



The Safety Observer



Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

April 2016 - Issue 17

Welcome to the April 2016 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 19 January last and the next edition for NISO members is scheduled for mid April 2016. The last edition of Safety Observer was distributed on 1 March 2016.

NISO NEWS

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the National Irish Safety Organisation will take place on Saturday, 16 April 2016 in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone. All paid-up members of NISO are invited to attend and participate.

Awards deadline

The deadline for entry to the NISO/NISG 25th Annual Safety Awards is 6 May 2016. Visit safetyawards.ie for further information.

Workers' Memorial Day

Workers' Memorial Day is taking place on 28 April 2016. Raise occupational health and safety awareness and remember those who have lost their lives or been injured in the workplace.

<http://goo.gl/E3vmmT>

We are now also sending The Safety Observer to all contacts within member organisations for which we have an email address. Want additional employees added to our distribution list*, or to check the listing for your organisation, call 01 465 9760 or email info@niso.ie.

*Corporate members only

In this issue...Safety news...Inquests...Statistics...In the courts...Fatalities and accidents...Safety Alerts...Notifications...Publications...Guidance...Research Reports...Safety Tidbits...Safety Myths...Safety in Pictures...Safety in Videos...Resources...NISO training and events...

IRISH NEWS

Europe's fattest nation?: Major report reveals extent of Irish obesity crisis

A new worldwide study on obesity, published in The Lancet medical journal, found that Irish men have the highest body mass index (BMI) in Europe, while Irish women rank third highest. The study suggests that by 2025 the level of obesity among women in Ireland will be the second highest in Europe, just behind the UK which will be the most obese. Obesity is a major health hazard and these results reinforces the need for workplaces to be proactive in encouraging employee health and wellbeing, through programmes and initiatives, in an effort to improve the nation's health.

<http://goo.gl/hY0P06>

New Workers Four Times More Likely to Have an Accident

A recent Health and Safety Authority (HSA)/Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) study of workplace accidents showed that workers are four times more likely to suffer a workplace accident in the first six months of a new job. The HSA has launched a new campaign aimed at reducing accidents involving new and inexperienced workers.

<http://goo.gl/t2Ns8U>

Emergency Services Driving Standard has been extended to the voluntary sector

Emergency Services Driving Standard (ESDS) is a voluntary standard. It is for emergency service organisations and is overseen by the Road Safety Authority (RSA). A year after the ESDS driving standard went live, the RSA is now extending it for private and voluntary drivers with a target of mid-April 2016 as the "go live" date.

<http://goo.gl/m0XOZh>

Number of HSA farm inspections rise

New figures from the Health and Safety Authority show that 2,837 farm safety visits were conducted in 2015, with the lowest level of compliance relating to safe slurry handling facilities, safe facilities for calving cows, and safety guards on PTO shafts and similar machinery.

<http://goo.gl/vKyO26>

Dairy farms the most lethal workplace

Full-time dairy farms have become the most "lethal" workplace in the country with the risk factor for fatal injury 24 times higher than that in the average workplace.

<http://goo.gl/X3yVw8>

Self-declaration to RSA a legal requirement for all HCV operators

Operators of Heavy Commercial Vehicles are required by law to make an online "Self-Declaration" to the Road Safety Authority (RSA) every year in relation to their heavy goods

vehicles, goods trailers, buses and ambulances.

<http://goo.gl/ULzUjt>

More violence expected in prisons following gangland killings

Prison officers are worried that the recent wave of gangland crime could result in further violence in the State's jails once the perpetrators are locked up. New figures show rise in number of compensation claims by prison staff for fourth year in a row.

<http://goo.gl/hE5tKh>

How to deal with your pregnancy in the workplace

Pregnancy puts a woman's body under huge pressure, often leading to exhaustion. A supportive work environment is essential. Research from 2011 by the former Equality Authority and the HSE Crisis Pregnancy Programme highlighted issues surrounding pregnancy and the workplace.

