



The Safety Observer



Monthly Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

New

Welcome to the new look monthly newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation. The SAFETY OBSERVER is exclusive to NISO Members and contains information that is current, informative and useful to members. Each month we will keep you up to date on what is happening in occupational safety and health. NISO UPDATE, the quarterly magazine, will also continue to be published with the Spring edition due later this month.

March 2012

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BeSmart Workshops

The Health and Safety Authority is running a series of nationwide BeSMART breakfast briefings for small business owner/managers throughout March and April. These briefings will provide an opportunity for attendees to see the benefits of BeSMART as well as to learn about a range of other important workplace health and safety topics.

[View or download the brochure \[pdf\]](#)

Work Related Vehicle Incidents - An Analysis

Incidents involving vehicles cause the greatest number of work related deaths in Ireland. The majority of incidents occur in Small and Medium Sized Enterprises. An Analysis of Work Related Vehicle Fatalities for 2009 and 2010 has just been published by the Health and Safety Authority. It shows that 35% of workplace fatalities in 2010 involved work related vehicles. Of the 17 deaths, all were male with Thursday being the most dangerous day. The southern west part of the country was worst hit with Counties Clare, Cork and Kerry accounting for two deaths each. It should be noted that there were different trends in the 2009 statistics.

[Download the reports](#)

Public Consultation

The Commission for Energy Regulation has published a Draft Decision paper on the High Level Design of the Petroleum Safety Framework, developed under new legislation, the Petroleum (Exploration and Extraction) Safety Act 2010 and is seeking comments before 29 March 2012.

[Read more](#)

New Publication - Upper Limb Disorder in the Financial Sector

A new publication published by the Health and Safety Authority seeks to prevent employees who work at computer workstations from developing upper limb disorders.

[View or download the guide](#)

Personal Injury Awards fall in 2011

InjuriesBoard.ie review of 2011 data shows that compensation totaling €210 million was awarded in 2011 in respect of 9,833 personal injury claims. The average award in the period was €21,339. During the year the Board made an award of €829,444, its highest to date.

Over three quarters of awards (76.5%) were for injuries from road traffic accidents while the remainder were split between workplace (8.4%) and public place (15.1%) accidents. County Limerick had the largest number of awards as a proportion of population with County Kilkenny having the lowest number of awards per head of population. Workplace injury awards averaged over €27,000 compared with averages of over €22,000 and €20,000 for public liability and motor liability respectively.

[Read more](#)

Initiative to cut farm accidents

Farmers involved in serious accidents have come together to tell their stories to help others avoid the same fate. Some 47 persons have died in agriculture-related accidents over the past two years. According to the Health and Safety Authority, while most farmers understand the hazards of farming, they believe their own farms are safe. The DVDs are available to farm groups and training providers.

[Read more](#)

Recent Fatalities during March

A man in his late 50s has died following an industrial accident in County Kerry. It is understood he was working on a tractor tyre at a premises in Listry, Beaufort, when the accident happened on 10 March 2012.

[Read more](#)

A father of four has died after a car on which he had been working collapsed on top of him at his home in County Clare. It is expected that an investigation by the Health and Safety Authority will look at whether the jack slipped or failed, causing the vehicle to fall on the victim.

[Read more](#)

A crane driver, was killed in County Donegal yesterday when his machine touched overhead wires near Dunlewey. The man was working on a local water scheme at Meenaboll when the incident happened on 13 March 2012.

[Read more](#)

Recent Court Decisions

Two construction companies which faced charges arising from the death of a construction worker during the building of the M3 motorway in 2008 have been found not guilty by direction of the judge. The judge ruled there was insufficient evidence on which a jury properly charged might reach a guilty verdict regarding whether safe systems of work were being complied with.

[Read more](#)

A construction company was fined €40,000 on 12 March in the Central Criminal Court, Dublin for a breach of health and safety legislation. The case arose out of an incident that occurred in North Dublin on 29 August 2007.

[Read more](#)

A canteen worker, who was fired, was awarded €20,000 for telling a friend that the food in her place of work made her sick.

[Read more](#)

A bank employee who slipped during an outing has had damages of €80,000 reduced to €27,000 after the high court found she was two-third responsible.

[Read more](#)

A pizza delivery driver who was delivering leaflets has failed in his attempt for damages after alleging that when he put his fingers through a letter box he was bitten by an Alsatian dog.

[Read more](#)

An Irishman who had four toes amputated following an industrial accident on a farm in Queensland, Australia, has been awarded Au\$566,752 (€454,491) in compensation.

[Read more](#)

Membership Subscriptions

Subscriptions for membership of NISO are now due. Many thanks to all who have paid.

Events

[Safety Quizzes](#) are currently being held in a number of centres nationally.

Considering entering the [All Ireland Occupational Safety Awards](#). Closing dates of 5 April and 3 May 2012.

[Annual General Meeting](#); Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone; 12 noon, Saturday, 21 April 2012.

Annual Conference: Safety and Health is our Wealth; Radisson Hotel, Sligo; Friday, 5 October 2012.

Training

[Manual Handling Instructors Course](#) FETAC Level 6, commences 20 March 2012.

[Safe Pass Course](#); Friday, 23, 30 March 2012.

[Health and Safety Representation Course](#) FETAC Level 5, commences 26 March 2012.

[Basic Manual Handling Course](#); 28 March 2012.

[VDU/DSE Assessors Course](#); 16 April 2012.

[Safety and Health at Work Course](#) FETAC Level 5, commences 9 October 2012.

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