

# MOSH e-newsletter

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## Update

### MOSH Adoption System — An Introduction

*The achievement of the occupational health and safety milestones agreed to by business, labour and government is an important measure of our commitment to the never-ending journey towards our ultimate target of zero fatalities, injuries and diseases.*

In a language that might soon be extinct, the word MOSHe (usually accompanied by “sterek”) means “nice”. In this context, however, we are not introducing something

that might end soon, we are introducing a new beginning on how we should conduct our affairs, particularly in our working environments and how we relate to the next person – welcome to the first issue of **Mining Industry Occupational Safety and Health** electronic newsletter.

This newsletter is intended to bring regular updates on the work of the MOSH Task Force Adoption Teams. If you are a little confused, relax. This first issue of the MOSH e-newsletter presents an introduction to the MOSH Adoption System and the Adoption Teams. We also briefly outline some of their experiences.

For some light reading on this extremely serious topic, we will introduce Billy Ray Jones for his take on life in general.

In return, we are asking you to pass this newsletter, or any other information on the Adoption System along to someone else. The more people know about this initiative the better.

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### MOSH Task Teams – an Introduction

The MOSH Adoption Teams are the operational unit of the MOSH Adoption System. The System was established in January 2008 to assist the South African mining industry to fast track improvements to health and safety to bring these in line to meet the

2013 occupational health and safety targets and milestones. These targets and milestones were agreed to by the mining industry, labour and government at the 2003 Mine Health and Safety Council summit.



**- Some members of the Adoption Teams -**

The role of the Task Teams is to identify technical and operational health and safety best practice in the industry and then develop protocols that would assist mining operations facing challenges in these areas to adopt these practices so as to improve their overall health and safety performance.

The Task Teams will therefore interact widely throughout the mining industry to identify best practice and technology to address priority areas and to work with key staff on mines to facilitate the adoption of demonstrated solutions, and a culture of continuous improvement and visible felt leadership.

Commenting on the work of the Task Teams, Sietse van der Woude, Safety and Sustainable Development Adviser for the Chamber of Mines, and

a member of the Adoption Team's Secretariat, said the greatest challenge so far is the lack of a common understanding of what the Adoption Teams are and what they seek to achieve. "This is why we need the help of everybody in this industry to pass on the message and assist this process. It is really up to all of us and failure is not an option".

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### The Team Members

There are four MOSH Task Teams with each team working on each focus area: **noise, dust, falls of ground** and **leadership**.

The Task Teams are made up of permanent and part-time members with each focus area intended to have two permanent members. So far, some teams only have one member.

In addition, each team has a sponsor who is a member of the Chamber of Mines Executive Committee. To conserve paper usage (just in case you are going to print this newsletter), we are only going to list the names of the permanent team members for each focus area and their sponsors and well as their support teams.

Noise Permanent Team:

**Herman Wenhold**, Sasol Mining (**Sponsor**);  
**Dick Coutts**, Harmony (third from the left, standing, on the picture on page 1).

Dust Permanent Team:

**Terence Goodlace**, Gold Fields (**Sponsor**);  
**Vanessa Govender** (Dr), Gold Fields (middle, seated, in the picture on page 1);  
**Tom Rogans**, Anglo Coal, (tallest in the picture on the right).

Falls of Ground Permanent Team:

**Andre van Zyl**, AngloGold Ashanti (first from left standing in the picture on page 1).

Leadership Permanent Team:

**David Noko**, De Beers (**Sponsor**);  
**Peter Frank**, Lonmin, (his picture is on page 3) – retired from team;  
**Lazarus Sefole**, De Beers, (Second from left standing in the picture on page 1);  
**Martin van Wyk**, Lonmin.

Communications Team

**Jabu Maphalala**, Chamber of Mines (Third from right, standing, in the picture on page 1);  
**Wynand Marais**, Consultant, Mindset Coal (Fourth from left, standing, in the picture on page 1);  
**Eugene Schoeman**, Consultant, retired from Gold Fields.

Secretariat

**Sietse van der Woude**, Chamber of Mines (middle, standing, in the picture on page 1);  
**Fazel Randera** (Dr), Chamber of Mines;  
**Dries labuschagne**, Chamber of Mines, (squatting, in the picture on page 1);

**Idris Ally**, Chamber of Mines (Second from right, standing, in the picture on page 1);

**Portia Kgosimang**, Chamber of Mines (First from right, seated, in the picture on page 1).

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### MOSH Goes to Goodehoop

In one of their first tours of duty, members of the MOSH Task Team visited Goodehoop Colliery, an AngloCoal operation near Witbank in mid-February.