<http://goo.gl/6hWljS>

Starting a family: Pregnancy and employment rights

Most working women continue to work through their pregnancies, however, if the work is potentially hazardous to mother and baby it may be necessary for a risk assessment to be carried out by the employer. The Health and Safety Authority website has a list of questions and answers and other information on pregnancy and employment rights.

<http://goo.gl/ntBpHF>

Safety of persons who work on the road

The gardaí, fire brigade, ambulance paramedics, council workers, utility company employees and school wardens are all vulnerable road workers.

All face danger when working on the road and are entitled to go about their work - making travel safer for everyone - in the knowledge their safety is guaranteed.

<http://goo.gl/aoll9C>

Time to end hypocrisy over MMA fighter safety

MMA is not illegal. Unsafe MMA is not illegal. The Health Safety Authority is legally powerless to enforce safety standards for fighters in the cage, although they can act if an employee slips on a wet floor outside the cage. Authorities must now do a lot more to protect the sport and its participants

<http://goo.gl/qNN346>

Call for mandatory reporting of all school sports injuries

GPs have called for the mandatory reporting of all injuries sustained during sporting events in schools. The president of the Irish Medical Organisation (IMO), said there is a serious

vacuum of knowledge about the extent and type of these injuries.

<http://goo.gl/LxXuCO>

UK NEWS

New System Strategy for Great Britain

The Health and Safety Executive UK has published a new system strategy for Great Britain - "Helping Great Britain work well".

<http://goo.gl/MPwhIT>

Major incident at Didcot Power Station

The Health and Safety Executive UK issued a statement regarding the "Major incident" at the Didcot Power station following collapse and are assisting police and emergency services.

<http://goo.gl/RbiVTR>

Bodies search begins as debris removal starts at Didcot power station

Heavy lifting gear has been brought in to clear the site of the accident at Didcot power station which killed one man, whose body was recovered, and injured five others. The plant was set for demolition when it collapsed on 23 February.

<http://goo.gl/akEqpB>

Leisure centre was wrong to cite health and safety rules in defibrillator row

A spokesperson for the HSE UK has said that a leisure centre was wrong to refuse to assist a local school in urgent need of a defibrillator citing "health and safety" rules.

<http://goo.gl/X9svMk>

Farm Family Key Skills (FFKS) training programme launched in Northern Ireland

The scheme is being delivered under the 2014–2020 Rural Development Programme (RDP).

It offers farmers and their families short courses to address Department of Agriculture Rural Development (DARD) priority areas of work, for example; business planning, animal health, health and safety and ICT.

<https://goo.gl/a2CPRC>

World War II bombs discovered at Liverpool city centre construction site

A total of seven World War II bombs were discovered at a Liverpool city centre building site, bringing the area to a standstill for two days until the site was declared safe.

<http://goo.gl/XOwkDS>

Cross-industry pledge to tackle silica dust made at IOSH roundtable event

Experts from across UK industry have agreed to work collaboratively with IOSH to develop a new way of sharing good practice around tackling respirable crystalline silica (RCS) exposure across industry.

<https://goo.gl/VIQ5Zh>

Alcohol factory bosses facing £2.5m fine

A fine of £2.5m has been imposed following a 2012 incident in which an alcohol factory burst into flames, leaving one member of staff with burn injuries and 16 homes uninhabitable.

<http://goo.gl/T18FH8>

EUROPEAN NEWS

Presence of at least one psychosocial risk in 3/4s of European establishments

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) published its overview report of the second European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER-2). The main topics covered are the management of occupational safety and health (OSH) in general, the management of psychosocial risks in particular and the participation of workers in OSH.

<http://goo.gl/wBQuaj>

EU OSHA Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2016–17

The 2016–17 Healthy Workplaces campaign will focus on Healthy Workplaces for All Ages. This campaign is in response to Europe's ageing working population and the rising age of retirement.

<https://goo.gl/Wx2TQk>

The Economics of health and safety

We have all been guilty at some point of ignoring health and safety signs, on the road or in our offices and places of work, but health and safety does play an important role in our economic growth according to research conducted by Real Economy and EU-OSHA.

