



The London Health and Safety Group **Newsletter – January 2006**

Welcome to the New Year edition 2006 of the London Health and Safety Group's Newsletter designed to save you time by bringing some of the more important Health and Safety news direct to your mailbox.

Please feel free to direct identify any positive changes you would like to see through the secretary email address secretary@londonhealthandsafetygroup.org at our new website www.londonhealthandsafetygroup.org.

Your LHSG needs your help

Please can you donate a small amount of time each month to be part of helping to shape your LHSG? If you can please contact the secretary on the above email. All help gratefully received.

Finally if you have outstanding subs please ensure you settle your account. The group can only operate through the subs you provide.

The LHSG Funny



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News

HSE Better Business Campaign

The HSE have launched a new campaign “Better Business Campaign” designed to help reduce accidents and ill health which work cost time and money. A good health and safety regime for a small business ensures hard earned profits stay in the bank and are not spent on accident or illness related problems, each time they happen.

How is this possible? Explore this site to find out.

["HSE Better Business Campaign"](#)

HSE statement: Buncefield Oil Depot investigation

Following the excellent work of the Police and Fire Services, as well as many other agencies, and the successful extinguishing of the fires on the Buncefield Oil Storage site, Hertfordshire Constabulary has now started its phased withdrawal from operations.

["Buncefield Oil Depot Investigation"](#)

["HSC order HSE Investigation at Buncefield"](#)

"New Guidance Document for the Food and Drink Industry"

Between 1994 and 2004 there were 44 deaths in the food and drink manufacturing industries, and 106,500 reportable injuries.

Even in controlled environments food processing operations can be hazardous.

This new book shows you how to improve your safety and develop a positive safety culture in your workplace. It will be particularly useful to managers and safety representatives in SMEs.

["A Recipe for Safety"](#)

"Update on the review of the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981"

The review of the First Aid Regulations included examination of the extent to which employers already cater for the first aid needs of the public and whether this should remain voluntary or should be made a compulsory requirement. The findings from this work are shown below, followed by a statement of HSE's position.

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["Review of First Aid Requirements for the General Public"](#)

["Search HSE with Google"](#)

Try our new Google powered advanced search to find what you're looking for.

["New HSE Google Powered Search Engine"](#)

["PM28 3rd Edition Use of Non Integrated Working Platform of Forklift Trucks"](#)

A new guidance document has been issued by the HSE covering the use of Non Integrated Working Platforms on forklift trucks. Click below for the PDF download.

["New Guidance Note PM28 3rd Edition on Working Platform \(Non Integrated\) on Forklift Trucks"](#)

["Long Term Health and Safety Survey by HSE"](#)

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is planning to conduct a programme of large-scale workplace surveys during the period 2005-2015, in order to study the state of health and safety in Britain's workplaces. This survey is intended to take a leading role among the range of sources used by HSE to assess the progress towards government targets set for health and safety at work.

[Health and Safety Survey](#)

["Incident Contact Centre"](#)

Latest details for the above.

["Updated Incident Contact Centre Details"](#)

["HSE InfoLine details translated into Bengali, Chinese, Gujarti, Hurdu, Punjabi and Urdu"](#)

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"Health, work and well-being seminar"

Following on from the launch of the new ambitious ['Health, work and wellbeing - Caring for our future'](#) [PDF 236kb] strategy on 19 October, HSE supported by the TUC hosted a free seminar on 5 December at Congress House, for stakeholders to attend and discuss (amongst other issues) what the strategy means for them.

"HSE / TUC Seminar on Occupational Health Issues"

"Quarterly fatal injury updates"

"Update for Fatal Statistics"

"RoSPA backs Insurer's care and compensation plans"

RoSPA has welcomed proposals by the Association of British Insurers to help accident victims.

The ABI's "Care and Compensation" plans would reduce the time taken to settle personal injury compensation claims and increase the provision of care and rehabilitation for ill and injured people.

"RoSPA / ABI care and compensation plans"

"Death or permanent disability too often the outcome of fall from height accidents"

An industrial accident on 21st January 2005, at a construction site during the extension of the English Provender Company Ltd factory premises in Newbury, resulted in serious injury and, sadly, permanent loss of mobility for a worker in his 50's.

He was working alone on a long ladder at a height of 5.7 metres when it slipped back on the smooth concrete floor, throwing him to the ground where he broke his back.

HSE investigation led to prosecution of employer Barrington McDonnell Ltd, who pleaded guilty to breaching S2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 for which it was fined £2,500, with costs of £1,888, at West Berkshire Magistrates' Court.

