

<http://goo.gl/QVXsWh>

ICOS concerned at Dairy Farming deaths

ICOS, the Irish Co-operative Organisation Society, is concerned that the dairy sector, in which co-ops are most active, should suffer disproportionately from farm accidents. Of the 120,000 farms in the Republic of Ireland, only 17 per cent are dairy farms. Yet those farms account for 57 per cent of farm deaths.

<http://goo.gl/u040MU>

Volume and awards levels handled by the Injuries Board have stabilised

The volume of personal injury claims submitted to the Injuries Board in 2014 and the average compensation award over the past five years have stabilised according to the Board's 2014 operational review published 20 March 2015.

<http://goo.gl/lawfW3>

UK NEWS

Open letter to the Structural Timber Industry

The UK's Health and Safety Executive has written an open letter to all parties involved in the design, specification, procurement and construction of timber frame structures to explain HSE's expectations in relation to the management of fire risks prior to and during the construction of timber frame structures.

<http://goo.gl/rKF1O2>

Construction Dust – Industry Survey Report

In the UK, over 500 construction workers a year die from lung cancer caused by silica, with construction dust (often containing wood dust) also causing other serious lung diseases like asthma, silicosis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder.

A newly-published industry survey conducted jointly by the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) and the Construction Dust Partnership (CDP) has found that workers believe the construction industry needs to do more to face up to the challenge that dust created on the job poses to employees' health.

<http://goo.gl/hEhQyO>

Information from the HSE about woodwork dust

<http://goo.gl/BHlcbD>

Information from the HSA about woodworking

<http://goo.gl/oAQjVZ>

Violence at Work Statistics

The UK's Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has produced Violence at Work Statistics from the 2013/2014 Crime Statistics in England and Wales. The figures show that the risk of being a victim of actual or threatened violence at work is similar to the last five years with an estimated

1.1 per cent of working adults the victims of one or more violent incidents at work. There were an estimated 583,000 incidents of violence at work, comprising 269,000 assaults and 314,000 threats. It is estimated that men are 20 per cent more likely to suffer from workplace violence than women.

<http://goo.gl/ZYoCyf>

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM 2015)

In the UK, the new Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (CDM 2015) came into force on 6 April 2015. The HSE have produced a guidance document on the new regulations which should be of interest to organisations involved in design, management or construction related activities in the UK.

<http://goo.gl/jz7zCB>

Vets and Farmer Safety

To support vets and farmers to achieve better safety when working together on farms the British Veterinary Association (BVA) has produced a package of guidance to help all parties understand their share of legal responsibility.

<http://goo.gl/9MUhFQ>

EUROPEAN NEWS

EU-OSHA announced Siemens as the winner of the 2014–15 Healthy Workplaces Good Practice Awards

As part of EU-OSHA's Healthy Workplaces Manage Stress Campaign over 100 official campaign partners have been implementing measures to reduce psychosocial risks and stress in the workplace. As part of this, the EU-OSHA announced Siemens as the winner of the 2014–15 Healthy Workplaces Good Practice Awards in the new special category of 'Official Campaign Partner'. The ceremony took place in conjunction with a two-day benchmarking and exchange of good practices event in Brussels on 5–6 March 2015.

<http://goo.gl/fj0YA6>

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

A man died in a farming accident on 20 February. The father of two is believed to have drowned when he became trapped in a water tank, in Ballywilliam, Co Wexford. This is the second fatality this year in the South East following the death of another farmer in Clara, Co Kilkenny.

<http://goo.gl/Mqh5ox>

A man died following an incident on a gas pipeline at a construction site near Neagh, Co Tipperary on 27 February.

<http://goo.gl/IRlu84>

A man in his late 70's was killed after an incident involving a tractor on a farm in Co Down on 20 March. Just recently the Health and Safety Executive of Northern Ireland launched a new, powerful campaign to highlight the dangers of farming and the impact on those left behind after a farm death or serious incident. [See below.](#)

<http://goo.gl/cN4itF>

A man died in an quarry accident in Freshford on 5 January in what was the first workplace accident of 2015.

