



The Safety Observer



Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

November 2014 - Issue 7

Welcome to the November 2014 edition of The Safety Observer, the newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation. The SAFETY OBSERVER contains information that is current, informative and useful to subscribers. We keep you up to date on what is happening in occupational safety and health. NISO UPDATE, the quarterly magazine, was circulated on 28 October last and the next edition for NISO members is scheduled for mid January 2015.

November 2014

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We are now also sending **The Safety Observer** to all contacts within member companies for which we have an email address.

WANT additional employees added to our distribution list*, or to **CHECK** the listing for your organisation, call or email <info@niso.ie>.

* Corporate members only



Minister urges farmers to avail of the new farm safety scheme

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney TD, has reiterated his call to farmers to avail of the grants available under the new Farm Safety Scheme and to submit any applications for aid as soon as possible. See the news section later in the bulletin. [Read more](#)

Annual General Meetings

NISO are holding a number of regional AGMs between now and December. [Read more](#)

Fatalities in the Farming sector a cause for concern

24 fatalities in the farming sector is a cause for concern accounting for over 55% of all workplace fatalities in 2014. [Read more](#)

Thursdays in November

Over the last three years, Thursdays in November have proven to be the most common days for workplace accidents. [Read more](#)

Farm Safety Seminar

Tullamore, Co Offaly; Thursday evening, 25 November. Participants will also obtain information on the grants available under the new Farm Safety Scheme. [Read more](#)



News

President visits NISO/ HSA National Conference 2014

Saying that health and safety is an ethical issue, President Michael D Higgins, who opened the joint National Irish Safety Organisation and Health & Safety Authority's National Health and Safety Conference 2014, set the tone for a very successful two day conference at which speakers addressed the proposition that 'Safety is a Mindset'.

<http://goo.gl/qMYg5s>

NISO / NISG Safety All Ireland Awards

The 23rd Annual National Irish Safety Organisation / Northern Ireland Safety Group (NISO/NISG) Safety Awards took place on 3 October 2014 at a special ceremony in Mullingar at which the Supreme Safety Award winner for 2014, sponsored by Phillips 66, was awarded to Cold Chon (Galway) Ltd. (Chemoran).

Read post

<http://goo.gl/jCvmp2>

List of winners

<http://goo.gl/oPd4vC>

View photographs

<http://goo.gl/VXyRmC>

€24m awarded for workplace accidents in 2013

The Injuries Board awarded compensation of €24m in respect of 826 claims for workplace accidents in 2013, compared to €22m compensation for 807 awards in 2012. The average award for a workplace accident last year also increased from €27,286 in 2012 to €28,886 in 2013. The highest award for a workplace accident last year was €432,000, a substantial increase on the previous year's figure of €332,143. The highest award in 2013 related to a fatal accident.

<http://goo.gl/wH3wz4>

Farm Safety Grants

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney TD, has reiterated his call to farmers to avail of the grants available under the new Farm Safety Scheme and to submit any applications for aid as soon as possible. The Minister advised that the amount of funding available for the Scheme is €12.2m and the grant rate will be 40% of the maximum eligible investment ceiling of €20,000 – in other words, a maximum grant of €8,000 is available.

The Farm Safety Scheme opened on the 22nd October 2014 and will close on the 9th January 2015. In order to facilitate the issuing of approvals it is intended to operate two tranches with the budget divided evenly between the two tranches.

The cut off date for the first tranche will be Friday 28th November 2014. The second tranche will open on Monday 1st December 2014.

All applications not approved in the first tranche will be carried over into the second tranche. Similarly, any unused budget from the first tranche will transfer for allocation under the second tranche. All applicants are advised to submit their applications as early as possible. Applicants are reminded that all work must be completed and a payment claim lodged with the Department by 31st August 2015.

All of the documentation in relation to the scheme is available on the Department's website.

Note: At the NISO seminar on farm safety to be held in the Tullamore Court Hotel, on 25 November 2014, personnel will be on hand on the night to assist with the completion of forms.

