

Get in touch!

Unit 7 Chevron Business Park
Lime Kiln Lane
Holbury
Southampton
SO45 2QL

Phone: 02380 894695

Fax: 0870 762 1912

E-mail:
info@hcssafety.co.uk

Web: www.hcssafety.co.uk

*Friendly, professional,
down to earth
Health and Safety advice*

OPEN COURSES AT HCS IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

For full details of all our courses, please go to
www.hcssafety.co.uk

Site Supervisor Safety Training Scheme

15th & 16th September

17th & 18th October

Site Management Safety Training Scheme

5th 12th 19th 26th Oct 2nd Nov

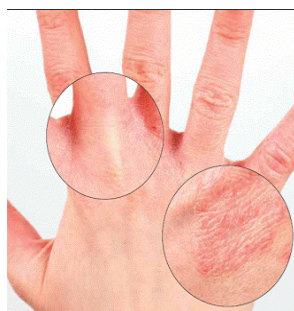
Manual Handling: 6th September

6th October

Asbestos Awareness: 6th October**First Aid at Work :** 12th 13th 19th & 20th Sept**Work at Height:** 20th October

If you would like to book onto a course please call
the office or e-mail Sam@hcssafety.co.uk

*Don't forget—member clients receive 15% off ALL
training booked with us!*

FREE TRAINING SESSION

Many workers are at risk from **DERMATITIS** as a result of contact with chemicals that they work with. This is a serious and widespread problem in the construction industry, affecting many thousands of workers.

Employers have a duty to carry out skin checks of those at risk, and so we are running a session on the disease to help you know what to look for.

Date: Tuesday 11th October**Venue:** Unit 7, Chevron Business Park**Time:** 8am—10am**Bacon rolls served at 7.30am — don't miss out!**

Please e mail zoe@hcssafety.co.uk to book your place.

Save the date!!**THURSDAY 27TH OCTOBER**

is the date for this year's Annual Safety Forum. A representative of each company needs to attend, so please book it in your diaries now! Invitations will be out soon.

More than 800,000 tonnes of soil - enough to fill the Royal Albert Hall nine times over - had to be taken away to make room for the Olympic stadium!



Safety News

August 2011**Changes expected to RIDDOR reporting**Health and Safety
Executive**RIDDOR**

The HSE has recently announced that it will advise the government to change RIDDOR reporting criteria. From February to May this year the HSE held a consultation period to gather opinion on the proposal to extend the period of time off work following suffering an injury from 3 days to 7.

Of a total of 776 completed responses, there was a nearly 2 to 1 majority in favour of extending the required period of absence to 7 days.

Those supporting the plan reasoned that the changes would lessen the burden of paperwork on businesses, work better in conjunction with the new fit-note sys-

tem, give more time for internal investigation of accidents and will make sickness absence easier to manage.

Those against the plans reasoned that there would be less opportunity to spot accident trends, a lowering of standards and give more scope for non-compliance with the regulations.

The changes are not due to enter the law books immediately. It is anticipated that they will be introduced, if accepted by the Work and Pensions Secretary, in April of next year.

The proposals have been met with mixed responses from those within the health and safety profession. Some feeling this will only seek to encourage under reporting of workplace injuries. It is currently thought that half of all non fatal accidents are not reported and it has been suggested that this move will increase that number and make it even harder to establish accident trends.

The HSE's chief statistician told the board of HSE directors that he feels confident that the organisation will be able to spot trends in total workforce and individual sectors.

10 Bizarre actions blamed on health and safety

The HSE has released a list of 10 bizarre bans that have been blamed on health and safety legislation.

The HSE has long campaigned to stop overzealous managers in councils and companies using health and safety as a shield to disguise the reasons for un-

popular decisions.

Among the examples is the closure of Murray Mound at Wimbledon this year, blamed on the risk of people slipping on wet grass.

The full list is as follows:

Wimbledon officials closing Murray Mound because it was wet.

Stopping dodgem cars bumping into each other at Skeg Ness.

Banning Royal wedding street parties.

Forcing an 85 year old lady who had paid the council to dispose of a television to drag it out of

ers injuring themselves.

Banning fancy dress parades at carnivals.

Banning kite flying on a popular beach in Hull.

Stopping children using monkey bars unsupervised in Oxfordshire

Preventing pins from being used to secure commemorative poppies.

Banning the use of leather footballs at a school, allowing only foam balls to be used.

Banning sack and 3-legged races at a school sports day.

Further information on all of these stories can be found on the HSE website.

Safety News

Protecting the Public

The HSE has launched a new area of their website dedicated to helping contractors to protect members of the public from the hazards of construction work.

The law states that construction work should be carried out without any risk to the public. After all, they are not at work and shouldn't be expected to anticipate dangers in an industry they are not familiar with.

The website covers how boundaries should be protected against unwanted access, including methods of keeping children off construction sites, how to protect access areas and control entry into site and what you should be thinking about when considering the local area.

The guidance also details what the likely risks are to the public and identifies groups which are likely to be vulnerable to those risks.

It is well worth a read for anybody who is in charge of security and perimeter protection.

Rise in the number of fatalities at work



New figures released by the HSE show an increase in the number of deaths of people at work during 2010/11.