Commenting on the visit, Peter Frank from Lonmin, who at the time was part of the Leadership Task Team, commented that their hosts seemed to have insufficient knowledge about the Task Teams and what their function was. "The visit revealed how much more still needs to be done to inform relevant people in the operations about the Task Teams. These are the people who need to know if this exercise is to achieve its objectives. While this visit gave us an opportunity to brief management and other affected people about the Adoption System, our concern is that we might encounter similar levels of understanding in other operations we visit. This would slow down progress tremendously", said Frank.



**- Peter Frank and Vanessa Govender practicing some finger-pointing exercises during the visit to Goodehoop -**

In response, Wynand Marais, of the Communications Task Team, noted that emails and other forms of communications have been utilised to introduce the Task Teams and broadcast their roles, "it is however difficult to get through to everyone. We have to rely on the effectiveness of internal communication systems of participating companies. It is the senior management in these companies who know the relevant people to pass the information to. We can only urge and hope this is done. All of us though, have to do our bit to ensure that we reach as many people as possible in our communications".

The Adoption Teams will continue with their visits to other areas but not always as a full complement.

## Welcomes and Goodbyes

We could have started with the goodbyes but there is that little saying that goes "every goodbye ain't gone" it is just a redeployment, particularly in an initiative like this. So we start with Welcomes.

We start with **Tom Rogans**. Mr Rogans recently joined the Dust Permanent Task Team from Anglo Coal. He is the tallest person in the picture of the Task Teams visit to Goodehoop. Looking forward to working with you.

**Martin van Wyk**, joined the Leadership permanent Task Team recently as well. We are also looking forward to working with him

Now for goodbyes. **Peter Frank** has been recalled to Lonmin from the Leadership Permanent Adoption Team. All of us here at the MOSH e-newsletter, and I am sure the Permanent Task Team members as well, will miss him.



**- This is Peter Frank. His picture does not do him justice -**

We are confident that Peter will continue passing on "the word" about the Task Teams to ensure "a safer environment for us all". All the best Peter, we are looking forward to hearing from you.

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## What if it Was You

by Billy Ray Jones

The other day I saw this guy pushing himself out of harms way after being knocked down by a bus. His bent bicycle was lying on the side of the road like a toy no longer wanted.

When I looked closely, I saw that his leg was broken and he was trying to get out of the way of oncoming traffic. The bus driver, on the other hand, was walking slowly towards the man on the road.

You could have read the whole story from the body language, the conversation that followed between the injured man, while waiting for an ambulance, and the bus driver simply confirmed it. The bus driver blamed the cyclist for running through a red light and the cyclist proclaimed that the light had just turned yellow when he went through the intersection and got hit by the bus.

The finger-pointing-without-taking-responsibility was all too familiar. What disturbed me was the focus on shifting the blame by the bus driver without any display of compassion for the injured man. It was actually a spectator who went out of his way to hassle for assistance for the cyclist by calling for the ambulance and trying to reach the cyclist's next of kin.

For some time after that, the question in my mind was "what if it was me?" I am not so sure that the bus driver would have taken such a cavalier attitude if he had paused to ask himself that simple question.

Where does that fit in with MOSH Adoption System? You may ask. Well it has to do with attitude. If that bus driver had asked himself that simple question, maybe he could have looked twice to ensure that there was no one who might be harmed when he went through the intersection.

I won't go through that finger-pointing exercise or start blaming the victim. I guess while we are impatiently waiting for the period when we should all be "our brothers' keeper (not forgetting our sisters)", we should constantly ask this simple question: what could go wrong.

Be safe.

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## The Last Word?

I was kind of excited that I would have such an opportunity to have the last word here. It has been a long time since I had such an opportunity. The problem is that no one has the last word on health and safety: this is a perpetual journey.

We would therefore like to ask you to forward this to as many people as you like. The more people know about the MOSH Task Team the better. We are also aware that with greater exposure, questions may arise. Please be free to ask us anything you would like to know about the Adoption Teams, where they have been and any other information you would like to know. Comments are also welcome. These can be sent to the contact details below.

This newsletter was designed by Ms Marilyn Farquharson:  
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