<http://goo.gl/gU8ZNH>

EU-wide survey on violence against women

The survey conducted by the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) has found that one in three women has experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15. The survey also found that, in relation to sexual harassment, women in professional and higher management positions were at greater risk than women in some other occupational groups.

<https://goo.gl/2QrP1o>

EU-ETUC campaign against workplace cancer

The European Trade Union Confederation has launched a campaign to address workplace use of carcinogens and work-related cancers. Amongst other measures the ETUI has published a proposal for more finding OELs at EU level.

See the new “Stop cancer at work” infographic and read the latest EU-OSHA reports.

<https://goo.gl/fcRKco>

Skin cancer warning for outdoor workers

According to a new European report, almost 14.5 million workers in Europe spend at least 75% of their working time outside. After just five years of working outdoors, these workers have a two-fold increased risk of developing non-melanoma skin cancer.

<http://goo.gl/gc2eBL>

Urgent action needed on road safety

The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) says the European Commission must stop delaying new road safety policy measures if it is to help reverse an increase in deaths on EU roads.

<http://goo.gl/c0cPw9>

US NEWS

Businesses shed health and safety experts

Health and safety experts can be added to the list of vital functions that corporations now outsource. Due to a reduction of inspections and health and safety regulations, corporations are becoming complacent.

<http://goo.gl/NDBOfp>

NFL executive acknowledges a link between football-related head trauma and CTE

The NFL's top health and safety executive acknowledged for the first time that there is a connection between football-related brain trauma and a degenerative disease that can be diagnosed only after death.

<http://goo.gl/ESx0Zs>

WORLD NEWS

Large scale inspections of convenience stores planned for Alberta, Canada, following shootings

Approximately 200 convenience stores and gas stations will be inspected by health and

safety officers across Alberta, Canada, in a bid to protect employees following the deaths of two clerks working alone in separate “Mac’s” stores.

<http://goo.gl/Ug2XII>

Workplace sexual harassment becomes part of Ontario’s Occupational H&S Act

The new legislation comes almost 20 years after Theresa Vince was murdered by her boss, following years of harassment. The coroner’s jury rejected the recommendations relating to workplace sexual harassment at the time. Now, almost two decades later, the new law includes definitions of sexual harassment to bolster protection of Ontario’s workers.

<http://goo.gl/GwVZ3L>

Crash report sees airline bid to help gauge pilots’ mental health

QANTAS pilots will be fed information on mental health and wellbeing via an app on their flightcrew iPads in an effort to safeguard the airline against a Germanwings’ type disaster. The Flying Kangaroo has been looking at ways to assist pilots who may be struggling with mental health or depression, since the 2015 tragedy.

<http://goo.gl/v1Widv>

Opinion: Policies for mentally-ill pilots must balance privacy and safety

<http://goo.gl/xzLj5Z>

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

Man dies following electrocution while hedge cutting

A man died in Co. Limerick when he was electrocuted after clipping power lines while hedge cutting on farmland. The Gardaí and the Health and Safety Authority are investigating the incident.

<https://goo.gl/HPQ6OT>

Man dies in Co. Cavan farm accident

A man in his 60s has died in an incident involving a tractor on his farm in Co Cavan. The Health and Safety Authority and gardaí have commenced two separate investigations into the matter.

<http://goo.gl/Qk0FP8>

Man dies in Kildare workplace accident

A man has died after sustaining crush injuries in a workplace accident involving machinery in a factory in Naas. The Gardaí and the Health and Safety Authority are conducting separate investigations into the incident.

<http://goo.gl/JM6HQ4>

INQUESTS

Council worker died after falling tree hit phone cable, inquest told

New regulations to make it safer for people cutting down trees have been recommended by an inquest jury in Cork.

It follows the death of a father of three who was hit by a telegraph pole which snapped after a tree fell on a telephone cable during a tree-cutting operation.

