

Get in touch!

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

OPEN COURSES AT HCS IN OCT/NOV

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

Site Supervisor Safety Training Scheme

23rd & 24th November

15th & 16th December

Site Management Safety Training Scheme

5th 6th 12th 13th 14th December

Health and Safety Awareness

30th November

SMSTS Refresher

29th & 30th November

Manual Handling:

1st December

Work at Height & Scaffold Inspection

7th December

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



HCS Safety
have been
invited by
Southampton
Solent Uni-
versity to as-
sist in deliver-
ing the health

and safety module for some of their construction related courses. These include Civil Engineering, Construction Management, architectural technology and Interior Design so we are accessing a cross section of the industry.

It has been an interesting experience delivering lectures to approximately 70 students. We have an opportunity to connect with the next generation of managers and directors. We are hopeful that embedding this knowledge at an early stage in their careers will help the students to build a safer future.

Cement manufacture accounts for
around 2% of the UK's carbon diox-
ide emissions



In the Courts

October 2011**Annual Forum**

Our annual forum was held on the 27th October at the newly finished East Point Centre. It was good to see such a high level of attendance from our member clients.

We would like to thank all of the 65 clients who attended and hope to see even more of you next year.

Zoe's presentation included an update on the make-up of our membership, a round up of the 9 RIDDOR accidents our members have had this year, and an update on training, including information on the free seminars that we will be holding this year.

We have had some very positive feedback from you regarding the forum, particularly the new, interactive members only area within our website that you can use to access many useful documents.

Sam was swamped with well organised clients taking full advantage of our special forum day training discount—so well done to those of you that took advantage of this.

Our speaker from the HSE explained where the HSE will be concentrating their attentions this coming year. Their attention will be more focused on smaller development and refurbishments along with projects with asbestos removal.

Johann also reinforced the message of competence and the importance of training, and let us know that the HSE will start charging for their services from April 6th 2012.

**Crackdown on dishonest claims management firms****Ministry of
JUSTICE**

The Govern-
ment's efforts to
tackle the UK's
apparent com-
pensation culture

have received a boost with the announcement that a record number of rogue claims-management companies have been shut down by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in the last year.

A total of 349 firms was closed down last year in comparison to 35 the year before – a ten-fold increase – and 256 of these companies operated in the personal-injury market.

The MoJ's Claims Management Regulation Unit aims to prevent firms from exploiting vulnerable consumers by overselling expectations of compensation payouts. The firms that had their licences taken away in 2010/11 were either found to be in breach of rules, or failed to meet the regulator's requirements for authorisation.

The regulatory action comes at a time when the Government is proposing to reform 'no win, no fee' deals and overhaul the civil-justice system. The sweeping changes aim to tackle concerns that a growing compensation culture is paralysing schools, businesses and community groups because they fear being sued.

In the Courts

Rogue of the Month

This will hopefully not be a much coveted prize and we also hope that we will struggle to find contenders for Rogue of the Month.

Unfortunately this month there was a more than reasonable collection to choose from. Maybe in the future we will be forced to change the feature to best practice of the month. Until then please have a look at this make shift working platform.

Although we are sure some of the photographs will cause some humour and discussion they hopefully will provide a reminder to those of you who are bending the rules that this is not the way forward. Working at height continues to be the biggest killer for the construction workforce.

Here we have an inventive carpenter who has created a work of art to give himself access to the ceiling. He eventually saw the error of his ways and abandoned the task until suitable access equipment is provided.

Make shift working platforms are often encountered during site visits. A suitable working platform should be provided with fall protection at times. Furthermore the working platform needs to be capable of taking the loads to be placed on it.



And on the other hand...

Innovation in Safety—Small Business Award

Safety savings can win you

£1,000

Have you come up with an innovation to improve health and safety in a small business? Has the firm saved money because of it?

The Prize!

If yes, then enter the IOSH/HSE Innovation in Safety – Small Business Award to be in with a chance of winning £1,000 and a free two-day pass to the IOSH 2012 Conference and Exhibition,

the largest health and safety conference in the UK.

