



Midway and accelerating

If you are like me, it's hard to believe we're nearing the halfway point of the year. For MinEx, that attests to a lot that's been done since January – and a truckload to attend to through the balance of the year.

On top of my priority list is getting out to see you at the mine and quarry face.



To that end I'm pleased we've nailed the first of our regional workshops designed to make it easier for you to comprehend, develop and implement good, simple health and safety management systems.

We start in Palmerston North on Wednesday June 13 and roll-on to Waipukurau the next day.

Two weeks later we are in Gisborne and there has been so much interest in this area, the first workshop (June 27) is now full and we have added a second (June 26) to cater for demand. That week we also visit Whakatane (June 28). RVSP to office@minex.org.nz

The sessions run from 3.00pm – 6.00pm, followed by refreshments and general discussion.

I plan to follow these first five workshops with the following around the country:

Cromwell – 7 August

Invercargill – 8 August

Greymouth – 14 August

Blenheim – 15 August

Ashburton – 29 August

Paeroa – 16 October

Te Kuiti – 17 October

Stratford – 18 October

Kerikeri – 24 October

Dargaville – 25 October

We will cover:

- Risk Management
- Workplace Inspections
- Plant
- Training & Competency
- Emergency response.

You will be provided with a simple HSMS template with forms to use in your operation.

Please support these workshops. They are designed to give you all the information you need to develop your own safety management system and improve health and safety in your workplace.

If you can assist with holding a workshop please contact me. I acknowledge the support to date from Hatuma Lime and J Swaps for hosting – and to J Swaps for allowing their Quarries Development Manager Mike Higgins to co-deliver the workshops.

Stay safe

Wayne Scott

CEO

MinEx

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Changes to CoCs announced



MinEx has been the industry lead on getting the much-awaited proposed changes to CoCs for the extractives sector from talk into action.

On Friday the WorkSafe Board announced three interim changes while the regs review winds its way through the tortuous process of Government/industry interface.

The three changes announced will be gazetted in June, and will facilitate:

- Site specific quarry managers qualifications
- Defining 'workings' of the relevant type of mine, tunnel or quarry
- First aid certificates – clarification of requirements.

Further changes to CoCs have been postponed until the review of the Health and Safety at Work (Mining Operations and Quarrying Operations) Regulations is completed, and the updated Regs are in place.

Read the [full details of the WorkSafe announcement](#) here.

The Apprentice – you're hired

Donald Trump came to fame firing people as his apprentice. I'd much rather see our industry hiring people as apprentices.



It's not about getting one apprentice who triumphs but giving lots of (mostly) young people the chance to get a start in the extractive industry which has an average workforce age in the mid-50s.

I'm working with our industry training organisation, MITO to develop a programme which provides the right balance of on-the-job and off-site training. We've formed a group, the Extractive Industry Training Group (EITAG), to help bring this together. A particular spur is the fact that the new Government is providing one year of free fees for uni students but two years free for industry training (apprenticeships).

We are close to announcing details but if this is something you'd like to support,

give me a bell. Wayne@minex.org.nz or 021 944 336.

Meantime, we applaud the companies who are driving their own apprenticeship schemes, among them Ravensdown.

Getting down on dust

A major quarry expansion near Christchurch may signal that the debate over the impacts of dust is at least starting to moderate.

Road Metals has had approval, from Environment Canterbury (the regional council), for a 13 hectare expansion at its Yaldhurst site.



Approval is conditional on the silica dust monitoring programme in Yaldhurst, due to complete in June, not returning results above strict international standards.

I have been saying for months that the programme will not find any detectable levels of Respirable Crystalline Silica which was earlier the subject of some extravagant claims by residents and some authorities. If there is any RCS risk, it is to workers operating at very close quarters, not people 100m or more away.

This is not to say that there are no nuisance effects from poor management of dust issues on quarry sites.

If Road Metals does get its expected approval, it will have to meet the host of mitigation measures it has offered, including building high bunds around the site, keeping activities to at least 100m from properties, stopping activities on windy days, damping gravel with water and keeping to slow speeds to help avoid dust.

Fair enough.

Every quarry in the country can expect that such requirements will emerge as their consents come up for renewal – if not earlier.

Draft strategy on worker health and safety



The risks posed health for extractive workers will be among issues canvassed by MinEx in a submission to the recently released Government draft strategy for improving the health and safety of New Zealand workers over the next 10 years.

The Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety, Iain Lees-Galloway acknowledges New Zealand has made good progress in recent years

in reducing the rate of acute harm but wants to broaden the focus to make sure we're managing wider health risks, including mental health.

A key priority in the strategy is ensuring better outcomes for Māori and other workers at greater risk of being over represented in injury statistics and high-risk sectors, or more likely to be engaged in temporary, geographically remote or precarious employment.

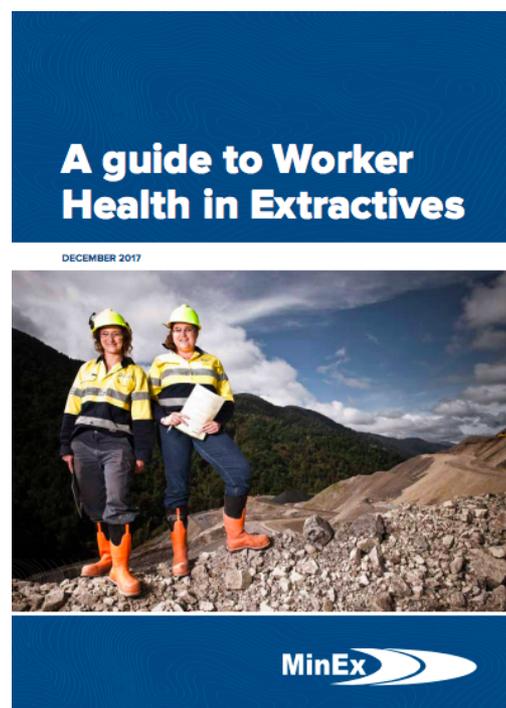
MinEx is open to input on its submission which is due by 8 June. More information about the strategy, including how to lodge a submission, can be found [here](#).

Booklets coming

MinEx takes worker health issues very seriously. While the statistics may not be fully robust on worker death rates from workplace exposure (things like smoking complicate data) there is no doubt many more workers die of work-related illnesses than from injury at work.

Late last year MinEx produced a Guide to Worker Health available on our [website](#).

We are now working on a booklet on Slope Stability which we expect to roll out in July, followed by one on Mental Health, and another on Dust



Management.

I trust this confirms how importantly we view helping you and your staff towards our goal of no serious injuries or accidents in the extractives sector and their better health as well.

MinEx health and safety workshops

South Island, here we come. And a second workshop for Gisborne!

Because there has been so much interest in the Gisborne area, the first workshop is full, so we have added a second - details below. We have also just confirmed five MinEx regional workshops down on the Mainland.

Meanwhile, dates for the Far North, Waikato and Taranaki in October have also been set - if you are able to host a workshop in these centres, please contact us.

These FREE workshops provide an introduction to Health and Safety Management Systems - what they are, and how to develop one. Covered in each workshop will be:

- Risk Management
- Workplace Inspections
- Plant
- Training & Competency
- Emergency response.



You will be provided with a simple HSMS template with forms to use in your operation.

Palmerston North

Wednesday 13 June
Community Leisure Centre
569 Fergusson Street

Waipukurau

Thursday 14 June
Hatuma Lime
Maharakeke Road

Sponsored by Hatuma Lime

Gisborne

Tuesday 26 June **NEW WORKSHOP**
Wednesday 27 June **FULL**

Whakatane

Thursday 28 June
The Whakatane Hotel

Poverty Bay Golf Club
Lytton Road

79 The Strand
Sponsored by J Swap Contractors

Cromwell

Tuesday 6 August
Venue tbc

Invercargill

Wednesday 7 August
Club Southland
115 Leet Street

Greymouth

Tuesday 14 August
Tai Poutini Polytechnic
73-87 Tainui Street
Sponsored by Tai Poutini &
J Swap Contractors

Blenheim

Wednesday 15 August
Marlborough Emergency
Operations Centre
4 Wither Road

Ashburton

Wednesday 29 August
Venue tbc

Paeroa

Tuesday 16 October
Venue tbc

Te Kuiti

Wednesday 17 October
Venue tbc

Stratford

Thursday 18 October
Venue tbc

Kerikeri

Wednesday 24 October
Venue tbc

Dargaville

Thursday 25 October
Venue tbc

3.00pm – 6.00pm, followed by refreshments and general discussion.

Registration is FREE – 3 hrs formal CPD

To register email office@minex.org.nz

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[flyer for your noticeboard](#)

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[South Island](#)
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[Click here](#)

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