



**COURTENELL**

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# Your Safety Matters

*This information letter is distributed to those people who are ensuring that their workplace is safe and healthy. This includes members of OHS Committees, OHS Representatives, Safety Officers, Supervisors, Managers and Directors. "Your Safety Matters" (formerly "Committee Member") is free information letter which has been distributed since 1996.*

## What if ?

In doing a risk assessment in the workplace, it can be useful to ask 'what if?' questions to help identify situations that may arise.



### A recent court case illustrates how far you need to go in using 'what if ?'.

At the workplace.



An employee sat on a roller deck in a freight terminal to adjust a radio. The roller deck started moving and the employee's baggy shorts were tangled in the roller deck and he was injured.

At the court.



In court the employer said the employee was not supposed to be in this restricted area, and it was not part of his job to sit on the roller deck. But the judge said a risk assessment of the roller deck should have considered all risks, not just those associated with the work activity.

Risk Assessment done properly.



The judge also said employers must identify any conduct that could place employees at risk including the employee's 'inadvertence, inattention, haste and even foolish disregard of personal safety'.

*This publication provides general information about ohs. It is not a legal opinion and does not represent a comprehensive statement of the law to be applied to a particular problem.*

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