

**HCS
SAFETY**

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

OPEN COURSES AT HCS: MAY

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

- SSSTS** 16th & 17th June
- Site Management Safety Training Scheme**
27th June 4th 11th 18th 25th July
- SMSTS Refresher** 29th & 30th June
- Work At Height and Scaffold Inspection**
19th July
- Manual Handling:** 26th July
- Asbestos Awareness:** 26th July

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!

Congratulations NEBOSH Class of 2011!

Well, the waiting is over for our students (and us!) and the results are in... Every single one of our NEBOSH Construction Certificate students passed their Management module exams. We are so proud of our record for this qualification and so proud of our students for the hard work that they have put in to this course.

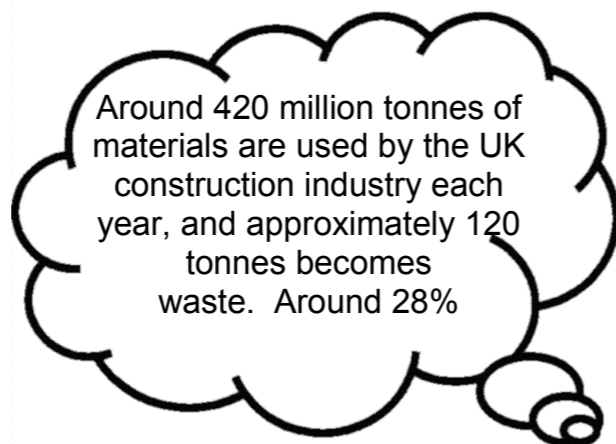
NEBOSH qualifications are not to be sniffed at, they are well respected globally and across the construction industry here in the UK in particular.

So, hats off to:

- Piers—MFD International**
- Sam—SPS Painting Contractors Ltd**
- Gavin—Wilding Butler**
- Peter—Southampton University**
- Keith—Baccus**
- Jo—Brazier Interiors Ltd**
- Dustin—T J Electrical**
- Alan—Profix Access Ltd**



Accredited centre
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Around 420 million tonnes of materials are used by the UK construction industry each year, and approximately 120 tonnes becomes waste. Around 28%



Safety News

**HCS
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May 2011



SAFETY & HEALTH EXPO

17-19 May 2011
NEC Birmingham

On 17th May, I went to the NEC in Birmingham to see what new innovations and products were available with a view to letting you know about the best of the bunch.



The Expo was opened by Judith Hackitt, Chair of the HSE, and contained a good variety of stands, some of our favourites have agreed to come to us at HCS Safety and provide you with **product demonstrations**.

I confess that I was drawn away from the throng at one point by an excellent demonstration of flammable and explosive reactions. This caused some stirring amongst the mass of grey suits as the explosions were pretty impressive for an internal venue!

Good to see also, were the dramatic drops in prices for equip-

ment such as **vibration monitors**. Simple equipment is now available at a far more affordable price than a couple of years ago. The HSE is pointing out that we have had 5 years to get used to the Regulations and they will be starting to look strongly at compliance now.

There was a noticeable variety of stalls advertising **drug and alcohol testing** equipment. Again, a dramatic drop in price as this area of safety monitoring becomes more commonplace.

I was particularly impressed by the **scaffold tower** with in-built advance guard rails and no separate components for bracing or handrails. Far safer and quicker to erect and a lot less kit to carry or get lost.

The legal arena did catch the



eye; I spent 30 minutes listening to an excellent presentation on **appealing against prohibition or improvement notices**. It lacked explosions but was informative, so if you'd like to ask about appealing, then please give us a call—we are now clued up!

There were some excellent guardrail systems for stair wells, vehicles and other applications, some manufacturers of safety knives also, given that we are likely to see fewer bladed knives, these are on our list to come and do a demonstration for you.

All in all it was a really useful day out. We'll be in touch soon to let you know when the demonstration morning will be. We need to coordinate the different suppliers first but as soon as we have, we'll be in touch.

Safety News

HSE to charge for advice due to cuts

The first ever Hampshire Consultants Forum was held this month at Rushmoor Council offices. The event was hosted by the HSE who gave a presentation on how they are being affected by the recent spending cuts. **"We are literally unable to stand you a cup of tea"**, they told

us, and went on to explain that they were having to deal with spending cuts of **"at least 35%"**.

In order to try to make up some of the shortfall, the HSE feels they have no choice but to start **charging for advice**. For prohi-

bition notices, improvement notices and written advice, they are estimating that their time will be charged at about **£150 per hour**.



Face Transplant for Electrical Accident Victim

The recipient of America's first **full face transplant** has hailed his newly regained sense of smell as one of the top benefits of the surgery.

Dallas Wiens, whose face was burnt off after his head **hit a power line** in 2008, appeared in public for the first time since the surgery on Monday.

He said he looked forward to hugging his daughter and hoped to return to university following his recovery.

"I'm only 26 years old," he said, "and there's a lot of life left to live."

At Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Mr Wiens' doctors said he had yet to recover full nerve and muscle function but said they were confident he would improve.

