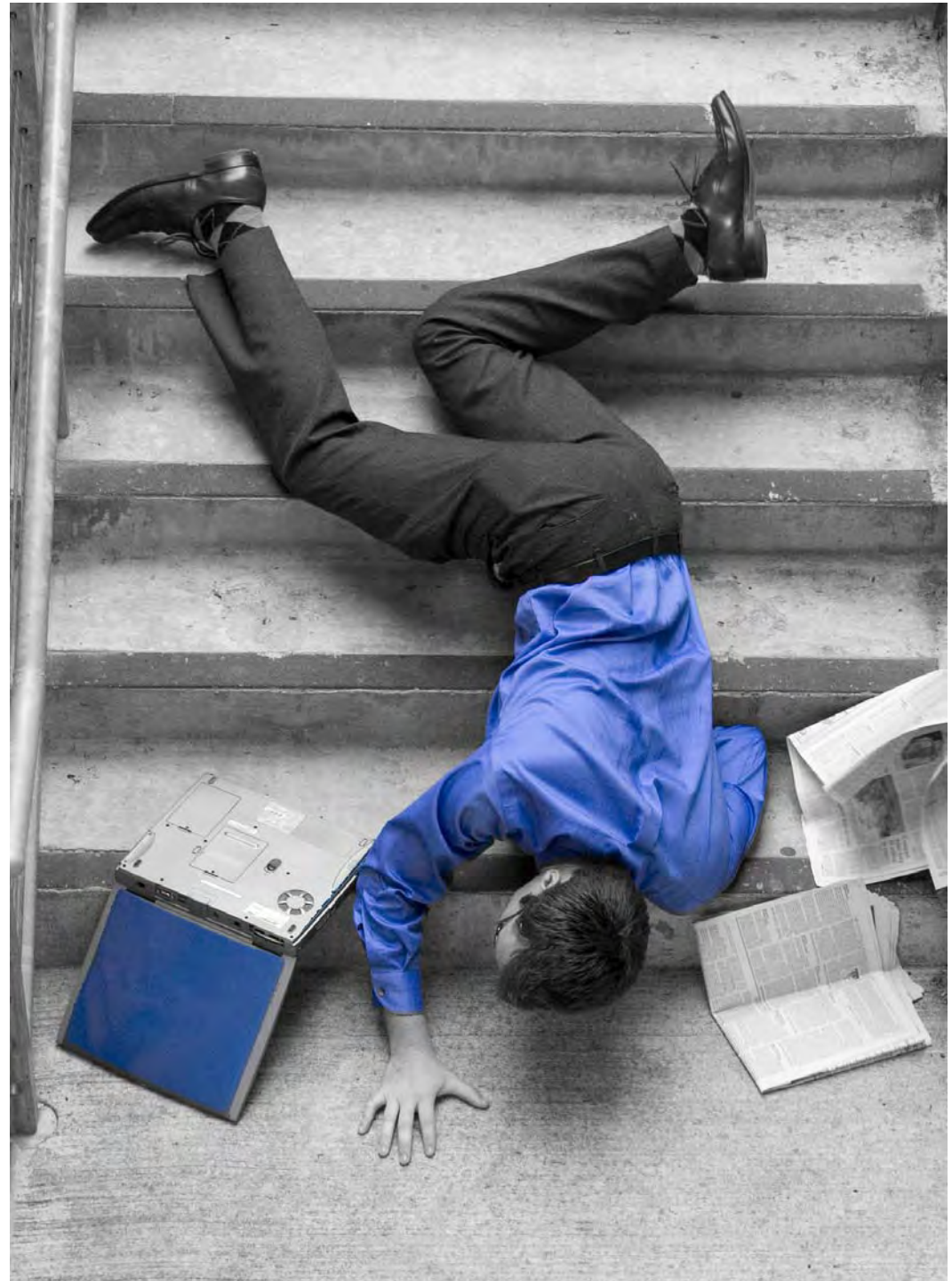




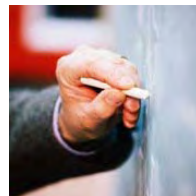
QBE

Effective accident
investigation
and reporting



Effective Accident Investigation and Reporting

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Outline

- Function of Accident Investigation
- The capturing and preservation of evidence
- Late reporting
- Case studies