<http://goo.gl/ucDG27>

Serious burns for two workers after industrial accident

Two workers were airlifted to hospital with serious burns following an incident at Thomac Engineering, Shannon Industrial Estate. It is understood that the men were working at a machine when they were struck by molten plastic.

<http://goo.gl/OFgGPM>

A man was airlifted to hospital in a workplace accident in Co Clare, on 6 February. It is understood that the man's arm got caught in a pasta machine while working in the kitchen of a restaurant in Lahinch, Clare.

<http://goo.gl/IRacXz>

STATISTICS

At 27 March 2015, seven persons have been killed in workplace accidents. Three fatalities occurred in agriculture, and one each in quarrying, construction, education and human health and social work activities.

<http://goo.gl/CG5QSw>

IN THE COURTS

Ruling that Dublin Bus breached duty in injured driver case quashed

The Supreme Court has overturned a finding that Dublin Bus breached its statutory duty to provide safe equipment to a bus driver who was injured when the pneumatic suspension on his vehicle failed as it drove over a speed ramp. The case relates to a bus driver who suffered neck and lower back injuries in a 2005 incident and the subsequent High Court ruling that he was entitled to succeed in his damages claim against his employer. Following an appeal by Dublin Bus, the Supreme Court found there was no breach by Dublin Bus of any statutory duty imposed by the 1993 Regulations [The High Court had found that Regulation 19 of the 1993 Health Safety at Work Regulations imposed an absolute duty on employers in respect of safety equipment provided for the use of their employees]. The court's unanimous judgment granted the appeal stating the obligations under the 1993 Regulations did not impose absolute liability on the employer.

<http://goo.gl/l2BqjM>

Pub assault - owners fined

A man who suffered fractures to his jaw after he was assaulted as he tried to leave a Dublin city centre pub has been awarded more than €105,000 in the High Court.

<http://goo.gl/uEnl3B>

Project manager fined in school scaffolding accident

A building company has been fined for a health and safety infringement in relation to the death of a Dundalk man who fell off scaffolding while working at a North Louth school. Project manager ML Quinn Construction Ltd, Belleek, County Armagh, admitted a breach of health and safety at work legislation and pleaded guilty to 'failing to co-ordinate arrangements for the checking of the implementation and monitoring of safe work practices in that Mr McKenna was working on unfinished scaffolding at the location without holding the necessary safety CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) ticket without any induction in safe practice'.

<http://goo.gl/AlkAUy>

Psychiatric nurse awarded €130,000 in supermarket accident

A psychiatric nurse who was injured when boxes of Weetabix breakfast cereal fell on her in a Limerick supermarket has been awarded €130,000 in damages.

<http://goo.gl/lAvwkb>

Irish Ferries to face trial after man crushed to death

Irish Ferries is to face trial after a 46-year-old man was crushed to death while working at a cargo terminal in Dublin Port in 2011. Following an investigation by the Health & Safety Authority (HSA), Irish Ferries Ltd, trading as Dublin Ferryport Terminals, is now facing criminal proceedings. It is accused of failing to ensure as practicable as possible that people carrying out work, but who were not employees of the company, were not exposed to risks on October 28th, 2011. The second charge also states that the shipping company failed to provide designated walkways in the cargo handling area.

<http://goo.gl/UK5jDp>

Man awarded €356,000 for fall

The High Court has awarded €356,000 damages to a man who suffered serious injuries in March 2011 after he fell off a ladder when a gust of

wind moved it. The man, a Lithuanian national, sued his employer, Ipone Limited, Danville Business Park, Kilkenny.

<http://goo.gl/dsEOyW>

County Council may faces charges

A county council has appeared as a defendant in the District Court in a health-and-safety prosecution arising out of the death of a workman during tree-felling in 2012.

