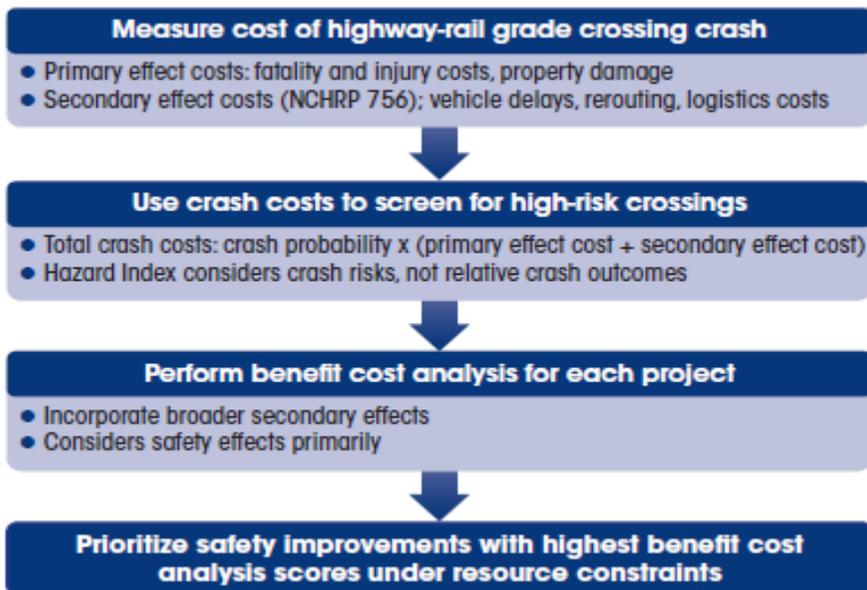


RAILWAY CROSSINGS - HUNDREDS OF LIVES LOST OVER TIME

NZ Rail were experiencing 35 level crossing deaths per annum for several years and wanted to improve their image. The Passenger Service report was chapter 51 of the huge compendium of NZR Operational Procedures. At the time, this was to be the final chapter.

The report had three recommendations:

- a) To repaint all of the railway furniture such as signals and barrier arms in vivid paint
- b) To require all locomotive drivers to always ensure that the locomotive had its three lights blazing.
- c) To consider what applies in outback Australia where a strobe signal from the roof of the locomotive makes it visible for 15 kms distance.



Summit	Manager	Name

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News & views from
Summit Systems
October 2017



GRAIN AUGERS KEEP ON KILLING PEOPLE

What happened?

A worker was trapped in grain when an unloading auger was turned on while the worker was inside a grain silo. The incident occurred when two workers were working inside the silo and a third worker started up the auger, causing the grain to move. The first worker sank into the grain and became trapped. The second worker went for help. By the time the second worker returned with help, the first worker was already under the surface of the grain.

This incident highlights the risks for workers (and any other person) when effective controls are not set up and safety procedures are not followed when working in a confined space, such as a grain silo. A person can easily become trapped and sink into the contents of the silo. In these circumstances, it is likely that the person will suffocate.

What we know

Silos present a number of risks that must be managed appropriately. Entering into silos, either from the ground or the top, presents a significant risk to workers. Workers can easily be engulfed by bulk materials such as grain, sand, flour, fertiliser and sawdust. Bulk materials are not solid and there are often unstable areas (voids) that may collapse under the weight of a worker. This can cause a worker to become trapped or buried in the silo.



2.

HEALTH AND SAFETY IS ONLY FOR SMART BUSINESSES

Throwing health and safety into “red tape” basket seems to be a national sport of late. There has been much media commentary lamenting its drain on management and board resources, deflecting precious time from “real business” of running a company. But this misses the point.

Health and safety is “real business” and its benefits go far beyond preventing paper cuts, or much worse. Indeed, many of New Zealand’s more progressive companies, both large and small, are embracing health and safety as a key pillar of their business operations and reaping the benefits.

In addition not having to visit the family of an injured or killed staff member, there are several benefits of an engaged approach to health and safety. They include improved staff engagement, improved productivity through reduced lost staff time and equipment damage, enhanced business reputation, clearer and strengthened supplier relationships, as well as improved and more effective operational planning.