The figures collected between 1st April 2010 and 31st March 2011 showed 171 people were killed in accidents occurring whilst at work. This compares to a figure of 147 in the same period the previous year, the lowest figure ever recorded to date.

The numbers equate to a rate of 0.6 employee deaths per 100,000 workers, compared with 0.5 the previous year.

Within the construction industry deaths rose from 41 to 50, and in the waste and recycling sector 9 workers were killed, a huge rise from only 3 the previous annum.

Figures in the agriculture sector, traditionally one of the most dangerous industries did show improvement, dropping from 39 to 34.

The figures are particularly disappointing given the downwards trend in recent years and indicates that there is still much work to be done in ensuring the effectiveness of health and safety in all industries.

HSE chairwoman Judith Hackett commented on the figures, emphasizing that practical work was needed to reduce hazards rather than needless administrative work.

Consultation on fee recovery scheme

A reminder that the consultation period is still open on the HSE's planned cost recovery scheme. As we described in last month's newsletter, the HSE has agreed with the government that a method must be implemented for recovering costs from companies and individuals who fail to uphold health and safety standards.

The consultation does not offer the opportunity to stop the cost recovery scheme, but does ask for the opinions of all members of industry on how these costs should be recovered.

We would encourage all of our member clients to look at the document which can be found on the HSE's website. This period offers the opportunity to get involved in the regulation making process and have your thoughts considered by the HSE board.

Get organised with training and save some money

On Thursday 27th October we are holding our annual health and safety forum at The Eastpoint Centre in Southampton.

This is a great opportunity for all of our member clients to get together for an informal meeting to discuss health and safety and exchange tips and experience.

In addition to this we are offering a chance to save some money on training for the coming year. On top of the 15% discount already offered to our member clients we will be giving an additional 5% off for any training booked on the day.

We look forward to seeing as many as possible of you there and hope the savings will help you to ensure a fully trained and competent workforce.

In the Courts: a round-up of recent prosecutions

Timber company did not address failings

A timber frame company based in Lincolnshire has been fined for failing to stop employees carrying out dangerous practices at its production facility.

The HSE discovered that it was standard practice to remove a guard on a table mounted circular saw to allow large blocks of foam to be cut. Site management were aware of the issue, but instead of taking proper actions to correct the design of the saw, continued to ignore the fact that employees were removing the guard.

Spalding magistrates court heard that the practice of removing the guard contributed to an accident in which an em-

ployee severed his thumb.

It was found that the piece of foam the worker was intending to cut was too large to fit on the table, so the employee supported the load by and pushed it through by hand rather than using push sticks. As he pushed the piece through, his left hand contacted the blade, unprotected by a guard, which severed his thumb.

During their investigation the HSE found that the company had failed to carry out a risk assessment on the machine. Had this been done it would have been clear that the saw was not large enough to use for cutting foam blocks of the size required.

The HSE inspector said, "The injured man's employer failed to provide equipment that would have allowed the job to be done safely and, as a result, a young employee suffered a serious injury in an completely preventable accident."



Multiple site hazards lead to prosecution

The HSE has taken two contractors to court following multiple and repeated failings in safety standards at a site in London.

Both contractors had already received several warnings during site visits and had been issued three prohibition notices.

The final straw came as an HSE inspector drove past and witnessed operatives working in contravention of one of the prohibition notices.

Among the failures detailed in court were:

No safe access to the first floor. The access was formed by a makeshift stairway formed out of bags of sand and stacked blocks which led to the roof of a hut near the building. Operatives were then required to walk across wooden planks, with no edge protection from the roof of

the hut to the first floor of the building. A wooden gangway also leading to an area of first floor was found to be inadequate.

There was a 2.5m deep excavation with no edge protection against falls or support to prevent the sides of the excavation collapsing.

Housekeeping standards were described as appalling with multiple hazards and obstructions throughout the site.

Welfare facilities were also found to be sub-standard. Toilets were filthy and were supplied by a leaking cold water feed only.

During the hearing the HSE inspector said, "Although there was no incident the potential danger to workers was very high. Conditions on site were appalling. This is a shocking ex-



ample of bad management of a construction site and it is a miracle that no one was injured."

The companies involved, principal contractor Kubik Homes, and subcontractor Bellway Developments were both fined £8000 and ordered to pay costs of around £2500.

Worker crushed whilst urinating



A recycling company has been fined £80,000 after one of its employees was crushed between two skips.

The employee was crushed between two skips while urinating in a hidden area between the skips.

Ayr Sheriffs Court heard that the only toilet facilities available at the companies yard was portable toilet with no running water. The toilet was routinely in such a filthy state that employees preferred to use secluded areas of the yard. Management were aware of the issue but chose to do nothing about it.

On the day of the incident the 46 year old employee was standing between the two skips when one of them was hit by an 18 tonne loading shovel, which pushed them together crushing him.

The worker suffered a crushed pelvis and other life changing injuries. He has yet been unable to return to work.

In addition to the lack of toilet facilities the investigation also noted that there was little traffic management in place and the loading shovel was too large to operate safely in the area. The drivers had not been properly trained and were left to work unsupervised.

For the failings leading to the incident the company was fined £80,000.

Had the company carried out a proper risk assessment the worker would not have suffered life altering injuries which could easily have been avoided.