



CASE STUDY

Injury Reduction in a Challenging Australian Exploration Mining Industry

Situation

Our client is a long established Australian hard rock mining operation with over 6,000 employees and contractors based in Western Australia. This case study focusses on the exploration unit of the business which is constantly fluctuating in workforce numbers [averaging 350] and activities.

The business operates in Western Australia where the industry had suffered 2,052 lost time incidents and 19 fatalities over the 2000-2005 period. The organisation is deeply committed to safety but faces some significant challenges in managing a diverse range of exploration operations across vast geographic locations. Additionally, the challenge of coordinating a contractor workforce made up of nine different companies, most with a traditional production focus and an entrenched culture harbouring the common belief that “injuries are bound to happen in mining exploration,” has proved difficult.

With a commitment to continuously improving safety performance, our client sought an initiative that would promote safety ownership at a Frontline Worker level for both employees and contractors. There was also a need to improve the organisational safety culture in a way that enabled them to measure improvement over time.

The BAPP technology has become deeply embedded and is fully integrated into the current safety strategy. Between June 2006 and February 2011, over 13,000 peer-on-peer observations have been completed by 296 trained observers across the workforce.

Solution

The organisation requested the assistance of DEKRA to implement a behavioural-based peer-on-peer safety process, Behavioral Accident Prevention Process™ (BAPP®) from DEKRA. Other sectors of the business had previously implemented this Process during 2002 and so the exploration unit followed suit in late 2005 with observations commencing June 2006. The implementation was tailored to the unique requirements of mining exploration’s harsh environments and activities.

The four key elements to the initiative were:

- Identify Critical safety Behaviours for the business unit
- Gather Data by observing the work being performed in a non-threatening way

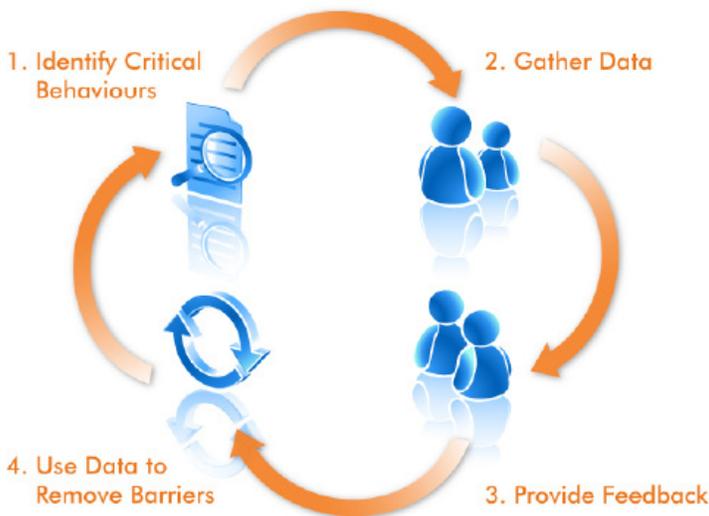
- Provide on the spot Feedback to behaviours
- Remove Barriers to safe behaviour.

To optimise intervention impact, the following activities were implemented at the same time as BAPP:

- A Process Dashboard was adopted to maintain the health of the implementation and promote sustainability
- The business unit’s lead team were trained in the foundations of BAPP
- Employees attended DEKRA national conferences and business network sessions to share best practice and keep up with the latest innovations from DEKRA.

Results

In the twelve months to February 2011, this unit of the organisation recorded nil LTI’s and witnessed their TRIFR drop by 16.3. This continues to trend towards further improvement.



A 60% reduction in overall injury rate was achieved in the four years after BAPP was first implemented.

The BAPP technology has become deeply embedded and is fully integrated into the current safety strategy. Between June 2006 and February 2011, over 13,000 peer-on-peer observations were completed by 296 trained observers across the workforce, meaning that over 13,000 worker-to-worker safety discussions have occurred.

Statistical process control charts and comparison charts are used to detect improvement in our client’s safety performance. Data from this client’s database indicates that BAPP has had a positive influence on the reduction in injuries within the business. Using the unit’s baseline occupational injury rate (11.92) as the starting point, the results in Figure 1 show the percentage improvement each year for reduction in injury rates. The accumulative result was a 60% reduction in the injury rate since BAPP observations began.

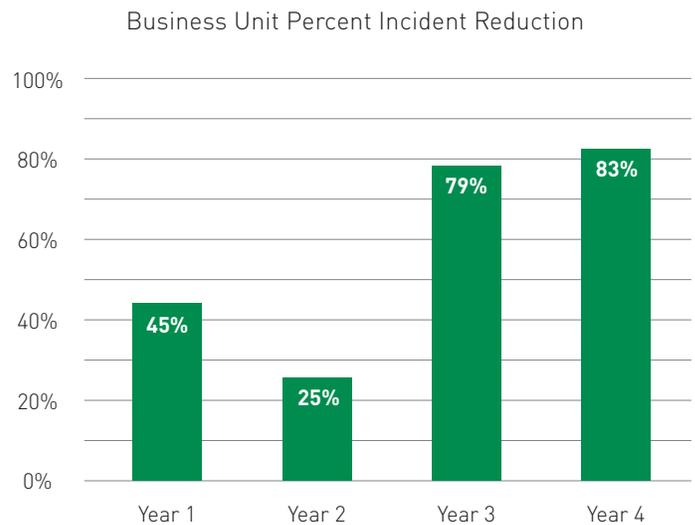


Figure 1