Read more

<http://goo.gl/HECb7S>

British Injury and Ill-health Statistics

Statistics released on 29 October 2014 for 2013/14, show:

- 133 fatal injuries – a fall from 150 the previous year.
- 77,593 other injuries reported under RIDDOR. That equates to 304.6 injuries per 100,000 employees.
- 28.2 million working days were lost due to work related ill health or injury
- An estimated two million people in 2013/14 suffering from an illness they believed was caused or made worse by current or past work.

<http://goo.gl/o8k8z6>

20 tradespeople die every week in UK from asbestos related diseases

Health and Safety Executive (UK) have launched a new safety campaign as an average of 20 tradespeople die every week from asbestos related diseases in the UK. On a simple pro rata conversion does it mean at least 1 person dying every week in Ireland?

Tradespeople, including construction workers, carpenters and painters and decorators, could come into contact with deadly asbestos on average more than 100 times a year* according to a new survey commissioned by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)**.

<http://goo.gl/Ck4r3Z>

Dangerous roof work caught on camera

<http://goo.gl/HSghrq>

Protecting health care and other potentially exposed workers from Ebola virus

New and updated guidelines from the CDC and NIOSH in the US are available including materials such as: infection prevention and control guidelines, procedures for putting on and removing personal protective equipment for healthcare workers, and information for emergency medical responders and 112 / 999 call takers

<http://goo.gl/qOPPMo>

NISO Update

Have you read the latest NISO update which features:

- All Ireland Safety Awards Winners 2014
- NISO / HSA National Conference Report
- OSH Crisis on Irish Farms
- One Thousand Lives Saved since 1989
- Psychosocial Risks in your Organisation
- The Future of OSH in Irish Workplaces

- Organisational Safety Culture
- New Legislation and Statistics

[NISO Update - Autumn edition](#)

Farming accidents feature in 2014 fatalities

Two men have died in separate workplace accidents on 14 November. A man in his fifties died at a farm outside Enniscorthy, Co Wexford. Another man in his fifties died at a steelworks in Roscommon.

<http://goo.gl/wb0UtU>

Woman Dies in Finglas Forklift Accident on 11 November 2014

<http://goo.gl/7tQONG>

Man dies in accident at Louth factory

A man has died following a workplace accident at the Premier Periclase plant on the Boyne Road in Drogheda on 30 October. The man (46) is believed to have sustained head injuries in the accident. Premier Periclase produces magnesia for use in the steel industry.

<http://goo.gl/zoHfpr>

Girl dies in farm accident on 28 September 2014 as parents return from holiday

<http://goo.gl/ghRPHn>

A 60-year-old woman was killed when she was trampled by cattle in Co Roscommon on 24th September.

<http://goo.gl/Z55bvZ>

An agricultural contractor, from Liscannor Co Clare, died 20 August 2014 after a wheel he had been fitting on a vehicle exploded.

<http://goo.gl/jzFv1o>

A five-year-old boy died in an accident in County Offaly on 4th August. The boy lost his life after becoming entangled in a tractor while helping his father cut wheat on the farm in Kincora, near Ferbane.

<http://goo.gl/Z55bvZ>

On 1st August, a three-year-old boy died in an accident on his family's farm in west Cork.

A three year old boy died after being crushed beside a JCB in the farmyard outside Drimoleague.

<http://goo.gl/Z55bvZ>

A 37-year-old man was killed in a farm accident in West Cork on 20th June.

A man has died after being overcome by fumes while working at a slurry tank at the family home at Kealkill near Bantry.

<http://goo.gl/Z55bvZ>

Statistics

Statistics - Fatal Workplace Injuries by Economic Sector to date in 2014

25 ... Agriculture, forestry and fishing

3 ... Manufacturing

1 ... Electricity; gas, steam and air conditioning supply - See more at: http://hsa.ie/eng/Topics/Statistics/Fatal_Injury/#sthash.hu1uU70E.dpuf

7 ... Construction

2 ... Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and personal goods

2 ... Transportation and storage

1 ... Professional, scientific and technical activities

2 ... Administrative and support service activities

43 .. TOTAL

Figures from HSA 18 November 2014

Note that some accidents may be under investigation and may not have been recorded yet.

