



Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety Unit

# OH&S Alert!

July 31, 2009

## Logbooks - Follow Up Crucial

A recent crane mishap at a Kane Construction site left a dogman with a crushed foot and exposed failure to address faults recorded in the logbook.

CFMEU organisers were called to the site at Swinburne University, Hawthorn following the incident involving the lowering of a precast panel. Inspection of the crane's logbook revealed mechanical problems recorded in the weeks prior to the accident had not been fixed.

This should serve as a reminder to all operators of the importance of following up on problems noted in logbooks.

It is not adequate to simply record a mechanical, hydraulic or electrical fault. It needs to be brought to the attention of the employer and fixed.

### Liability

The CFMEU hears from a disturbing number of people who regularly operate plant they know to be substandard. We remind members of Section 25 of the OHS Act which requires all workers "take reasonable care for the health and safety of persons who may be affected by the employee's acts or *omissions* at a workplace."

Continuing to use plant and machinery despite faults being recorded in the logbook could leave an operator liable under the Act.

- Inspect all plant and equipment daily
- Record inspection and any faults identified
- Report faults to the employer
- Follow up to make sure faults are addressed

**If faults aren't addressed talk to your OHS rep or contact the CFMEU.**

## IF IT AIN'T RIGHT, DON'T USE IT

The CFMEU OH&S Unit gratefully acknowledges the support of Incolink.  
Authorised by Bill Oliver, Secretary, Tommy Watson and John Setka, Assistant Secretaries of the CFMEU  
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