<http://goo.gl/krpiil>

Manual Handling Case - Meus -v- Dunnes Stores

The plaintiff, in her case against Dunnes Stores, stated that on the day of the accident, she went to the storeroom where the boxes were stacked one on top of the other. The boxes were stacked high above the plaintiff's head height. In order to obtain boxes, she had to knock them off the top of the pile and let them fall to the ground. The accident occurred while she lifted one of the boxes from the ground onto a trolley. She stated that she bent over with her knees straight and her back bent. She was able to embrace the box so as to lift it from the floor. She lifted the box to her thigh level and then raised her right knee so as to give the box an extra lift, so that she was able to place the box onto the top shelf. It was while performing this manoeuvre that she hurt her back.

One of the key issues in this case concerned the training which was given to the plaintiff when she joined the defendant company. Mr Justice Barr said there was a large dispute between the parties on whether Ms Meus received any manual handling training on the day of her induction in to Dunnes Stores in 2006.

The judge found Ms Meus did not receive adequate training in respect of the duties of her employment. Even if he was wrong on that, the judge said he considered the training stated to have been given to Ms Meus inadequate. A demonstration with a box of A4 paper was not remotely comparable to the lifting exercise Ms Meus had to do in the course of her duties in the store's men's department, he said.

The judge said there was also no proper follow up to the training. If this had been the case, Dunnes Stores would have learned Ms Meus was using an incorrect and dangerous method of lifting items. This should have been spotted and corrected, he said. Ms Meus was awarded €85,000.

<http://goo.gl/67Yc4T>

Settlement for 13 year old who got head stuck in LUAS door

A 13-YEAR-OLD schoolgirl, whose head became trapped in automatic doors on the Luas, was awarded €25,000 damages in the Circuit Civil Court for personal injuries.

<http://goo.gl/SeuZOW>

ESB fined €250,000 after 22-year-old apprentice electrician killed

The ESB has been fined €250,000 after a 22-year-old-apprentice electrician was killed when he became confused about which part of the equipment he was working on was live.

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

Restaurant Fall - Man awarded €35,250

A man who fractured his foot after falling on stairs when returning to a Dublin city centre restaurant after a cigarette break has been awarded €35,250 damages.

<http://goo.gl/l3ucFV>

Man settles case after ladder fall

An electioneer who fell and injured himself while putting a candidate poster on a pole settled out of court on undisclosed terms on 19 March in a case taken against the Labour Party.

<http://goo.gl/jDXbYf>

INQUESTS

Coroners Court - Toddler farm incident

A verdict of accidental death has been returned at the inquest into the death of a toddler who died after he was knocked down by a tractor driven by his father near Killeagh in East Cork on 8 May 2014.

<http://goo.gl/77i5h9>

Coroners Court - Dangers of Slurry Pits

A coroner has appealed to farmers to implement vigilant safety practices or face 'ferocious' consequences. The court heard that the 37-year-old father-of-two was overcome by toxic fumes at his family farm near Kealkill in west Cork. The man was helping his father agitate the slurry in preparation for spreading when the accident happened on 20 June 2014.

<http://goo.gl/lKulds>

SAFETY ALERTS

Children reminded to wash their hands when visiting open farms

As school holidays near, the weather improves and visits to outdoor farms increase, the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) is reminding parents and teachers of the importance of schoolchildren washing their hands after being in contact with animals during

farm visits.

<http://goo.gl/Nyx9y7>

Detergent Liquid Capsules warning

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) and the National Poisons Information Centre (NPIC) have jointly issued a plea to parents and childminders to store and use liquid detergents capsules safely. NISO alerted persons through our newsletter and on our website back in August 2013 of the dangers of these liquid tabs. There is concern that children are mistaking these capsules for toys or sweets.

<http://goo.gl/wqzPGA>

SAFETY TIDBITS

Why Workplace Accidents Tend to Happen Late in a Project

Harvard Business Review examine why many accidents happen closer to the end of a project rather than at the start when most of us would think that the dangers are highest.