The Agriculture and Construction sectors are responsible over 70% of workplace accidents so far in 2014.

At 18 November 2014, forty three persons have been killed in workplace accidents, 24 of which have occurred on Irish Farms [over 55% of all fatalities].

<http://goo.gl/CG5QSw>

In the Courts

Sentencing - Death of a Bar Worker

Resulting from an employee who was crushed to death in a lift shaft, a director and a shareholder of a company were ordered to carry out 200

hours community service each, instead of a six-month jail sentence, by Judge Mary Ellen Ring in the Dublin Circuit Criminal Court following a breach of health and safety legislation.

<http://goo.gl/F3ltrH>

Cherry picker detached from van causing fatal crash, court hears

<http://goo.gl/5VJGX1>

Company fined €30,000 over death of roof worker following safety breaches

<http://goo.gl/0ZdvK4>

Safety Alerts

A number of safety alerts have been issued recently by authorities in Ireland and the UK.

Safety Alert - Danger Associated with Electrical Cable Reels

Following a number of recent incidents, including electrocutions, where electric cable reels were involved, the Health and Safety Authority has warned people of the dangers that could arise from the misuse or abuse of electric cable reels.

<http://goo.gl/ppJSvm>

Safety Alert - Tower Crane Slew Brakes

HSE investigations into the collapse of two tower crane jibs have identified that there were problems with adequate maintenance of the slew brake release mechanisms. This alert is to advise owners and users of steps to be taken to ensure that tower crane slew brake release mechanisms are maintained and in efficient working order.

<http://goo.gl/Yfe2Wa>

Safety Alert - Hydraulic Injection Injury

HSE has issued a safety alert to raise awareness of the risks from hydraulic injection injury.

Initial findings from an HSE investigation has found that whilst a maintenance fitter was using a hand powered grease gun to tension the track of a piling rig, the nipple connecting the grease gun to the track mechanism detached, permitting the grease (under significant stored energy) to release, injecting the fitter.

<http://goo.gl/xOVj8N>

Safety Alert - Devices used to reduce Entrapment and Crushing on MEWPs

A safety alert has been issued advising that covers/shrouds on mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs) machine controls do not protect against entrapment of operators between the machine and nearby obstructions.

<http://goo.gl/ghOXJl>

Safety Alert - Lorry Mounted Cranes

The HSA has issued a safety alert for workers who are involved in the use of lorry-mounted cranes resulting from a recent fatal accident. It reminds employers responsible for operating lorry-mounted cranes that they must ensure such a crane is not taken into use for the first time unless it has been examined and certified by a competent person. It must not be used unless it has been thoroughly examined by a competent person in the last 12 months and has been tested as part of a thorough examination.

<http://goo.gl/fJVH0m>

Safety Alert - Storage of Gas Cylinders for use in Non-Domestic Installations (Non-Bulk)

This safety alert provides simple practical advice on eliminating or reducing the risks associated with using gas cylinders.

<http://goo.gl/fYbvXJ>

Safety Alert - Product Recall

GME-Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)

Standard Communications Pty Limited, the manufacturer of GME EPIRB's, has issued a safety recall of the following EPIRB units

GME MT400/MT401/MT403 EPIRBs with the serial numbers between 50101000 and 80250722.

<http://goo.gl/CHhKvh>

Safety Alert - Scaffolding Components

HSENI is concerned about defective scaffold components found in recent site inspections. Following these visits we have contacted a number of companies offering a scaffold erection service who have been using defective scaffolding components, particularly scaffold boards, owned by the site contractor.

<http://goo.gl/4ffehE>

Safety Alert- Installing Solar Panels

Working on a roof can be dangerous - falls account for more deaths and serious injuries in construction than any other cause. Roof work must be properly planned and appropriate safety equipment and training provided. The risks are substantial, however long or short the work and

nign safety standards are essential at all times.

