

NISO Safety Observer
November 2017; Issue 30

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The Safety Observer



Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

November 2017 - Issue 30

Welcome to the November 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 20 November 2017 last and the next edition for NISO members is scheduled for mid January 2018. The last edition of Safety Observer was distributed on 9 October 2017.

NISO NEWS

Safety Awards Workshops 2017/18

NISO is hosting nationwide Safety Awards Workshops in preparation for the All Ireland Safety Awards 2018. Attendance at the Awards Workshops is highly recommended for all organisations entering the awards scheme in 2018.

Find out more [here](#).

NISO Regional AGMs

The regional AGMs of the National Irish Safety Organisation will be taking place throughout December 2017, January and February 2018. The National Annual General Meeting will take place on 14 April 2018 in the Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.

Find out more [here](#).

All Ireland Safety Quiz - Regional Heats

The regional heats of the NISO/NISG All Ireland Occupational Safety Quiz will take place nationwide throughout February and March 2018.

Find out more [here](#).

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...](#) [Fatalities & Accidents...](#) [In the Courts...](#) [Publications...](#) [Resources...](#) [Research...](#) [Guidance...](#) [Safety Tips...](#) [Research...](#) [Safety Blogs/Opinions...](#) [Statistics...](#) [Training and Events...](#)

IRISH NEWS

HSA work-related stress campaign

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) launched a new information campaign aimed at raising awareness of the damaging effects of work-related stress. To assist employers in managing work-related stress, the HSA, in conjunction with the State Claims Agency, developed the free “Work Positive” online tool which provides clear guidance for employers to design and implement focused action plans and interventions.

<https://goo.gl/aJbf14>

Rescue 116 investigation may lead to prosecutions

The Health and Safety Authority is working with An Garda Síochána on a joint investigation into the deaths of four air crew in the Irish Coast Guard Rescue 116 helicopter crash off the Mayo. The findings from this joint investigation will be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions for review.

<https://goo.gl/TBCNec>

No jail sentences for H&S deaths in 10 years

Analysis from The Law Reform Commission has revealed that not a single person has been jailed over the last 10 years for health and safety offences, including where fatalities occurred.

<https://goo.gl/wbX7sd>

Guidelines for businesses during red weather alerts

Employers in the private sector may have to set out specific policies for their employees as to what to do in the event of a red alert weather warning. The measure, which could come into effect next year, was raised after there was widespread confusion among workers and employers during Storm Ophelia last month as to whether people should travel to work after Met Éireann issued its highest warning.

<https://goo.gl/xy5nMD>

Health and safety issues in north west garda station

Gardaí have refused to work in a north west station on health and safety grounds. A report highlighted serious issues including rodent invasions, an antiquated heating system and “third world” toilet facilities.

<https://goo.gl/Gjt8J7>

Minister calls for efforts to reduce farm accidents to be intensified

The Health and Safety Authority and Teagasc, with FBD sponsorship and the support of the Farm Safety Partnership, hosted a “National Conference on Farm Safety and Health” earlier this month in Ennis, Co. Clare. Minister Pat Breen T.D. called on stakeholders involved in farming to find solutions to the farm fatality crisis in Ireland.

<https://goo.gl/aNLdzN>

UK NEWS

Train company fined £3.6m after death of employee

A UK-based train operating company and its cleaning contractor have been fined a total of £3.6m after a worker died when he fell onto a live 750 volt rail while cleaning the exterior of a train at a depot in East Sussex.

<https://goo.gl/2r3mP5>

Kitchen supplier fined £1.2m after worker fatality

A UK-based manufacturer and supplier of fitted kitchens, appliances and joinery products has been fined £1.2 million after the death of a visiting HGV driver at one of the company’s premises. The deceased was crushed when a forklift truck overturned whilst lifting kitchen workshops from the trailer of the HGV.

<https://goo.gl/cnAA9f>

Recycling company fined £880k and given suspended sentence

A UK-based recycling company has been fined £880,000 and its directors have been given suspended prison sentences following the horrific death of a worker.

<https://goo.gl/phLghR>

New report on most stressful jobs in UK

Almost half of sick days taken across Britain are due to work-related stress and those working in public service industries including welfare, healthcare and education are worst affected, new figures from the HSE UK have revealed.

<https://goo.gl/kUcKEL>

EUROPEAN NEWS

European Parliament demands higher safety standards for vehicles

The European Parliament has stated that all new cars sold in Europe should be fitted as standard with a range of life-saving technologies including automated emergency braking, intelligent speed assistance and seatbelt reminders in all seats. Some 26,000 people died on EU roads last year, a figure that has hardly changed in three years.

<https://goo.gl/LTQRWW>

Temporary workers the focus of new campaign

The Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC) has launched an information and enforcement campaign to promote the occupational safety and health of temporary agency workers and cross-border workers. Entitled "Safe and healthy work for temporary jobs", the campaign will run from October 2017 to May 2019.

<https://goo.gl/ssrJfD>

US NEWS

Criticism of American railroad corporation's safety record

The head of the United States National Transportation Safety Board criticised a national railroad transportation corporation's safety record at a hearing on Tuesday on a fatal 2016 crash and said the railroad failed to use critical safety equipment that could have prevented the incident.

<https://goo.gl/AWRqGx>

GENERAL SAFETY NEWS

Government to examine how to tackle online bullying

Government members have met to examine measures to tackle online bullying and the deliberate targeting of young people with online content promoting suicide and self-harm. A proposed Digital Safety Commissioner would be a proactive force in identifying and taking down illegal content.

<https://goo.gl/bQC9qM>

Business Opportunity

A UK Health and Safety Consultancy Group with offices in Belfast are keen to further expand their reach into ROI and are looking to identify likeminded H&S SMEs/sole traders/consultancies. If interested, please contact Connor McGimpsey on +44 (0)28 9590 1699 or email mcgimpsey@mabbett.eu.

SAFETY ALERTS

Product recall: LIDL smoke detectors

LIDL has issued a statement to the public urging them to return faulty smoke detectors. The urgent recall comes after it was discovered that the Unielektra smoke detectors which were sold between 2016 and 2017 have a sound problem which is deemed below regulatory standards.

<https://goo.gl/G36sJ3>

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

Man dies in workplace accident in Dublin hospital

A man has died following a workplace accident involving a fuse box at a hospital in Dublin 8. An Garda Síochána and the Health and Safety Authority have launched an investigation into the fatality.

<https://goo.gl/uXRQ2u>

Two men killed while repairing farm buildings after storms

A man in his 50s was killed in west Cork after he fell from a teleport while repairing farm buildings damaged by recent storms. In Wicklow, a man in his 70s died after he fell from a ladder while carrying out repairs to his farm shed.

An Garda Síochána and the Health and Safety Authority are investigating both fatalities.

<https://goo.gl/BMtYMW>

Man hospitalised after receiving electric shock

A man was rushed to hospital after he received an electric shock from a live electrical wire. He was connecting electrical wiring at the time of the accident.

<https://goo.gl/XXDe19>

Young boy injured in farm accident

A 6-year-old boy was injured in a farm accident involving a vehicle in Co. Laois. The boy was taken to hospital and An Garda Síochána are investigating the incident.

<https://goo.gl/BVe9nx>

Man rushed to hospital following electric shock in Limerick

A workman sustained burn injuries to his face and upper body during an incident at a bookshop in Limerick. The man in his 50s was taken from the shop by ambulance to University Hospital Limerick where his injuries are believed to be serious but “not life threatening”.

<https://goo.gl/CvbkkC>

IN THE COURTS

Widow awarded €500k after husband’s workplace death

The family of a mechanic who died after the truck tyre he was inflating exploded has settled its High Court action for €500,000. The deceased was described as a highly regarded and diligent employee who met a most untimely death when the tyre exploded.

<https://goo.gl/LzZZYA>

Concrete company fined €125k for safety failings

A concrete company has been fined €125,000 after an industrial accident left an employee with four fingers amputated. The court heard that the employee was cleaning the dosing section of a machine involved in the manufacturing of concrete products when he had four of his fingers amputated. An investigation from the Health and Safety Authority found that there was no safe system of

work in place to clean the machine involved in the accident. An employee of the company was killed in September 2011 while working on the same machine.

<https://goo.gl/MVD5Z2>

Court of appeal reduced workplace accident award by €30k

A meat factory employee injured in a workplace accident has had a €257,000 award reduced to €227,000 by the Court of Appeal. The employee was injured when he was hit on the head by a seven-yard long conveyor bench which he was assisting in manoeuvring through a narrow passage in the plant.

<https://goo.gl/9W7stw>

Lift company to stand trial on safety charges

A lift installation company is to stand trial for alleged breaches of health and safety regulations in relation to a lift it installed in a building in Galway almost 20 years ago.

<https://goo.gl/CMFHKX>

Judge refuses jurisdiction in health and safety case

A Wicklow judge has refused jurisdiction over a case brought against a contractor for failing to take the necessary steps to secure a trench where a farmer died in 2016.

<https://goo.gl/F3xf3V>

Vehicle testers found guilty of breaching safety laws

A vehicle testing firm found guilty of breaching health and safety laws in the testing of a school bus subsequently involved in a fatal crash has brought an appeal against conviction. A 15-year-old boy died as a result of injuries sustained when the bus went out of control in 2006. The charges, brought under the Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act 1989, had alleged the firm failed to ensure persons were not exposed to risks to their safety or health as a result of the way the test was carried out.

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

PUBLICATIONS

Chemical Importers Information Sheet

This information sheet aims to outline the key responsibilities for EU importers

of chemical substances and mixtures under the REACH, CLP and Rotterdam Regulations, for which the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) are the competent authority in Ireland.

<https://goo.gl/CTM3TE>

Work Related Vehicle Safety Program

The HSA has developed a new three-year plan entitled “Work Related Vehicle Safety Program Plan and Priorities for 2016-2018” outlining a course of action, aimed at influencing and improving work related vehicle safety in Ireland.

<https://goo.gl/NgWzrt>

Guidance for the Management of Household Hazardous Waste at Civic Amenity Sites

This joint guidance developed by the Environmental Protection Agency in conjunction with the Health and Safety Authority addresses the safe handling and storage of a range of household hazardous waste types at civic amenity sites in order to manage not only the environmental risks but also health and safety risks.

<https://goo.gl/pvf4V8>

Mobile Elevated Work Platforms

This guidance has been prepared to assist those working with Mobile Elevated Work Platforms (MEWPs). It offers guidance on Static Vertical, Static Boom, Mobile Vertical and Mobile Booms.

<https://goo.gl/XE9mmA>

Quarry Safety Publications

During Quarry Safety Week in November 2017 the Health and Safety Authority published three new information sheets on safe quarrying:

- Fall Protection at the Top of the Quarry Face
- Guarding of Return Idler Rollers on Conveyors at Quarries
- Identifying Significant Hazards in Quarries

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

ECHA Newsletter November 2017

This edition includes:

- REACH 2018 and poison centres - what's new?
- Tattoos (un)covered
- Authorisation - an impetus for substituting harmful chemicals and reducing risks
- How are SIN List substances being addressed?
- Collaborating for REACH 2018 - SME and consultant perspectives

<https://goo.gl/vB5Xv6>

GUIDANCE

A handy guide to workplace accident reporting

Confusion and uncertainty can sometimes arise when it comes to accident reporting - here is a quick and handy guide to use in the unfortunate event of a workplace accident in Ireland.

<https://goo.gl/SyKBeS>

Slips and trips prevention

New guidance from the HSENI entitled "Your Guide to Prevent Slips and Trips in All Workplaces" which contains practical steps to prevent slip and trip accidents.

<https://goo.gl/1c13Ff>

Managing the menopause in workplace

An investigation into how the menopause can affect women's health in the workplace and suggestions on how employers can provide support to enable women to continue to work comfortably and productively during this time.

<https://goo.gl/59CR6g>

SHP Behavioural Safety and Culture ebook

This new 44-page ebook brings together some of the leading thinkers on safety to give their views on behavioural safety and culture. Available to download for free.

<https://goo.gl/2F8tns>

Protecting H&S of workers in agriculture

New guide from the HSE UK – “Protecting health and safety of workers in agriculture, livestock, farming, horticulture and forestry”. This non-binding guide provides information and examples of good practice in connection with the implementation of health and safety directives, together with other necessary elements such as explanations and practical examples of the hazards and risks during all stages of farming, horticulture and forestry work.

<https://goo.gl/1Z4KsR>

RESOURCES

New online Vehicle Safety guide from EU-OSHA

This new online vehicle safety resource is free to use and is a guide to good practice for managing work-related vehicle risks in the EU with a specific focus on workplace transport, driving for work and working on or near a road.

<https://goo.gl/twvqn3>

The economics of occupational safety and health

This data visualisation tool highlights the key findings of a multi agency project to develop updated worldwide estimates of work related injuries and illnesses. The tool provides an accessible visual presentation of data costs to society of work-related injury and illness, covering all world regions and offering more specific data at EU member state level.

<https://goo.gl/BhDqRi>

Third party violence in the workplace

New infographic on third party violence in the workplace by EU-OSHA.

<https://goo.gl/5WqtYZ>

RESEARCH

Long work hours and heart health

People who work long hours have an increased risk of developing an irregular heart rhythm known as atrial fibrillation, according to a recent study of nearly 85,500 men and women published in the European Heart Journal.

<https://goo.gl/qfVPQu>

SAFETY TIPS

Key principles of chemical spill prevention

As part of their overall risk strategy, businesses that handle, store or transport, hazardous chemicals should take the necessary precautionary measures to help reduce the risk of a spill.

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

6 ways to support mental health in the workplace

Most would agree that organisations perform better when their staff are healthy, motivated and focused – and so it's in everybody's interest that businesses and organisations take steps to support their staff's mental health and wellbeing. But how can employers help to break down these barriers and address how we view and approach mental health at work? Here are 6 steps from the experts.

<https://goo.gl/qJneHs>

5 winter health hazards for tradespeople

Winter can be tough for tradespeople, with jobs frequently rained off or made impossible due to weather conditions. Here are some of the most common hazards and ways to avoid them so tradespeople can stay healthy and productive this winter.

<https://goo.gl/Q5Aeb4>

5 factors that protect wellbeing of night workers

One of the main health concerns for a night shift worker is fatigue. Our body clocks are naturally tuned to be more proactive in the day time and a lack of sleep would increase the cause of fatigue, which could lead to accidents while at work.

It's important for organisations to provide adequate care and wellbeing for their Night shift workers, so that they can carry out their duties without being affected by fatigue.

<https://goo.gl/oSr7gc>

SAFETY BLOGS/OPINION

How likely are farmers to die in a farm accident?

Farming continues to be the most dangerous profession in Ireland and the numbers behind the deaths show that if you work on a farm you have a 72-1 chance of being killed in a farm accident.

<https://goo.gl/wnpXYC>

Can the arts really help wellbeing in the workplace?

A recent study on Arts, Health and Wellbeing raised interesting questions around workplace wellbeing through the use of artistic interventions.

<https://goo.gl/jhg6yo>

Health and safety essentials - workplace stress

Employees will often be confronted by a number of stress factors. An organisation's culture can be the key to determining the factors related to stress. What are these factors and what are some solutions?

<https://goo.gl/jPxFyW>

Are sit/stand desks the answer to sedentary workplaces?

Extended sitting is a proven health risk, but is a sit/stand desk the answer?

<https://goo.gl/YgZBas>

4 bullying behaviours to stop tolerating at work

Here's a cheat sheet of common toxic behaviours that may be encountered at work - and how employees deserve to be treated instead.

<https://goo.gl/12dHSL>

5 workplace hazards you can't afford to ignore

No matter what your work environment is, whether an office, restaurant, warehouse, showroom, construction site, store, there is going to be potential hazards. And surprisingly, a lot of them will be similar in any of those working environments.

<https://goo.gl/EiWRAV>

"Millennials" not taking H&S seriously enough

Over a quarter of people aged 18 to 34 are failing to follow health and safety procedures put in place by their employer and are putting themselves in danger, according to new research.

<https://goo.gl/aYPvu8>

Awaken in the workplace - how to find your authentic power

Trust and compassion are the main ingredients in a healthy, satisfying and productive workplace. Unfortunately, most workplaces have cultures filled with dysfunction and drama. Here are seven tips on how to sidestep the dysfunction and find inner balance and harmony in the workplace.

<https://goo.gl/pdsTPP>

RAMS: a symbiotic relationship

An examination of the intrinsic connection between risk assessments and method statements (RAMS).

<https://goo.gl/UNk3Rp>

Working with arthritis

Arthritis is the largest single cause of physical disability in the UK. Awareness among employers and health and safety professionals about the impact of arthritis on work is limited however, resulting in significant numbers of sufferers leaving the workforce unnecessarily.

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

LGV drivers need mental health support

Lorry drivers are vulnerable to mental health problems because of their long hours, poor physical health and prolonged periods of working alone. UK transport body RTITB is calling for the logistics industry to address mental health issues among LGV drivers.

<https://goo.gl/MqVKop>

Workplace housekeeping tips to reduce accidents

Every year workers are injured on the job from accidents caused by poor workplace housekeeping. These housekeeping tips will help ensure a safety work environment for employees.

<https://goo.gl/66JFoh>

Five signs management isn't aligned with your safety culture

If you're working hard on developing a strong safety culture in your workplace but still can't see any results, there are a few tell-tale signs that the failure of your efforts is caused by external factors.

<https://goo.gl/592qid>

STATISTICS

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

<https://goo.gl/Db6vL3>

TRAINING AND EVENTS

NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12

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

[Manual Handling Basic](#), NISO Certificate (half day); 14 December [Book now](#)

[VDU/DSE Assessor Training](#), NISO Certificate (1 day); 5 December [Book now](#)

[Risk Assessment](#), QQI L5 (4 day); 4-7 December

[Safety Representation](#), NISO Certificate (2 day); 11-12 December [Book now](#)

[Introduction to H&S for the Non Safety Professional](#), NISO Certificate (2 day); 10-11 January [Book now](#)

Safe Pass Training

[Cork](#): 29 November; [Book now](#)

[Dublin](#): 1, 8 & 15 December [Book now](#)

[Kilkenny](#): 13 December [Book now](#)

[Clonmel](#): 19 December [Book now](#)

Workplace Safety Training (Subsidised Fee - €20)

[Carlow](#): 30 November [Book Now](#)

[Dundalk](#): 08 March 2018 [Book Now](#)

Temporary Traffic Management in Ireland

National Seminar Series

[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](#)

Regional Courses

[NISO Certificate in Health, Safety and Welfare at Work](#),

(13 wks/2 hrs p/wk)

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[Limerick: Limerick IT, Moylish Campus](#); Commencing spring 2018

National Events:

All Ireland Safety Quiz Finals, Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary; 14 April 2018

[NISO National Annual General Meeting](#), Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary; 14 April 2018



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National Irish Safety Organisation
A11 Calmount Park
Ballymount
Dublin 12, D12 EH21,
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