<http://goo.gl/OoA8ZT>

Health and Lifestyle

Have you ever really thought about what you eat? Do you think you only eat healthy food? You might be surprised!

<http://goo.gl/GUWo1R>

The burden of injury and illness at work

A new article on the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work's OSHwiki uses the most recent available data from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and World Health Organisation (WHO) to estimate the burden of injury and illness at work. According to the article, the global estimate of deaths linked to reasons attributed to work is 2.3 million – 2.0 million linked to work-related diseases and 0.3 linked to occupational injuries. According to the ILO the economic costs of work-related injuries and illnesses vary between 1.8 and 6.0 per cent of GDP, the average being 4 per cent.

<http://goo.gl/EphQx8>

PUBLICATIONS / GUIDANCE

EU-OSHA offers online database of OSH publications free of charge

EU-OSHA's collection of publications ranges from in-depth research reports to topical e-facts, designed for use in the workplace. All are free to download. You can search the library by topic or keyword.

<http://goo.gl/NAVkPP>

Workplace Diving Projects

The Health and Safety Executive (UK) have produced a brief guide entitled 'Are you involved in a diving project at work? A brief guide to complying with health and safety law'.

This leaflet is aimed at anyone who is involved in a diving project and provides a simplified overview of a number of the main legal responsibilities in the UK that apply to these groups of people.

<http://goo.gl/8Nxm6p>

Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence for Healthcare and Social Service Workers

In figures compiled in the US by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, over 70 per cent of workplace assaults were in the healthcare and social service settings. Healthcare and social service workers are almost four times as likely to be injured as a result of violence than the average private sector worker.

With this in mind, OSHA has updated its guidance on Preventing Workplace Violence for Healthcare and Social Service Workers.

<http://goo.gl/p3AOh7>

Benchmarking and exchange of good practices in OSH

A conference summary is now available for the 'Benchmarking and exchange of good practices in OSH' event, an opportunity for companies to compare knowledge in health and safety practices. The four workshops that were held include: learning from accidents, OSH leadership, safety and health culture, and OSH performance indicators.

<http://goo.gl/wesrny>

Second European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks

The second edition of EU-OSHA's Europe-wide survey of enterprises, ESENER-2, collected responses from almost 50,000 enterprises on OSH management and workplace risks, with a particular focus on psychosocial risks, worker participation, and drivers and barriers to the management of OSH.

<http://goo.gl/Fo30zn>

Opinion on the potential health effects of electromagnetic fields

This Opinion updates SCENIHR previous Opinions on EMF of 19 January 2009 and 6 July 2009, in light of newly available information (over 700 studies, mostly published after 2008). For easy to read summaries of scientific opinion, please click the following link:

<http://goo.gl/BrCnoQ>

RESOURCES

Managing stress and psychosocial risks e-guide

The Managing stress and psychosocial risks e-guide provides information about work-related stress and psychosocial risks to foster awareness, understanding and management of these issues in the workplace. The e-guide is designed to respond to the needs of employers and people working in small enterprises, who are starting to approach psychosocial risks in the workplace, and who need to get guidance on the first steps

<http://goo.gl/32XcYV>

MOBILE APPS

SME Safety Wizard

RNF Digital Innovation has developed a new app designed to help small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) meet their health and safety requirements. The free-to-download Safety Wizard app, drawn directly from the UK's Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Toolbox guidance offers SMEs a solution to help navigate a vast array of health and safety information. The app is exclusive to the Apple iOS operating platforms.

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/sme-safety-wizard/id957810075?mt=8>

<http://goo.gl/oOoIDD>

SAFETY IN IMAGES

Loft company in court for scaffold collapse failings- the aftermath of the scaffold collapse.

<http://goo.gl/rExmxo>

A lift company has been ordered to pay £100,000 in fines and costs after a lift fall at Tower Bridge, London - the damaged counterweight mechanism pictured after the lift fall.