<http://goo.gl/iSWSJT>

Safety Alert - Installation of Fireplace Surrounds

The alert relates to the installation of modular, stone and artificial stone fireplace surrounds. The HSENI and the HSEGB are aware of several instances where components forming part of a modern fireplace surround have fallen, causing damage and injury. The alert sets out guidance for designers, manufacturers and installers of such surrounds. To download the guidance, click on the following link:

<http://goo.gl/EprJq4>

Safety Alert - Imported air compressors

An examination of a shipment of air compressors at Belfast Port found that they were unsafe. The compressors were made by a company named Taizhou Baoma Pump Industry Company and similar compressors had been on sale in Northern Ireland for a number of years. The specific model causing concern is a 200-litre, eight-bar compressor bearing the trademark 'Toolmate Expert'. The HSENI is advising anyone who has one of the compressors to contact their supplier. To download the alert, click on the following link:

<http://goo.gl/5Sp1Lm>

Research and Reports

How effective are hand cleaning products compared to hand washing?

The use of soap and warm running water for hand washing remains an effective method for reducing the levels of hand borne microbiological contamination. The use of soap and cold running water has also been shown as effective for hand decontamination, though is likely to be marginally less effective than soap and warm water.

Alcohol preparations based on either gels or liquid hand rubs can offer a significant reduction in microbiological hand contamination, with some studies claiming multi-log reductions under specified conditions that are greater than hand washing approaches. However, there are important limitations to how alcohol rubs and gels should be used, and these may introduce uncertainties regarding their efficacy.

Little published data exists on the performance of hand hygiene methods in the context of variable to heavy organic loading.

Full report

<http://goo.gl/AWhR3K>

Health and social care

Health and social care is one of the main sectors in Europe, employing approximately 10% of the EU workforce, with women representing 77% of healthcare workers. Because of the many different, and sometimes uncontrolled, settings in which they work and the range and type of tasks they carry out, healthcare workers encounter a wide range of risks. These include biological and chemical risks (such as infections from needlestick injuries and handling hazardous substances), ergonomic risks arising from patient handling and psychosocial risks resulting from working unsocial hours, emotionally draining work and exposure to aggressive behaviour.

All this adds up to make health- and social care a high-risk sector.

A report published by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) gives an overview of the current and emerging OSH issues for health and social care workers and how these affect their safety and health at work and influence the quality of care they provide.

Executive Summary

<http://goo.gl/lxDGji>

Full Report

<http://goo.gl/Qmlc71>

Publications

Guidance Note on Periodic Inspection and Testing of Electrical Installations

Electrical installations, if not properly maintained, can kill, injure and cause serious property damage. In Ireland, people are killed almost every year from contact with, or as a result of electricity. This Guidance-Note aims to assist employers, employees and others put in place a suitable regime for periodic inspection and testing of electrical installations to reduce the possibility of harm arising from the electrical installation in a workplace.

<http://goo.gl/njTU07>

Wellbeing and Performance

A useful guide indicating 20 tips to strengthen your resilience at work has been produced by UK based Management Advisory Service (MAS). The aim of the guide is to strengthen personal resilience and improve your ability to successfully apply resilience in difficult situations. According to MAS, personal resilience can only go so far. Without the elements of corporate resilience in place (good culture, good management and a good working environment), there comes a time when individuals will be unable to cope effectively with certain challenges, no matter how robust their personal resilience may be.

<http://goo.gl/CxBZ7L>

Safe Operation of Ski Slopes

This leaflet has been prepared by the HSE (UK) in consultation with the British Ski Slope Operators Association is aimed at owners and

This document has been prepared by the HSE (UK) in consultation with the British Ski Slope Operators' Association to assist skiers and operators of skiing facilities. The revised version includes updated advice on current industry practice and what operators need to do to help ensure the safety of people using skiing facilities.