Function of Accident Investigation

- Accident prevention
- Evidence
- Regulatory implications
- Civil disclosure
 - Pre action disclosure
 - Standard disclosure

The Capturing and Preservation of Evidence

- Early enquiring
- Inspection of scene
- Injured person's account of the accident
- Identification of witnesses
- Challenge Discrepancies
- Recommendations

Case study A

- Name : **Andrew Phipps**
- Date of incident : 16.06.05
- Time : 9.50pm
- Witness : **None**
- Description
- **Dismounting from side loader. Put one leg on the step outside of truck for the step. The standing leg slipped causing me to fall and hit chest against side loader.**
- Signed : A Phipps 16.6.05
- Remedial actions
- Possible cause no grip on foot plate; wet conditions caused foot to slip off foot tread. Andrew's boots are in very good condition.

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- *‘ I am satisfied that the mechanism of the accident as described in the Accident Report Form was an accurate description of what happened. It is more plausible than the description given shortly after the accident occurred. At no time when he reported the incident did he make any reference to oil.*
 - *The inconsistent accounts of the mechanism of the fall and complete absence of contemporaneous reference to oil lead me to conclude that the claimant has failed to discharge the burden of proof.’*

The Capturing and Preservation of Evidence

- Early enquiring
- Inspection of scene
- Photographs
- Injured person's account of the accident
- Identification of witnesses
- Challenge discrepancies
- Recommendations

Case study B

- Name : **Fred Mortimer**
- Time and date started : **10pm 25.10.99**
- Time and date of accident : **11.10pm 25.10.99**
- Time and date reported : **11.30pm 25.10.99**
- Witness : **J Smith**
- Patient's account
 - **I was climbing up the ladder; stepped off it onto stand; the stand rocked a bit causing me to stumble and twist my knee.**
- Injury: **Pain and swelling to left inner knee**

Case study B

- Supervisor's investigation
- **Climbing out of ladle by ladder; stepped onto ladle steps; stumbled when steps rocked. Slight movement to steps. Concrete floor bumpy, making steps rock.**
- Action taken by supervisor to avoid recurrence
- **Moved steps to make steady**
- Manager's comments and recommendations
- **Floor ladle landing clean and in good condition. Heavy wooden steps-purpose made with hand rail on the side for getting in and out of vessel. Quite a force would be required to push over. Recommended hand rails to be introduced on both sides of steps. F Mortimer to be more careful getting on/off steps.**

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- *‘The accident report is an important document for in section 2 it clearly states: ‘Moved steps to make steady’ which corroborates the evidence given by the claimant’.*

Case study C

- Name : **Mike Taylor**
- Time and Date Started : **7pm 20.01.01**
- Time and Date of Accident : **3.30am 21.01.01**
- Time and Date Reported : **8.40am 27.01.01**
- Witness : **None**
- Patient's Account
- **I was cleaning scrap on conveyor. I was stepping off the conveyor. A piece of scrap I was standing on went one way and I went the other. Injured left knee.**
- Injury : **Left knee**

Case study C

- Supervisor's Investigation
 - **Mr Taylor first brought this accident to my attention at 8am on 27.01.01 when he asked to go to the surgery with a sore knee. He says that he was cleaning scrap from the entry conveyor. One piece was bowed and got stuck. He stepped onto the conveyor with his trailing leg still on the scrap. The scrap moved and he lost his balance and fell onto the floor.**
- Action Taken
 - **I have recommended that he does not stand on scrap that could move from under him when stepping down in future. Also report accidents at the time they happen.**
- Manager's Comments and Recommendations
 - **I agree with the Supervisor. I also feel that Mr Taylor's accident record is poor and needs to be addressed. As to the late reporting, I am very concerned as to the validity of Mr Taylor's claims.**

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- *‘The claimant explained that he did not report the injury because he thought he could work it off. He also said that he wanted to get home but I did not get the impression that he necessarily believed what he was saying. The truth is that he has no other explanation or excuse so I have to put this question. If this was a genuine accident, why didn’t the claimant do as he did before on 6 previous occasions? The claimant said he believed that he might work his injury off. If that were the case, one would have expected his*