Comment:

"It is vital that companies undertake effective risk assessment and planning in cases

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where employees are working at height, as Mr _____'s accident shows. Falls from 3m or over are often fatal and the degree of injury is a matter of chance. A 3rd of all reported incidents involving falls from height involve ladders and stepladders. On average this accounts for 14 deaths and 1,200 major injuries to workers each year. A sensible system of work with better planning and supervision could have prevented Mr _____'s accident." - HM Inspector for Health and Safety.

"Brutal acts perpetrated on peripatetic workers continue unabated"

A fast food delivery operative was brutally murdered in Glasgow's Haghill estate last week, pursued by his assailants and stabbed to death. The incident comes only days after the Communication Workers Union (CWU) called on Royal Mail to act on the growing menace of assaults on its delivery staff in the wake of the recent vicious and motiveless attack on a Bradford postman who sustained a badly fractured skull and a fractured cheekbone. In Nottingham during November a postal delivery worker was attacked and also seriously injured.

Comment:

"This is yet another incident of violence against our people in an ever growing list of motiveless assaults and which emphasises the need for action. Violence at work – assaults, threats and abuse of postmen and women is totally unacceptable and Royal Mail have a legal health and safety duty of care to take action to tackle this problem. Not enough is being done to ensure workers' safety at a time when assaults are on the increase. We want Royal Mail to take more interest in tackling work-related violence and aggression. There's too much complacency and postal delivery staff need protection. Our members have been punched, kicked, head butted, stabbed, threatened with knives and guns, shot at, pelted and these incidents are becoming commonplace."

I'm quite frankly sick and tired of seeing all the smiling faces in the 'Courier' every month giving a false impression of life on the streets for a lot of our people in these high risk areas. This is 'the reality before us'. We want to standardise the definition, recording and follow-up of violent and potentially violent incidents like the previous 'Project Apostle' arrangements which Royal Mail wound up when in fact violence was increasing. We're calling for the creation of a 'staff charter' which would remind our members, managers and the public that it is not part of a Postal worker's job to be physically or verbally abused at work and as we've previously stressed, we want formal adoption of a 'zero tolerance' policy as the 'only option' stating that violence against postal staff will not be tolerated." - CWU National Health and Safety Officer

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“Work Foundation critical of government's health and work strategy”

The Work Foundation's newly published report, [Healthy work: Productive workplaces](#), expresses the view that the government's healthy workplaces strategy is flawed, lacking cohesion and carries little prospect of making an impact on the real issues affecting health and productivity, failing to tackle the whole system and not just symptoms in isolation.

The authors cite HSE's work on Stress Management Standards as an example of a case involving 'several different Government agencies and social partners who too often don't work together', it is suggested that the HSE should work more with social partners to help smaller companies in particular improve their job design and management skills.

Comment:

"If work is one of the major routes to both a healthier population and a more productive one then government must sort out the muddle of agencies by creating a clear strategic framework, transparent policy objectives and a route map that all can follow." Associate Director of The Work Foundation.

"There is no debating the connections between employment and health - and, crucially, health inequalities. There are some laudable government initiatives, but what is urgently needed is strong political leadership to drive forward a truly progressive agenda - and a deeper understanding of how quality of life and economic growth can and should be mutually reinforcing." - Programme Manager - London Health Commission

“£1.45m out-of-court settlement for industrial accident victim”

A man who lost an arm in 1980 as the result of an industrial accident at a Mansfield foundry operated by James Maude & Co Ltd is to receive £1.45m in an out-of-court compensation award, having been assisted in the matter by the trade union, Amicus. The worker, now in his 60's, fractured an arm in a 3m fall from height off a skip, but medical complications obliged surgeons to remove the limb.

Incredibly, during 2001, at the same workplace, he sustained another injury; he was knocked to the ground by a release of air under pressure from malfunctioning equipment, and now must also lose that arm as a consequence.



“The only safe tan is a fake one”

Lisburn City Council's Environmental Health Service has reported on the results of a sun bed survey it conducted, within its boundaries, of operators of UV tanning equipment, in relation to their performance set against HSE guidance.

It expresses alarm at the results.

- 83% did not provide any warning to clients of the short and long-term risks to skin tissue;
- Almost 60% allowed clients to exceed the recommended maximum of 20 sun bed sessions per year.
- 92% of premises had no service records for the tanning equipment on site;
- Only 1 in 4 premises was a member of the Sunbed Association;
- 75% did not have means for clients to summon assistance from the tanning area;
- 50% of premises surveyed allowed clients to lock themselves into the tanning area with no means of over-riding the lock in an emergency situation.

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