

**7 May 2008
MEDIA ALERT**

Designing Zero Harm in the Workplace: Lessons to be Learnt from NASA

Lessons from the 2003 Columbia Space Shuttle disaster and the “business case for happiness” are among the diverse themes to be explored by NSW’s largest OHS Conference next week.

NASA’s head of risk management, Michael Lutomski, is one of several leading international safety experts who will address some 450 delegates from the NSW mining industry at the 2008 NSW Minerals Industry Occupational Health and Safety Conference.

Exploring the theme “Designing Zero Harm”, this year’s conference in the Blue Mountains is hosting some of the world’s leading experts in professional health and safety. Speakers include:

- Michael Lutomski, Risk Manager, International Space Station Program, NASA Houston, Texas who will describe the causes of the 2003 Columbia Space Shuttle disaster, its implications for NASA’s management and tolerance of risk, and relevance to other professions;
- Kathleen Lucas from BP who will describe the company’s response following an explosion at a plant in Texas in 2005 which killed 15 workers and injured 170 – considered one of the worst industrial accidents in the past two decades;
- Australian motorsport legend Dick Johnson provides a birds eye view of safety from the perspective of the extreme sport of V8 motor car racing;
- Psychologist, Andrew Marty, who will review the “business case for happiness” and describe how to design a happy workplace



NSWMC Chief Executive Officer, Dr Nikki Williams, says the conference is a landmark event on the mining industry calendar - as the State’s industry, from shop-floor employees to senior management, have collectively committed to the drive towards the ultimate goal of zero harm.

“Mining is one of the most technologically advanced industries in the world,” said Dr Williams. “And in Australia we are in the enviable position of leading the world when it comes to our safety record.

“But with continuing advances and an ever changing mining environment we can never be complacent. Our two overseas speakers from organisations – NASA and BP – which have experienced two of the worst workplace accidents in living memory are a sobering reminder of this.

“Safety is not a stationary target. It requires constant innovation, evidence based learning and an open mind with which we challenge ourselves constantly to lift the bar.”

WHAT: 2008 NSW Minerals Industry Occupational Health and Safety Conference

WHEN: May 11- May 14

WHERE: BLUE MOUNTAINS

The conference program is available on:

http://www.nswmin.com.au/about_nswmc/conferences_and_events

To arrange interviews please contact Marion Downey, NSW Minerals Council

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