Dr Jeffrey Janis said the 15-hour transplant "represents a new frontier in reconstructive surgery".

Mr Wiens has undergone about two dozen operations since the 2008 **accident, which occurred while he**



was painting a church.

The transplant procedure was funded by the US military, which hopes the findings will help it treat soldiers with severe facial wounds.

"The face feels natural," Mr Wiens said on Monday in slightly muddled but intelligible speech. **"It feels as if it's become my own."**

Doctors were unable to restore Mr Wiens' eyesight and he appeared at a table wearing large black sunglasses.

But Mr Wiens said the recovery of his sense of smell and the ability to breathe through his nose had been the best

parts of the recovery.

He told reporters the first thing he was able to smell after the surgery was hospital lasagne, saying: "You wouldn't have imagined it would smell so delicious."

He added that the reality that he had recovered his sense of smell struck him when a nurse brought a hibiscus flower into his room.

"The smell of life - plant life again - and to know that I could smell a rose or anything like that again, it really hit home for me," he said

In the Courts: a round-up of recent prosecutions

2nd Excavator Operator Prosecuted this Year

A foreman died when an excavator bucket filled with concrete fell on him at a London construction site.

Gerry Fox, was crushed by an excavator bucket when it fell from the arm of the 12 tonne excavator being driven by a colleague.

The Health and Safety Executive prosecuted Hydro Plant Ltd, the plant hire company which had provided the excavator and Michael Cunningham, the excavator operator, for safety breaches after the August 2007 incident.

City of London Magistrates' Court heard that Cunningham, who now

lives in Eastbourne, failed to manually insert a pin into the 'quick hitch' to safely lock the bucket in place.

The HSE found Cunningham failed to take reasonable care for the health and safety of fellow employees by positioning the bucket, which was filled with concrete, directly over Fox and site supervisor Tim McCarthy who narrowly missed being hit by the bucket.

Euro Earthworks Ltd failed to adequately plan, manage and monitor the construction work, while Hydro Plant Ltd neglected to ensure the quick hitch and all attachments supplied with the excavator were maintained in an effi-

cient state, working order and in good repair.

Magistrates also heard HSE issued advice on the safe use of quick hitches on excavators in March 2007.

HSE Inspector Lorraine Charles said: "This tragic incident was entirely preventable. There had already been a significant number of incidents involving buckets becoming detached from quick hitches, in particular semi-automatic quick hitches where operators had failed to insert the safety pin.



Buried Alive in Belgravia

A Brazilian construction worker was buried alive while building a basement in London's Belgravia.

Arlindo Visentin, 58, died helping three other workers build a basement at the private property when he was crushed by a collapsing wall of gravel and clay weighing between three and five tonnes.

Contractor Nadeem Aftab, Visentin's employer was today fined £100,000 following the tragic incident in Wilton Row, Westminster.

The Health and Safety Executive prosecuted Aftab of Rosebury Road, Fulham, who pleaded guilty to safety breaches. He was also ordered to pay costs of £61,590.

City of London Magistrates' Court heard that on 13 June 2007 Visentin was working in the basement area when the collapse took place, completely burying him with clay and gravel, causing fatal crush injuries.

The HSE investigation found the temporary works required to support the earth during

the underpinning operation were not adequately planned.

The earth that remained following the underpinning of the walls was not properly supported, and at the time of the incident no measures were in place to prevent falls into the excavation.



Aftab failed to make sure the workers on site were trained, qualified and competent to carry out underpinning.

Following the hearing, HSE Inspector, Lisa Chappell said: "Mr Visentin spoke very little English and did not share a common

language with any of the other workers or with Mr Aftab.

"This incident highlights the need to have effective worker consultation and communication with all employees to ensure they understand the control measures that should be in place to prevent harm.

"Basement conversions involving underpinning are significant engineering projects and should be planned and managed by competent people.

"As a part of this, a competent temporary works engineer should design an appropriate sequence of works, and the work should be actively managed by a person who had the necessary knowledge, training and experience to ensure it is carried out safely."

Steeplejack firm kills 2 employees in 2 incidents

A Nottingham steeplejack firm has been fined £100,000 after one worker plunged to his death and another was injured in separate falls within 18 months of each other.

Brian Collins, 52, had been setting up abseiling equipment with two other workers on a contract to paint chimneys at Sutton Bridge Power Station when he fell through an open grating plunging 34m to his death.

In a separate incident at Nottingham Castle nearly 18 months later, another employee fell 10m breaking his back. The Health and Safety

Executive prosecuted Central (High Rise) for failing to protect its employees.

At the castle, the firm also failed to ensure the work was properly supervised. At the power station, it had also failed to make a proper assessment of the risks and to properly manage and monitor the work. HSE inspector Martin Giles said: "The work at the power station required careful planning and assessment of the risks involved.

"Tragically, the company failed to make sure the rigging of the ropes was done safely and

the result was the needless death of an employee.

"Falls from height are the biggest cause of workplace deaths and it's crucial that employers make sure work is properly planned, appropriately supervised and that sufficient measures are put in place to protect staff from the risks."

