

# Extractives trial phone-based H&S training

Colin Willisroft - Wed, 6 Sep 2023

Ongoing mobile plant incidents in the extractives sector are driving the development of training modules to provide material that on-the-ground workers can access on their phones.



Called micro-learning, the aim of the modules – which include short videos and interactive quizzes – is to deliver easy-to-access health and safety messages specifically for mobile plant operators that are applicable to a quarry environment.

As part of the project, WorkSafe partnered with industry to deliver a proof-of-concept model. That is looking good enough to consider its wider development and use, MinEx says in its August Train Brain newsletter.

WorkSafe extractives inspector Stuart Heslop says contributing factors behind mobile plant being the leading notifiable category in the sector reported to WorkSafe led it to begin the project in 2020.

## Targeted

Heslop says findings from the project highlight the need to develop learning modules targeted at workers, as busy quarry managers don't always have the time to tutor individual workers on every requirement.

"Traditional training often saw peoples' eyes glaze over. The problem wasn't the content but how the learning happens. We knew our target audience was operators, not quarry managers."

It's an approach that has been used in other sectors, such as agriculture, delivering short video content through phones so its target audience is more likely to engage with it.

The material covers eight modules – including reversing into a tipping position, machine capabilities and technology, tip head design and open edge protection. They are available by scanning a QR code on a phone.

## Benefits

Heslop says where the training tool can be beneficial includes situations where someone typically operates a specific piece of machinery, such as a front-end loader, but is asked to step in and drive a truck for a few days, or vice versa.

He says it's also very good for people with English as a second language.

With most sites having a toolbox meeting prior to starting work, people can easily look at a couple of videos to refresh their knowledge.

The modules include some quizzes where the results are not tracked, so people can re-sit them as often as they need until they master the information.

## Testing

Three quarry sites – the Gleeson site in Huntly, along with Kaipara's Smythes and Brookby quarries – took part in a trial that was part of the project. There was also input from MITO's level 2 extractives tutor Phill Boulton.

Gleeson quarry manager during the trial Shawn McLean, who is now at Imery Ceramics, says his testing ground involved a mix of older and younger staff, as well as some Filipino workers.

He says most training involves reading and not everyone learns best that way.

"In our industry we lack video training aids and some people learn better from them."

There is also human nature at play.

"Guys don't always say that they don't know something."