<http://goo.gl/gzRjsi>

A Guide to Workplace Transport

This UK guide from the Health and Safety Executive provides advice for employers on what they need to do to comply with the law and reduce risk. It will also be useful for managers, supervisors, employees and their safety representatives, as well as contractors, vehicle operators and other organisations concerned with workplace transport safety.

The new guide is much shorter and more streamlined than the previous edition and includes advice on your general legal duties and information on health and safety management. There is also more specific advice on controlling risks associated with workplace transport, which has been restructured into three main areas:

- Safe site (design and activity)
- Safe vehicle
- Safe driver

There are new sections on multi-deck vehicles and multi-site deliveries, as well as minor changes to other sections, such as on weighbridges and sheeting. It reflects and expands on the HSE leaflet.

Workplace Transport Safety: A Brief Guide

<http://goo.gl/j28slr>

A Guide to Workplace Transport

<http://goo.gl/mscz13>

NOTE: The Health and Safety Authority also have a series of workplace transport publications

<http://goo.gl/FdZJiD>

Mobile Apps

Health and Safety International

Health & Safety International is a health and safety magazine for Europe, concentrating on Personal Protective Equipment, services, training and regulations. HSI magazine has news, articles, interviews, products, company profiles and case studies in every issue.

<http://goo.gl/ct3wri>

Guardian24

Guardian24 is a free lone worker safety service used to protect staff when lone working, travelling to and from work, visiting clients in their homes and businesses and when working in isolation on remote sites. It allows lone workers to log in and out of daily tasks, leaving details of their location and the expected duration (logging an activity). This app is available for standard mobile, Android, iOS and Blackberry.

<http://goo.gl/mkHLbP>

Going abroad

"What is the speed limit on Spanish motorways? Do I need to wear a helmet when I cycle in Sweden? What safety equipment must I always have in the car when driving in Slovakia? From now on, holiday makers do not need to spend a lot of time searching for this information. They can have it at hand wherever they are with the European Commission's new smartphone app "Going Abroad".

The app is available for iOS, Android and Windows phones in 22 languages.

<http://goo.gl/iGsSYN>

A number of other apps are available:

Truckfile Safety Check by Magic Internet Technologies Ltd

<http://goo.gl/u0n9yf>

Workplace Safety & Health Series by CrowdCompass, Inc.

<http://goo.gl/8nPtCz>

iAudit - Health & Safety Quality Environmental by Play it Safe Limited

<http://goo.gl/oYFnZk>

Occupational Health and Safety. by Smart Media Innovations Pty Ltd

<http://goo.gl/ymP9OR>

Logbook Checker EU by ivanapps

<http://goo.gl/F3GebI>

An app to keep your load safe - HSL

<http://goo.gl/1T95CV>

Note: NISO has not reviewed these apps and therefore cannot comment on their usefulness.

NISO Members Subscriptions 2014

Many thanks to all who have paid. Outstanding subscriptions can be paid [online](#) or [request](#) a copy invoice.

Remember you need to be a subscribed corporate member to use the [NISO Member logo](#).

Training

[Safe Pass \(1 day course\)](#); 21, 28 November; 5, 12 December

[VDU / DSE Assessor Course \(1 day course\)](#); 28 November

[Manual Handling Basic \(half day course\)](#); 8 December

[Health and Safety Representation, L22487, QQI Level 5 \(3 day course\)](#); January 2015

[Health and Safety Representation, L22487, QQI Level 5 for construction, maintenance and professional personnel \(3 day course\)](#); January 2015

[Manual Handling Instructor and Assessor, QQI Level 6 \(5 day course\)](#); January 2015

[NISO Introduction to Occupational Health and Safety - Limerick Institute of Technology](#); commencing 27 January 2015

[NISO Introduction to Occupational Health and Safety - Athlone Institute of Technology](#); Date to be confirmed

[Occupational First Aid, QQI Level 5](#); February 2015

[Occupational First Aid Refresher, QQI Level 5](#); February 2015

To book any of the above courses online, [click here](#)

In addition to sending this publication to the membership contact, we are now in a position to send it to all contacts within member companies for which we have an email address.

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