



# Health and Safety in Quarries - The Northern Ireland Situation

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# Northern Ireland Situation

- **160 quarries in Northern Ireland**
- **4,100 employed by the industry**
- **High % quarries with less than 20 employees**
- **60% workforce over 40 years old**



# Northern Ireland Situation

- **15 Fatalities 1989 – 2007 (inclusive)**
- **FAIR – 15.8 per 100,000 employees**



# Main Health and Safety Issues

- Training and Competence
- Safe Work at Height
- Workplace Transport
  - Traffic routes
  - All round visibility
  - Vehicle maintenance
- Machinery Guarding
- Safety of Maintenance Workers



# Hard Targets Initiative 2005

## What was the target?

Aim to reduce total number of reportable incidents by 50% over a 5 year period

(based on average number of incidents 1999 – 2004 figures)



# Hard Targets Initiative

## How was it achieved?

Support programme:

- QPA Safety Awards – Best Practice Guide
- QNJAC Guidance on Health Surveillance
- Accident reporting and guidance from HSENI
- QPANI Safety CD
- Clear concise safety guidance on difficult areas



# Hard Targets Initiative

## How was it achieved?

Support programme:

- All Round Visibility - guidance
- Health and Safety Awareness Days
- Quarry checklists
- Training courses
- Learning from each other



# Hard Targets Initiative

## How was it achieved?

Support programme:

- Hard Targets Club
  - County basis + chaired by QPANI Health and Safety Committee (four monthly and time bound) with an HSENI representative
  - Friendly and supportive learning environment
  - Shared ideas, experience and best practice between club members and clubs





# Hard Targets Initiative

## How was it achieved?

Support programme:

- Health and Safety award entrants receive specific focused advice each year on improving Health and Safety standards
- Members encouraged to formulate and implement specific health and safety action plan using advice and guidance from their award entry



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CONTROLLING RISK TOGETHER



# Hard Targets Initiative

## How was it achieved?

Support programme:

- Health and Safety Awareness Days at quarries and processing plants to illustrate specific hazards and accident scenarios + solutions





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# Hard Targets Initiative

**The target of 50% reduction in reportable incidents was achieved by the industry within 3 years**



# The Future

- **Improve health and safety standards further.**
- **Target poor performers.**
- **Encourage new entrants to the industry.**