

Roads

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Page 80

'SHARPE' FOCUS ON SAFETY DURING SAFE WORK AUSTRALIA WEEK

Now in its fifth year, Safe Work Australia Week, from 25 to 31 October 2009, will once again focus the nation's attention on workplace safety.

Tragically, over 135,000 Australians are seriously injured at work every year and more than 260 die as a result of work-related injuries.

The award winning Gosford-based civil contracting and road maintenance business, Sharpe Bros, will again be taking part in Safe Work Australia Week events around the country.

Michael Sharpe, a Safe Work Australia Week Ambassador and Joint Managing Director of Sharpe Bros, says safety is paramount in the construction industry, which has one of the highest rates of injuries.

Sharpe Bros has made a considerable investment in building a strong safety culture.

The company's workplace safety program was the winner of the 2007 WorkCover Award and the National Safe Work Award for Small Business. The program uses a cartoon character, Safety Bro, to promote occupational health and safety around Sharpe Bros worksites.

"Safety Bro, who is normally coloured green, will turn yellow for Safe Work Australia Week, sporting a special edition vest, hat and sign. He will be a constant reminder to staff of the importance of workplace safety," Mr Sharpe says.



To mark the start of Safe Work Australia Week, Sharpe Bros will be holding its annual Roadworkers Art Prize at the Gosford Regional Gallery.

"This event provides an opportunity to remind staff that rest and recreation, along with a sense of community and an enjoyable work environment, all play an important role in maintaining safety in the workplace."

Sharpe Bros' management team has experienced first-hand the benefits that come from investing in the safety of staff.

Mr Sharpe says: "We encourage all businesses to get involved in Safe Work Australia Week. By raising awareness of safety in your workplace, you can help to reduce the number of injuries and serious incidents, as well as boost morale and increase productivity."

Sharpe Bros is a business built on safety. As a leader in road repair,

widening and maintenance, the company has spent millions of dollars developing unique technology to make roads safer.

The purpose-built Sidewinder technology provides fast and cost-effective road edge repair without extensive reconstruction and with minimum disturbance to road users.

A job which would normally take at least a week with traditional methods, can be completed in a day at a much lower cost.

The efficient Adjustable Patching process using the Flexipaver machine, can pave roads and intersections at a variety of widths and depths so that all new work matches the surrounding pavement with no dips or bumps - saving time, materials and maintenance costs.

Further information about Safe Work Australia Week can be found at www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au