<http://goo.gl/T7pDw5>

Hertfordshire firm and director fined after excavation collapse.

<http://goo.gl/MUoHq1>

Basement building in London faces safety scrutiny - an example of poor basement renovation.

<http://goo.gl/bdXedv>

Firms prosecuted after worker loses left leg - the metal frame which caused the injuries.

<http://goo.gl/ieXDiw>

SAFETY VIDEOS

Farm Safety Video

A powerful new farm safety advertisement has been launched by the Northern Ireland Partnership as part of their 'STOP and Think SAFE' farm safety campaign. The video focuses on the impact and aftermath of the death of a young boy while working on the farm with his parents.

<http://goo.gl/drMfes>

CASE STUDY

Case study - Health screening company failed its duty to employees

In March 2012 a health screening company was prosecuted by the UK's HSE. They used unqualified staff to carry out assessments on employees. Employees had not been referred to an occupational health professional where this was needed. The employers had not been provided with suitable feedback to enable them to manage their staff and control exposure.

-When engaging an occupational health provider, the employer should ensure they have evidence of the qualifications and competence of the staff.

-The employer should also gain agreement in advance with all parties on how the results of any questionnaires or tests will be shared.

-Health records will need to be compiled and maintained by the employer.

It may be possible to preserve anonymity if grouped results for employees are shared with the employer. This will allow the employer to manage the hazard better and improve control of exposure.

-Employees will need to give their consent for their actual results to be shared with the employer.

<http://goo.gl/qg5asc>

RESEARCH REPORTS

Safety Research - Road Surfaces

Work being carried out by researchers at Ulster University is focusing on finding the optimal surface. The team look for ways to maximise durability and other characteristics in road surfaces in order to help reduce the number of cases where the road is a contributory factor in accidents.

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

Assessment of the arm locking systems of two-post vehicle lifts (RR1030)

<http://goo.gl/LzsCGL>

Endotoxin in metal working fluid (MWF) mist (RR1043)

<http://goo.gl/acyKln>

Consultation on monitoring of water-miscible metalworking fluid (MWF) mists (RR1044)

<http://goo.gl/pIO7N8>

Review of fit test pass criteria for Filtering Facepieces Class 3 (FFP3) respirators (RR1029)

<http://goo.gl/3oX6Ng>

Adding inequality to injury: The costs of failing to protect workers on the job - An OSHA report

A new report released by OSHA explores the substantial impact of workplace injuries and illnesses on income inequality.

<http://goo.gl/PeiTDi>

MCIB REPORTS

The report of the investigation into the incident involving the 'MV HHL New York' at Fenit on 2 November 2013 was published recently by the Marine Casualty Investigation Board.

<http://goo.gl/TqblLa>

The report of the investigation into the sinking of 'FV Napier' off the Saltee Island on 30 January 2014 was published recently by the Marine Casualty Investigation Board.

<http://goo.gl/hWVbqB>

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TRAINING

[Occupational First Aid Re-Certification, QQI Level 5](#) (1 day) June 2015

[Manual Handling Basic](#) (half day) June 2015

[Occupational First Aid Certificate, QQI Level 5](#) (3 days); 15-17 April

[VDU/DSE Assessors Course](#) (1 day); 13 April

[Manual Handling Instructor and Assessors Course, QQI Level 6](#) (5 days: 3 days week 1 and 2 days week 2) 11-13 & 18-19 May

SEMINARS

NISO Safety Representation Seminar Series

Dublin; 14 May; The Gresham Hotel

Galway; 19 May; Oranmore Lodge Hotel

Waterford; 19 May; Ramada Viking Hotel

Cork; 26 May; Oriel House Hotel

Athlone; 26 May; Prince of Wales Hotel

Limerick; 27 May; Radisson Blu Hotel

Sligo; 11 June; Radisson Blu Hotel

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WANT additional employees added to our distribution list*, or CHECK existing list, please give us a call or email <info@niso.ie>

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