The jury recommended the introduction of statutory guidelines on tree felling similar to those in the UK, including an exclusion zone twice the length of the tree and the use of tree felling equipment, including winches, ropes and a felling bar, as well as risk control training for staff.

<http://goo.gl/2yilvQ>

IN THE COURTS

Paramedic suing for nervous shock following death of “lifelong friend”

A paramedic who is suing for nervous shock has told the High Court his lifelong friend was killed when he fell out the side door of an ambulance and onto the road as they transported a patient.

- The case centres on the side door of the ambulance - Counsel said the side door of the ambulance did not open in the direction of forward travel and that was the immediate cause of the death.
- He said in 2007 there had been an accident with an ambulance from the same batch in Kerry which had a similarly fitted door.
- He has claimed an ambulance was supplied which permitted the side door to open against the direction of travel and there was an alleged failure to ensure a motion lock was fitted to the door to ensure it could not be opened while the ambulance was in motion.
- The plaintiff witnessed his friend falling from the moving ambulance and was involved in the vain attempt to save the deceased's, staying with him attempting resuscitation as he was brought in another ambulance back to hospital.
- Counsel also said there was no debriefing or counselling offered to the plaintiff afterwards and he suffered flashbacks and nightmares.
- The case continues in the High Court.

<http://goo.gl/03Kwzs>

Dublin hotel fined €18,000 over “death trap” scaffolding

The operators of a top Dublin hotel have been fined €18,000 after a worker was injured when he fell through rotten boards on a “death-trap” scaffolding tower.

- Following a two-day hearing at Dublin District Court, the hotel firm was found guilty of offences under the Safety and Health and Welfare at Work Act.
- The prosecution came following a Health and Safety Authority (HSA) investigation into incident.
- The worker was in hospital for three days and suffered multiple injuries but is back at work, however, he may have ongoing back and neck pain.
- The managing director told the court the hotel was being prepared for refurbishment work. A health and safety expert was due to come on site to advise and to train workers. However, he claimed that without his knowledge his foreman decided to put the scaffolding up two days before the health and safety consultant arrived.
- The defence argued that the company was not to blame for a decision made by their foreman, the project manager, who disobeyed orders when he brought the scaffolding onto the site.

<https://goo.gl/LAQJy3>

STATISTICS

Workplace fatality statistics for the Republic of Ireland at 1 April 2016.

<http://goo.gl/rOC0H2>

SAFETY ALERT

Risk of Explosion during Removal of Split Rim/Multi Piece Wheels from Vehicles

Following a recent incident, the Health and Safety Authority has issued an urgent warning to owners, plant operators and tyre fitters with regard to the handling and repair of multi piece or split rim wheels.

<http://goo.gl/L59aD2>

SAFETY TIDBITS

What can Harrison Ford teach theatre about health and safety?

Harrison Ford had to be taken to hospital as a result of injuries sustained on the set of the latest Star Wars franchise instalment. Shooting schedules had to be revised while the actor recuperated, and Foodles Production UK is being prosecuted. The consequences of this incident are not unique to film. Over the years, the theatre profession has suffered its share of accidents and injuries as the result of falling scenery, or defective equipment or props.

<https://goo.gl/6QEtxd>

Health and safety advice from the 16th century

Half of all fatal accidents in Tudor times happened in the workplace and Oxford University researchers have unearthed the earliest safety manuals.

<http://goo.gl/6xJtlo>

SAFETY MYTHS

Gym reduces its 24/7 opening hours, closing overnight for health and safety reasons.

<http://goo.gl/SfgMYZ>

Parents refused use of a highchair for daughter in coffee shop as there was no harness in it.

<http://goo.gl/NsUFYW>

SAFETY IN PICTURES

Selfie with EgyptAir hijacker

British health and safety auditor poses for selfie with hijacker while being held hostage on flight MS181.

