

NISO Safety Observer  
October 2017; Issue 29

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Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

October 2017 - Issue 29

Welcome to the October 2017 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 July 2017 last and the next edition for NISO members is scheduled for the week commencing 23 October 2017. The last edition of Safety Observer was distributed on 4 September 2017.

## **NISO NEWS**

### **54th Annual Health & Safety Conference 2017**

The 54th NISO Annual Health & Safety Conference 2017 is taking place on 13 October in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Galway. Visit [safetyconference.ie](http://safetyconference.ie) for updates.

### **All Ireland Safety Awards Gala Dinner 2017 - SOLD OUT!**

[Click here](#) to add your name to the Awards Dinner waitlist.

### **Temporary Traffic Management in Ireland Seminar Series**

National Irish Safety Organisation, supported by Insurance Ireland, is running a nationwide Temporary Traffic Management Seminar series. Venues in the series include: Athlone, Cork, Galway, Sligo, Dublin, Limerick, Waterford and Dundalk.

[Click here](#) for further information...

### **Workplace Safety Training - workshop series (fee: €20)**

National Irish Safety Organisation, supported by Insurance Ireland, is running a nationwide Workplace Safety Training series. Venues in the series include: Cork,

Castlebar, Letterkenny, Dublin, Limerick, Carlow, Dundalk and Athlone.

[Click here](#) for further information...

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](mailto:info@niso.ie).

\*Corporate members only

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## **IRISH NEWS**

### **HSA calls for more resources to police workplace safety**

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) has called for further funding to meet the demands of the growing national workforce. The HSA has stated in a letter to the government that it currently does not have sufficient resources to perform all of its duties to the highest standard.

<https://goo.gl/YGN2Yw>

### **NISO supports the HSA's call for resources**

NISO president, Harry Galvin, on behalf of the National Irish Safety Organisation, has expressed his support for the HSA's call for extra resources. NISO has been calling for the restoration of HSA staffing levels for many years.

<https://goo.gl/nmKF3a>

### **Discount stores inspected for banned chemicals**

Earlier in September, the Health and Safety Authority launched a nationwide inspection campaign targeting hardware and discount stores to ensure their sponsors don't contain any banned chemicals and are safe to the public. Inspections focussed on cleaning and laundry products; air fresheners and reed

diffusers; paint products such as thinners; jewellery; and glues.

<https://goo.gl/rkTzK9>

### **Farm deaths are “tip of the iceberg”**

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) has said that farm fatalities are only the “tip of the iceberg” when it comes to farm safety as farmers are left with life-changing injuries from farm accidents on a regular basis. A senior inspector with the HSA stated that “while a lot is being done in relation to farm safety that more still needs to be achieved to prevent farm fatalities and accidents.”

<https://goo.gl/odPnxC>

## **UK NEWS**

### **Farms remain NI’s most dangerous workplaces**

There were six fatal farm accidents in Northern Ireland last year and already six more this year to date, according to the annual report from Northern Ireland's Health and Safety Executive (HSENI).

<https://goo.gl/Brh6Wt>

### **One in three fit notes linked to mental health conditions**

A new report by NHS Digital collating evidence from hundreds of GP practices has found that nearly a third of fit notes that included a diagnosis were issued for a mental health condition.

<https://goo.gl/f65ojQ>

## **EUROPEAN NEWS**

### **Work-related injuries and illness costing EU €476 Billion per year**

At the recent XXI World Congress on Safety and Health at Work held in Singapore, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) together with the International Labour Organization (ILO) presented new estimates of the cost of poor occupational safety and health. In the European Union alone, work-related ill-health and injury is costing 3.3 percent of its GDP.

<https://goo.gl/B2mrm3>

### **EU-OSHA joins the Vision Zero Global Campaign**

EU-OSHA is now a supporter of the Vision Zero Global Campaign and helping

to spread the message that every accident, disease and harm at work is preventable if the right measures are put in place in good time. The Vision Zero approach to prevention integrates the three dimensions of safety, health and well-being at all levels of work. Thanks to its flexibility, Vision Zero is beneficial to any workplace, enterprise or industry in all regions of the world.

<https://goo.gl/szvaWf>

## **WORLD NEWS**

### **Global action needed to tackle rising work-related injuries and diseases**

Work-related fatal injuries and diseases have increased from 2.3 million to 2.78 million per year according to new data issued at the World Congress on Safety and Health at Work held in Singapore. ILO launched a call for concerted global action to address new and emerging occupational safety and health challenges.

<https://goo.gl/th37Hw>

### **Work-related cancer claims 742,000 lives a year**

One person dies every 43 seconds from work-related cancer, according to new research. Across the world, an estimated 742,000 people die annually from cancer which is linked to work activities - nearly double the number of deaths in workplace accidents.

<https://goo.gl/1UdfPK>

## **GENERAL SAFETY NEWS**

### **Parents fears over breaches of school building standards**

Parents and local representatives have expressed their anger over fire safety concerns in schools, which they believe risks a "huge loss of life". Safety fears were raised for thousands of school children after the Department of Education announced it would carry out fire audits at more than two dozen schools around the country built over the past 20 years. Breaches of standards were discovered at five recently built primary schools.

<https://goo.gl/otTAzc>

### **Safety breaches found in cosmetics sold in Ireland**

Contaminated talcum powders and face paints, and heavy metals in make up and children's products are among the health and safety breaches found in

cosmetics sold in Ireland last year. As part of the Health Products Authority's annual report for 2016, 11% of products tested were found to be non compliant.

<https://goo.gl/4hD47c>

## **FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS**

### **Farmer dies in quad bike accident in Co. Mayo**

A man in his 60s was killed instantly when his quad bike overturned while he was spreading weedkiller on a Co. Mayo farm. Both An Garda Síochána and the Health and Safety Authority have started investigations into the incident.

<https://goo.gl/QEPjmr>

### **Former ploughing champion dies in Co. Wexford farm accident**

A former national ploughing champion has died following a farm accident in Co. Wexford. It is believed the 33 year old was working at a grain store on the farm when he was overcome with fumes. A minute's silence in his memory was observed during the Ploughing Championships this month.

<https://goo.gl/EaK6R9>

### **Man dies after incident in mushroom cultivation factory**

A man in his 20s has died after an incident at a mushroom growing house in Co. Monaghan. It is believed the man became fatally ill while working in one of the growing houses. Separate investigations have been launched by An Garda Síochána and the Health and Safety Authority.

<https://goo.gl/vk49c3>

### **Cattle breeder killed in farm accident**

A Co. Armagh cattle breeder has been killed in a farm accident involving a cow. The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland attended the scene of the fatality.

<https://goo.gl/1CsdIF>

### **Man airlifted to hospital after fall**

A 47-year-old man was airlifted to hospital after sustaining serious injuries following a fall from a teleporter in Co. Offaly. The man's 11-year-old son was also taken to hospital following the incident however his injuries have been described as "not life threatening".

<https://goo.gl/TxHiy8>

### **Farmer airlifted to hospital after accident involving a bull**

A farmer in the west of Ireland had to be airlifted to hospital after he was injured in an incident involving a bull. The HSA is currently looking into the incident.

<https://goo.gl/TZ1v4G>

## **IN THE COURTS**

### **Fire hazard in Cork's English Market**

Cork City Council brought an injunction application against a trader at the English Market who was causing a fire and safety hazard by storing a huge number of boxes and crates in the loft space over his grocery unit.

<https://goo.gl/V5obs6>

### **Council faces legal action over fire that killed 10**

The DPP is considering whether a County Council is to be prosecuted over health and safety breaches in relation to a fatal fire that claimed 10 lives two years ago. Five adults and five children died following the fire at a halting site in October 2015.

<https://goo.gl/ystxAS>

## **INQUESTS**

### **Inquest finds farmer died from crush injuries**

A farmer who was attacked by cows on his farm died due to crush injuries, an inquest has heard. The incident happened at a Kilkenny farm in April as Mr Walsh and his brother reportedly tended to cows that had recently calved. Health and Safety (HSA) officers attended the scene and conducted a full investigation into the incident, Dublin Coroner's Court heard.

<https://goo.gl/APmqoy>

## **SAFETY ALERTS**

### **Tail Lift Failure**

The Health and Safety Authority has issued a safety alert regarding Tail Lift Failure. This safety alert has been issued following an incident in 2016 in which

a tail lift on a goods vehicle, carrying an employee and a manual pallet truck, collapsed. The incident highlighted the importance of carrying out regular service checks on tail lifts. Tail lifts on goods vehicles are subject to 12 monthly statutory examinations and certification in accordance with the 2007 Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations.

<https://goo.gl/Fn518m>

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Strategies to prevent workplace harassment and violence against women**

A report produced as part of the 'Safe at Home, Safe at Work' Project of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) draws together evidence collected from interviews carried out as part of 11 detailed country case studies of European-level developments on gender-based violence and harassment at work, including domestic violence at work - "Trade union strategies to prevent, manage and eliminate work-place harassment and violence against women".

<https://goo.gl/inbB72>

### **HSE UK: Foresight Report 2016**

The report contains a collection of thought-provoking articles about the future world of work and gives some detail of several emerging ICT topics and their potential impact on occupational safety and health.

<https://goo.gl/FSWwvy>

### **Personal Injuries Assessment Board - Annual Report 2016**

The Injuries Board has published its Annual Report for 2016. Employer's liability awards account for 9% of the total awards.

<https://goo.gl/hM9CgR>

## **GUIDANCE**

### **Good practice guides on agriculture and fishing**

Two comprehensive sectoral good practice guides on occupational safety and health are now available for download in over 20 languages. Published by the European Commission, they cover agriculture, livestock farming, horticulture, forestry and small fishing vessels. Packed with examples of good practices for risk prevention, real-life case studies and practical resources, they are excellent

guides to keeping workers in these sectors safe from harm.

<https://goo.gl/KXR615>

### **How to work safety at height: 5 essential tips**

Whether you're clearing a gutter or your employees are working on a roof, any tasks completed above the ground must be conducted carefully with health and safety firmly in mind. Even the shortest fall can result in serious injury, while more significant falls can even result in fatalities.

<https://goo.gl/ALfbHa>

### **Eleven tips for effective workplace housekeeping**

Housekeeping is crucial to safe workplaces. It can help prevent injuries and improve productivity and morale, as well as make a good first impression on visitors. The practice extends from traditional offices to industrial workplaces, including factories, warehouses and manufacturing plants that present special challenges such as hazardous materials, combustible dust and other flammables.

<https://goo.gl/XLaruh>

### **How to manage HAVS in construction**

Just as extended exposure to dust causes all manner of respiratory illnesses, heavy industrial machinery has its own long term risks. By far the most common is Hand and Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS).

<https://goo.gl/qTHqvT>

### **Recognising hidden dangers: 25 steps to a safer office**

A job where most of the work tasks are completed while sitting in a chair in a climate-controlled office building may seem less fraught with danger than on worksites with heavy machinery and equipment, however, a surprising number of hazards can be present in an office setting.

<https://goo.gl/TEQNxL>

### **Five tips for staying healthy at work**

A healthier work place will be much more productive than an more unhealthy one, with employees taking fewer days off for sickness and illness. There's no shortage of studies telling us that some of our daily routines are prevalent with unhealthy practices such as sitting for prolonged periods and poor diet.

Introducing some simple workplace strategies can easily reverse these bad habits.

<https://goo.gl/wiMo14>

### **Best practice chemical storage in the workplace**

Chemical safety is a primary workplace safety concern for many organisations. To control the exposure of employees to chemicals in the workplace, particular efforts need to be made to ensure chemicals are safely stored and handled. Even commonly used substances in the workplace such as ammonia, benzene, sulphuric acid, pesticides, acetone, hydrofluoric acid and sodium hydroxide need to be stored and handled in a specific manner.

<https://goo.gl/WMZ9V>

### **Tackling mental health issues at work**

Did you know one in four suffer mental health problems during their lives? According to one survey, when asked how workplace stress had affected them, more than one in five agreed that they have called in sick to avoid work.

<https://goo.gl/7WcxR2>

### **What can an employer do to prevent workplace violence?**

Workplace violence is defined as the actual violence or the threat of violence against workers. This violence is not restricted to the actual workplace and may occur in other settings between workers or between workers and clients. However it may manifest itself, workplace violence should be a major concern for employers and employees alike.

<https://goo.gl/7U3BW8>

### **STATISTICS**

Thirty four people have been killed in workplace accidents since 1 January 2017 - Correct at 27 September 2017.

<https://goo.gl/CEtuEP>

### **TRAINING AND EVENTS**

#### **NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12**

All courses listed below available to be delivered in-house, nationwide, on request

[Occupational First Aid ReCertification](#) (1 day); 23 October [Book now](#)

[Safety Representation](#), NISO Certificate (2 day); 25-26 October [Book now](#)

[Risk Assessment](#) NISO Certificate (2 day); 15-16 November [Book now](#)

[Risk Assessment](#) QQI (4 days); 4-7 December [Book now](#)

### **Safe Pass Training**

[Kilkenny](#): 11 October [Book now](#)

[Clonmel](#): 18 October [Book now](#)

[Cork](#): 25 October [Book now](#)

[Dublin](#): 20 & 27 October [Book now](#)

### **Workplace Safety Training (Fee: €20)**

Supported by Insurance Ireland

[Cork](#): 23 October; [Book now](#)

[Castlebar](#): 26 October 2017; [Book now](#)

[Letterkenny](#): 2 November 2017; [Book now](#)

[Dublin](#): 16 November 2017; [Book now](#)

[Limerick](#): 23 November 2017; [Book now](#)

[Carlow](#): 30 November 2017; [Book now](#)

[Dundalk](#): 8 March 2018; [Book now](#)

### **Temporary Traffic Management in Ireland**

[Athlone](#): 5 October 2017; [Book now](#)

[Cork](#): 22 November 2017; [Book now](#)

[Sligo](#): 7 December 2017; [Book now](#)

[Dublin](#): 1 March 2018; [Book now](#)

[Limerick](#): 22 March 2018; [Book now](#)

[Waterford](#): 12 April 2018; [Book now](#)

[Dundalk](#): 26 April 2018; [Book now](#)

### **National Events:**

[54th Annual NISO Health and Safety Conference](#), Radisson Blu Hotel, Galway; 13 October

[All Ireland Occupational Safety Awards Presentation Ceremony](#), Radisson Blu Hotel, Galway; 13 October



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