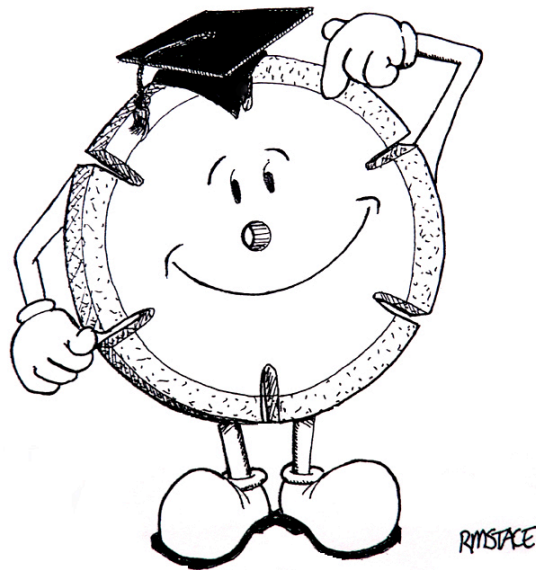


# Working safer and working smarter with diamond saws Training.



17/7/2009

Andrew Bignall, managing director of Diamond blademan, has been involved in safety training of concrete saw operators in New Zealand since 1992.

Since 1975 when Andrew first entered the diamond products business, he has met with many operators who have had fatal, and serious harm accidents. Experienced and inexperienced operators have had serious accidents with power cut off saws in particular. These saws have built a reputation for being associated with multiple hazards and most likely are the most hazardous tools used on a construction site.

In 1992 Andrew was approached by Fulton Hogan head office Dunedin with a view to safety training concrete saw operators in the Otago region. Since then Andrew has trained many hundreds of operators nationwide.

More recently Andrew was instrumental in developing the NZQA “ Operate a road saw ” unit standard with Fulton Hogan prior to “in house training “ adoption.

Downer EDI works, Transfield, Sicon, Oldfields, Higgins, City Care, and numerous other council works depts. roading, drainage, water reticulation and construction companies’ operators have been trained in safer use of diamond saws.

March 1999 saw High performance Diamond Technology’s first publication of the power cut off saw guide:

“ Working Safer and Smarter with Power Cut-off saws “

This guide was a joint effort of O.S.H. Wellington and intended to catalyse the construction industry into better training of operators.

“ Working Safer and Smarter with Power Cut-off saws “ is available as a pdf download from the Department of Labour website or from this site. It forms a good structure for training programmes.

## CURRENT TRAINING

Andrew is able to train with particular objectives in mind. For some contractors basic safety will be an issue, others a reminder/and beginner mix, while others want more of an accent on the tools themselves.

Training is available anywhere in New Zealand at relatively short notice, provided transport, travel time and accommodation costs are met. Otherwise Andrew can often train during client service trips which he systematically carries out all year all over New

Zealand. Under those circumstances no travelling charges are made.

It is preferable for the usual saws to be made available (in a clean state) for discussion during training. A power cut-off saw can be brought to the course if needed. In the South Island, due to freighting costs, it is preferable to hire a saw for the few hours needed.

We recommend regular reminder courses of maybe 1 ½ hrs when operators have been trained previously, perhaps every two years. Otherwise the basic course is approximately three hours duration.

Practical and theoretical courses taking a whole day are offered to some firms who realise that operators learn both ways and want to be sure all are adequately trained. These can be arranged. Extensive day courses usually involve travelling and accommodation costs.

**ALL COURSES ARE ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATED**

**SAFETY MANAGERS RECEIVE A LETTER OF ATTENDANCE  
FOR OPERATORS ON THE COURSE**

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Working  
Safer and  
Smarter  
with

# POWER CUT-OFF SAWS



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