The competition is an outstanding opportunity to get industry-wide recognition. If you win, you'll be promoted on the IOSH and HSE websites, in SHP magazine and Connect – IOSH's e-bulletin, and the IOSH channel on YouTube. We'll let the winner know on 20 February 2012 and formally present their award on 6 March 2012 at the IOSH Conference and Exhibition in Manchester.

The Competition

This year, the competition is themed around IOSH's [Life Savings](#) ^[1] campaign, which showcases how good health and safety management not only saves lives, but can actually save businesses hard cash. Your en-

tries will help prove that health and safety is not a burden on small businesses, and by doing it well, you can actually improve the bottom line.

Judith Donovan CBE, past board director of the HSE and founder of the award, said:

"This year we're looking for anything that helps a small firm do health and safety better, that makes their employees safer when they go to work, that makes the firm more efficient and profitable, and anything that celebrates why health and safety is the hall mark of a civilised society and not an unnecessary regulatory burden."



Your idea has to be original, and already have been put into practice in a small business

In the Courts

Brick lifting clamp crushes builder

A construction worker suffered serious internal injuries after being crushed in a brick clamp used to load pallets on a delivery lorry.

The botched pick-up led to the Jewson lorry loader operator appearing in court last week

Yeovil Magistrates' Court heard how, on 18 November 2010, Mark Pratten attempted to use a brick clamp on a lorry crane to lift builder Peter Hoy off the roof of a cabin while he was collecting building materials from a construction site at Mayfield House, High Street, Rode.

The pallet of materials they were collecting was behind an eight foot wall and it was not possible to pick them up normally with the lorry crane they were using.

In trying to guide the crane into place, Hoy climbed onto the roof of the cabin and to get down quickly Pratten tried to lift him with the grab of the crane.



Hoy walked between the arms of the clamp, which was at waist height, in preparation to gain a foot or hand hold.

As he did so, Pratten attempted to move the arms. But he used the wrong switch and inadvertently operated the clamp button.

The arms clamped Hoy's waist, fractur-

ing his pelvis and causing crush-related internal injuries, including nerve damage. His injuries are so severe that he is still off work.

Speaking after the prosecution, HSE inspector Helena Tinton said: "Even if the clamp had not been activated, attempting to lift Mr Hoy down from the cabin roof with a brick clamp was in no way safe.

"Two people's lives have been seriously affected in this incident: Mr Hoy is still suffering from health problems related to his internal injuries and does not yet know when he will be able to return to work. Mr Pratten has lost his job after this action which went against all his training and years of experience."

Pratten pleaded guilty to breaching Section 7 of the Health and Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974 and was fined £1,500 with £1,000 costs.

Worker blown out of building by force of cement-dust blast



A worker at a cement factory in Rugby died after being thrown out of the side of the building in an explosion.

Leamington Spa Crown Court heard that Peter Reynolds, 28, was working for CEMEX UK Operations Ltd when the incident happened on 15 January 2008. He was operating a bypass dust plant machine, which processes hazardous dust created during the manufacturing of cement and turns it into a reacted product that is suitable for landfill.

During this process, the motor in the machine's lower mixer tripped and Mr Reynolds asked the control room to isolate the machine so he could investigate the problem. He found a blockage in the machine and while he was clearing it there was an explosion of steam and dust inside the machine, which was so strong it blew Mr Reynolds through the side of the building and he landed on a road 30 feet below. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The HSE's investigation learned that CEMEX had recognised the potential for blockages to cause exothermic reactions as steam pressure built up within the mixer, but took no action to prevent them. The mixture was being passed through the machine too fast, meaning it had not finished reacting when it left the top mixer. This had a large vent to release the steam, whereas the lower mixer did not have a suitable-size vent to cope with the steam pressure.

HSE Principal Inspector Neil Craig said: "This was an entirely avoidable tragedy, which has left a young family without a husband and a father. If CEMEX had investigated the previous incident properly, Mr Reynolds would still be alive today.

CEMEX UK Operations Ltd appeared in court for sentencing on 17 October, having pleaded guilty to breaching s2(1) of the HSWA 1974. It was fined £200,000 and ordered to pay £172,000 in costs.