor sod coming towards them doing more than 50 – 60 kph will wear it.

The only way to be sure is to get out of your car and go to the squad car. Ask to see the readings vis theirs and yours. You must take note of the actual time of the recording and if it is not exactly right you should ring 111 and ask for police patrol at police Headquarters. You need to ask for the sergeant and lay an official complaint. If you think that this is a remote situation then think again.

