

MEDIA RELEASE

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SAFETY TRAINING COMPANY FOUND GUILTY OF GAS EXPLOSION INJURIES

Statement by Acting Executive Director Brian Malacari

A second safety and emergency training company has been found guilty by the Darwin Magistrate's Court today, over the 2009 gas explosion at a Berrimah training centre which resulted in the injury of five trainee firefighters.

The NT WorkSafe investigation into the gas explosion found Red Alert Australia failed their general statutory duty of care to the five injured trainee firefighters, charges which were contested by the training company.

NT WorkSafe Investigators found that a training manager with Red Alert Australia had raised concerns on the safety of a training facility within the training centre and the training procedures two months prior to the gas explosion.

The training facility in question simulated a ship structure and used gas props piping liquified petroleum gas to simulate a marine fire emergency. Concerns were raised on the possible build up of gas in the ship structure that could result in an explosion.

The Darwin Magistrates Court heard how modifications to the facilities and training procedures were proposed by Red Alert Australia and accepted but never implemented before the explosion occurred.

Magistrate Hugh Bradley will sentence Red Alert Australia for breaching Section 55 of the Workplace Health and Safety Act in relation to the July 2009 incident at a future date.

Three months earlier the WA-based Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention (IFAP) pleaded guilty in the Darwin Magistrates Court for their part in the gas explosion. IFAP was fined \$121,000 by Magistrate Tania Fong-Lim for breaching Section 55 of the Workplace Health and Safety Act and Regulation 38(1) of the Workplace Health and Safety Regulations. The penalty was discounted by the Magistrate in recognition of IFAP pleading guilty.

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