<http://goo.gl/cVSC7F>

SAFETY IN VIDEOS

Co. Down schoolboy helps inspire new farm safety video

Post-primary pupils from across Northern Ireland were invited to submit a creative storyboard for an animated film to be used in school talks on farm safety by HSENI. Thirteen-year-old Downpatrick student was chosen as the overall winner.

<http://goo.gl/QP2k3f>

Christa Sedlastschek:

Who is doing well in Europe for Health and Safety?

(Short video.)

<http://goo.gl/w55Qck>

What to do to improve H&S Implementation.

(Short video.)

<http://goo.gl/vYcYbt>

New Zealand Road safety ad shows a way to deter drivers from texting while driving!

<http://goo.gl/d74qGI>

Audio: No one should get sick from showing up to work

Silicosis sufferer speaks out about his condition.

<http://goo.gl/iS1wkV>

PUBLICATIONS/GUIDANCE

Load Safety information sheets

The Health and Safety Authority in partnership with An Garda Síochána and the Road Safety Authority developed this series of Load Safety information sheets, dealing with high-risk loads.

- **Safe Load Securing of Plant and Machinery** Due to their size and weight, plant and machinery are considered to be high-risk loads where the consequences of load shift or load shed can be extremely serious. <http://goo.gl/Pjg0oa>
- **Safe Load Securing of Structural Steel Loads** Steel is a high-density; high-risk load and the consequences of load shift can be extremely serious. Loads that are not firmly anchored to the load bed can shift during transport. This can make them unsafe. <http://goo.gl/rQBZw6>
- **Safe Load Securing of Precast Concrete Loads** Precast Concrete products are high-risk loads and the consequences of load shift can be extremely serious. Loads that are not firmly anchored to the load bed may shift during transport. This can make them unsafe. <http://goo.gl/25atlx>

Safe Working with Diesel Engine Exhaust Information Sheet

Diesel engines power many machines and vehicles including trucks, buses, private vehicles, farm machinery and construction equipment. Such vehicles and equipment are also potential sources of exposure to diesel exhaust fumes in the workplace. This information sheet will help you understand the composition of the exhaust, its health effects, and ways to assess and prevent exposure.

<http://goo.gl/aklQhl>

Code of Practice for the Chemical Agents Regulations 2016

This Code of Practice comes into operation on 1 April 2016 and from that date it replaces the “2011 Code of Practice for the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Chemical Agents) Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 619 of 2001)” which was issued in accordance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.

<http://goo.gl/ssNP4k>

HSA's Chemicals E-bulletin (19th Edition)

In this edition:

- EU extend the existing restriction on cadmium in paints
- Notification of chemicals to the National Poisons Information Centre
- ECHA shortlists substances for possible regulator action and contacts registrants
- Restriction of ammonia emissions from cellulose insulation
- Transposition of Chemicals Handling Directive
- Featured Article: One Substance, One Registration

News and Events:

- ECHA simplifying chemical information for public use
- Third phase of REACH 2018 launched
- Update to REACH-IT, IUCLID and CHESAR tools

Publications:

- ECHA Updated Guidance on the Compilation of SDSs

<http://goo.gl/TeRY9X>

Safety first in truck and trailer coupling and uncoupling

Two years of work by a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) working group involving SMMT, other trade associations, trade unions, traffic commissioners and the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA), is about to result in publication of new guidance on safe trailer coupling and uncoupling procedures.

<http://goo.gl/WYcP53>

HSE Biocides e-Bulletin 3 March 2016

In this edition:

- EU Biocides Regulation 528/2012 (EU BPR) - Active Substance Non-Approval Implementing Decisions
- EU Biocides Regulation 528/2012 (EU BPR) - ECHA's open invitations
- EU Biocides Regulation 528/2012 (EU BPR) - ECHA Public consultations on two biocidal active substances as potential candidates for substitution
- EU Biocides Regulation 528/2012 (EU BPR) - ECHA Public consultation - proposal for Harmonised Classification and Labelling (CLH) for the biocide Colecalciferol
- ECHA publication consultation - proposal for Harmonised Classification and Labelling (CLH) for three substances

<http://goo.gl/MRmndsZ>

HSE Biocides e-Bulletin 17 March 2016

In this edition:

- EU Biocides Regulation 528/2012 (EU BPR) - New tools available to estimate environmental emissions of biocides

- EU Biocides Regulation 528/2012 (EU BPR) - The Biocidal Products Committee adopts opinions on the three active substances
- EU Biocides Regulation 528/2012 (EU BPR) - New guidance documents available for active substance approval

<https://goo.gl/Ryt0XP>

HSE Biological Agents eBulletin - Special Edition - March 2016

In this edition:

- “Gene editing” and “gene drive”
- Strategic and tiered approach to assessment of gene editing research

<https://goo.gl/JMyJFy>

infoIRSST Newsletter March 2016

Features:

- How to reduce work-related musculoskeletal disorders
- Protect your hands at work - choose the right work gloves
- Are there carcinogens in the workplace
- Laboratories - two new applications available
 - Conversion of permissible exposure values (PEVs)
 - Calculation of the LCLs/UCLs for industrial hygiene results
- OHS watch blogs

<https://goo.gl/niMzzD>

HSE UK; Metalworking eBulletin No. 12

HSE’s Metalworking Fluids Website

In this edition:

- Research Documents
 - Endotoxin in metal working fluid mist
 - Consultation on monitoring of water miscible metalworking fluid mists
- News from HSE
 - Preventing contact dermatitis and urticaria at work - revised publication

<https://goo.gl/L4AKyD>

RESOURCES

Article: Hierarchy of prevention and control measures

Employers need to assess potential risks for their staff, and then preventive measures or control measures have to be derived from this assessment. This article from OSH WIKI outlines the importance of following the hierarchy of prevention and control.

<https://goo.gl/3aqZfX>

Crane Safety: awareness raising resources

Construction accidents are far more frequent than people think. Large numbers of all reported incidents are crane-related and therefore, raising awareness is fundamental to prevention of future injuries and fatalities in the construction sector. EU OSHA has recently posted valuable crane safety resources on their website.

<https://goo.gl/QAi3Nk>

Safer and healthier work at any age: Review of resources for workplaces

This review has compiled a list of resources identified at the EU level, but also in Member States and third countries, that demonstrate innovation. The 91 resources presented in this report have been selected from a long list of more than 200 resources identified and described by a team of core experts (EU and international levels) and teams of national experts (Member State level).

<https://goo.gl/LLg145>

RESEARCH REPORTS

RR1073 - The provision of breathing gas to divers in emergency situations

The report examined the diving industry guidance provided to divers and supervisors in the amount and method of determining how much emergency gas a diver can require. A literature search was carried out into the human gas consumption rate as measured in scientific studies of workers, divers and athletes. Data was also sourced from operators and divers using dive computers with gas integration.

<http://goo.gl/YyrvVt>

NISO TRAINING AND EVENTS

[NISO Safe Pass Training](#)

Dublin: NISO Training Centre, A11 Calmount Park, Ballymount, Dublin 8, 15, 22 & 29 April

Cork: Clayton Hotel Silver Springs, Cork; 6 & 25 April

Kilkenny: Springhill Court Hotel, 13 Kilkenny; April; 4 May

Clonmel: Clonmel Park Hotel, Co. Tipperary; 20 April; 11 May

NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12

[Occupational First Aid QQI L5](#) (3 days); 4, 5 & 6 April; 23, 24 & 25 May

[Manual Handling Basic](#) (1 day); 7 April

[Safety Representation](#), NISO Certification (2 days); 21-22 April

[VDU/DSE Assessor](#) (1 day); 9 May

NISO Events

[Regional Safety Quizzes](#); April 2016

NISO AGM; 16 April 2016; Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

[NISO/NISG Safety Quiz Finals](#); 16 April 2016; Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

[NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Awards](#): Entry Deadlines: 6 May (Standard)

Diary Date: [NISO Annual Conference and Safety Awards Dinner](#); 7 October, Killarney



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