



When Sarawak Energy launched its Life Saving Rules and made Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Excellence one of its five Key Focus Areas earlier this year, the goal was to transform this priority into a core value so all employees as well as contractors would embed safety into their hearts and minds.

A strong safety culture sets a corporate organisation apart from the rest. It enhances brand value and is crucial in strengthening business partner, investor and customer confidence in Sarawak Energy. No one wants to work with or for an unsafe organisation.

Making Safety the Top Priority

Safety incidents recorded by Sarawak Energy contractors are a key concern. An initiative now being actively progressed is to transform contractor mindset, making them self-regulatory in managing HSE focusing on HSE Excellence and Operational Disciplines. This initiative is also in line with the National Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Master Plan to be achieved in 2020.

The Strategic Partnership Drive is already in place to coach contractors towards HSE ownership. Amongst the tools is Gap Analysis, conducted via HSE Capabilities Questionnaire to identify the gaps.

The Sarawak Energy HSE Department is committed to assisting these contractors to have their HSE Management system in place with the OSHAS 18001 as the platform. This is part of the initiatives under the key focus areas.

Also being pursued at Sarawak Energy is to understand the elements of ergonomics which contributes to a productive and conducive work environment in living the words 'people are our most valuable asset'.

Major safety initiatives include:

HSE Week - Sarawak Energy's annual event serves as an important platform to promote shared responsibilities, raise awareness and inculcate a strong safety culture. This year, the company introduced its safety mascot **BOLT** - an acronym incorporating safety principles **B**e aware, **O**pen your mind, **L**ook at your surroundings and **T**ake care of yourself and your co-workers.

Life Saving Rules - the LSRs are specifically designed to create a more focused approach towards achieving zero accidents, ensure work is carried out safely and to improve the safety performance of Sarawak Energy as a whole. All employees of Sarawak Energy, its subsidiaries and contractors are required to comply with LSRs at all times regardless of location when carrying out company activities.



HSE Safety Week 2017 launch



SARAWAK ENERGY LIFE-SAVING RULES

GENERAL SAFETY

Do not smoke outside designated area

No alcohol or drugs while working or driving

Wear your seat-belt, do not use handphone and do not exceed speed limits while driving

SITE & FIELD SAFETY

Work with approved valid permit to work (PTW)

Verify and re-verify Energy Isolation (LOTO Process) before any work involving hazardous energy

Obtain authorisation before disabling or overriding safety critical equipment including switching and modification

Obtain authorisation before entering a confined space

Wear and care for appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Protect yourself against a fall when working at height

Do not walk or work under a suspended load

Do not work near or under electric overhead lines if safe clearance is doubtful

Proper safety and personal protective equipment is important

Process Safety - training programmes focusing on Process Safety, a disciplined framework to manage major accident hazards associated with the release of hazardous materials or energy (steam, water, condensate, chemical, electricity and other hazardous substance).

HSE Orientation Programme - this features a range of safety aspects important in daily operations. This comprehensive programme is to ensure that employees conform to regulatory guidelines and requirements, company procedures and adopt best safety practices when performing tasks.

Programme highlights:

- Steps taken to identify and mitigate hazards, help prevent accidents and to correct unsafe environmental working conditions.
- Encourages staff to be more pro-active in pointing out any HSE related issues for the well-being of colleagues, those around them and themselves.
- Develops positive personal attitudes towards safety.

Safety Passport - a training programme undertaken with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) specifically targeting contractor staff to ensure new and current contractors receive competency and authorisation certifications.

Sarawak Energy continues to maintain strong links with NIOSH as well as conduct a suite of safety and competency trainings such as for staff working at heights, in transportation, for switching personnel, technicians and more.



Sarawak Energy Group CEO Sharbini Suhaili and Tan Sri Datuk Seri Lee Lam Thye, NIOSH Chairman exploring potential areas for collaboration in regards to workplace safety



Communicating to contractors to ensure work is carried out safely

Your Safety Comes First

It pays to practise extreme caution especially when working near any of Sarawak Energy installations particularly high voltage power lines and substations to avoid getting hurt by electrocution or electrical flash-overs.

Electrical flash-overs occur when electricity ‘jumps’ without direct contact with power lines or conductors and can result in serious burns or tragic loss of lives. The safety clearance from overhead lines is at least 4.6m (15 feet).

Sarawak Energy continues to build awareness by issuing constant reminders through print media, radio campaigns, exhibitions, distribution of leaflets and also conducts school programmes to inculcate awareness and educate the public through safety talks on the dangers of electricity and to keep a safe distance from its high voltage infrastructure and facilities.

These talks are sometimes done in collaboration with other agencies like the State Security Unit of the Chief Minister’s Department, Electrical Inspectorate Unit of the Ministry of Utilities, Fire Department (BOMBA), Radio Televisyen Malaysia among others.



Sarawak Energy conducting a safety briefing at a longhouse

Contractors

Similarly for contractors, guidelines are already in place to be complied with strictly when working on any of Sarawak Energy’s projects. Safety briefings with contractors and worksite monitoring are done regularly where there is high voltage or electrical installations. Programmes include Tool Box Talks with contractors, dialogues sessions with sub-contractors, safety walk-about at project sites as well as joint safety inspection with DOSH.

A Stop Work Order will be issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Division for any non-compliance at the project site to ensure the project’s contract and tender requirements are met. Contractors are constantly reminded to take precautionary measures before proceeding with works at locations where there are overhead and underground power lines running through.

There have been incidences where heavy machinery and tall vehicles have gotten entangled with high voltage overhead power lines while excavation works have damaged underground cables. Other than ensuring the safety of the workers and members of the public, it also prevents unnecessary supply interruptions inconveniencing customers.



Careless excavation may damage underground cables



Heavy vehicles entangled with power lines



Unauthorised shifting of utility poles may disrupt supply

Sarawak Energy has also put up markers or signage identifying installations such as its substations, transmission towers and overhead river-crossing power lines to caution passing barges.

Turning Priority into Value

Eventually, the goal is to have everybody put safety above all. But for this to happen, this practice needs to grow as a value rather than merely being the rule. Only then will safety principles become an acquired habit that could potentially save your life as well as those around you.

“Our ultimate goal is for safety to be embedded in the hearts and minds of all our people at every level of our business.”

Sharbini Suhaili
Group Chief Executive Officer
Sarawak Energy

Electrical hazards

- Working too close to high voltage installations
- Copper theft or vandalism of high voltage equipment
- Old haphazard internal wiring or illegal extensions which can be potential fire hazards
- Power theft or tampering with electrical circuits
- Engaging uncertified wiremen
- Untrimmed trees and vegetation which come in contact with overhead power lines

EVERYBODY GOES HOME SAFELY

Sarawak Energy would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday