**"WHAT *REALLY* IS A 'HIGH RISK ACTIVITY'?"**

John Naumann

Dept. of Archaeology, Maritime Archaeology

& Faculty of EHLT; OHS&W, Flinders University, Adelaide, South Australia

[john.naumann@flinders.edu.au](mailto:john.naumann@flinders.edu.au)

This talk will explore the linkages and at times conflicts of my dual role as a Faculty O.H.S. & W. Officer and a Technical Officer in Maritime Archaeology, focussing on remote field work and scuba diving.

The underlying theme is that paper-based or office-bound actuaries can’t balance the requirements for everyone to be safe at all times with the need for training, work in the real world, the vastness of Australia, its unpredictability, and a sense of adventure. Specialist training, large amounts of field experience and good listening skills provide credibility and a bridge across the O.H.S. & W. divide.

Having sometimes felt compromised, balancing two jobs, the ways staff have embraced new systems of risk management documentation and continued first class field work has been rewarding. The amount learnt over the past 2 years, with almost no accidents, coupled with very successful field trips where the students report very positive outcomes, and has produced significant satisfaction for me.

In this paper I will explain my roles in supporting the teaching and research programmes of Archaeology while satisfying the ever increasing demands of the University’s self insurance status, WorkCover and SafeWork SA’s auditing requirements.