Capable boards and executives focus on how to build and grow good businesses. They probe and then act on a range of issues, from financial management to digital innovation, environmental performance, and the health and safety of their staff.

Smart businesses know that almost all of these issues involve an element of regulation. Some recent commentary reflects why too many businesses are still missing mark on workplace health and safety, echoing a narrow and frustrated view focused exclusively on the compliance burden.

It is easy to frame health and safety as a slow-moving target, “clogging” the management and board agenda. But this has more to do with broader director and executive capability and maturity than health and safety itself.

Ethical investment is sweeping the world, with consumers increasingly interested in sustainability, a core tenet of which is how we treat employees. Domestically there is increased expectation that people return from work healthy, safe and well.

If we are to respond to those market and social demands, we need to move beyond the “health and safety is red tape” mentality and build our competence. Making health and safety happen is not an administrative task, nor one that is done once and then parked. Making it stick sits at the top table.

Encouragingly, the necessary shift is growing momentum. An increasing number of directors and executives appreciate that running a successful business means one that is healthy and safe for its people and its clients.

A chief executive of a regionally-based business recently made a significant investment to improve his organization’s health and safety performance after a workplace tragedy.

A year into the change, an operational manager challenged him with: “Surely we’ve done this safety stuff now. When is it time to get back to business?.”

The chief executive simply responded that if the manager was sick of focusing on health and safety, he was sick of working in the business.

3.

Another CEO outlined how his firm worked with its supply chain to identify where the biggest health and safety risks were, and to agree on the roles needed to manage those risks while getting the daily work done. Not only did this take care of a key health and safety responsibility, it also resulted in a new relationship approach that is paying dividends far beyond health and safety.

Given the importance of effective, stable and sustainable supplier relationships in the modern business world, this approach has delivered a real strategic advantage.

Tel Aviv to the Temple in 28 mins.
Bullet train to start in March 2018



From NZCPR Weekly: BUREAUCRACY RULES By Dr M Newman

A couple of months ago, a news story dubbed “Lemonadegate” made international news. It involved the daughter of a New Zealander living in London, who was fined £150 for setting up a stand and selling lemonade without a permit. She was five-years-old.

According to her father Andre Spicer, a professor of business studies, it was the school holidays and his daughter wanted to run a stall like they had at the school fair. With fond memories of growing up in Whangarei, where he and his brother had helped with fundraisers, a lemonade stand seemed like a good idea. Four jugs of lemonade were duly made, an old table was found, signs were drawn, and off they went to set up at the end of their street in Tower Hamlets.

A music festival was taking place in a nearby park, so business was brisk. The lemonade quickly disappeared and with the money tin filled, the five year old was happy - that is until four local council enforcement officers turned up and explained that since a “trading permit” had not been obtained, a £150 fine would be imposed.

The little girl burst into tears and sobbed all the way home - a positive and worthwhile experience, changed in an instant. It turns out that to operate a stall, a ‘street trading licence’ is needed from the council. They are available to anyone over the age of 17 and cost £75.

This week’s NZCPR Guest Commentator, Christopher Snowden, head of lifestyle economics at the Institute of Economic Affairs in London, followed the debacle and explains: “Tower Hamlets council have since cancelled the fine and apologised to the family, saying. ‘We are very sorry that this has happened. We expect our enforcement officers to show common sense and to use their powers sensibly. This clearly did not happen.’.”

He goes on, “The incident has been almost universally recognised as an extreme example of jobsworths mindlessly applying the letter of the law when they could use their discretion... The law used to be enforced by the police and we knew who they were. Today, we have an army of wardens, support officers, compliance officers and co-ordinators with varying degrees of authority whose only unifying feature is a high-vis jacket.” Chris expressed his concern about the underlying motivation of some of those who choose to work in ‘enforcement’ and asks, “What if the law is an ass?” - “What if agents of the state do not use their powers sensibly?”

And that’s a problem that now afflicts New Zealand. Bureaucrats have become so risk averse that instead of applying their common sense and discretion, they stick to the letter of the law like glue