



The Safety Observer



Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

March 2014 - Issue 5

Welcome to the March 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 members. We keep you up to date on what is happening in occupational safety and health. NISO UPDATE, the quarterly 16 page magazine, was circulated on 20 January last and the next edition for NISO members is scheduled for mid April.

March 2014

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We are now 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>](mailto:info@niso.ie).

* Corporate members only



NISO Safety Quizzes in full swing

The regional heats for the All Ireland Safety Quiz take place in a number of venues this month including **Dundalk** [6th March], **Belfast** [7 March], **Tullamore** [12 March], **Sligo** [13 March], **Limerick** and **Cork** [20 March]. Teams progressing to the All Ireland Finals on 5 April in Westport include Cagney Contract Cleaning, Cold Chon (Galway) Ltd., Helsinn Birex, SSE Generation Great Island and Thermo King [Read more](#)

Farm Safety Seminars in Loughrea and Castlebar a success in raising awareness

Participants at two recent farm safety seminars were informed of the dangers posed to the farming community and were supplied with the practical controls to reduce or avoid the risks. The seminars held in Loughrea and Castlebar included a number of renowned speakers including speakers from AIT, FBD, Health and Safety Authority, NUI Galway, Teagasc and included Peter Goherly, a farmer and farm accident victim.

[Read more](#)

A Bad Twelve Days for Workplace Fatalities

The last twelve days have seen a surge in workplace accidents especially on farms. NISO urges farmers and all employees to take care of their personal safety and to watch out for colleagues. At least five fatalities have taken place in the last twelve days.

Man dies at Coffin Making Factory in Ardee

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

Man dies on Kildare farm in the early hours

<http://goo.gl/brJCYH>

Man dies following fatal accident with livestock on his Bonniclonlon farm

<http://goo.gl/WKz3WL>

Teenage boy dies in stud farm accident in Bruree. Co Limerick

<http://goo.gl/ZzF3E2>

Man crushed to death by JCB in north Dublin

<http://goo.gl/lwT5d9>

Other recent accidents include

Roof fall kills man

<http://goo.gl/mThC27>

Man killed while carrying out storm repair work in Cork

<http://goo.gl/U6ag3N>

Young Cork farmer dies after becoming trapped under trailer

<http://goo.gl/cYxWwK>

Three year boy dies in lift incident in Galway

<http://goo.gl/zllvTV>

Court Awards

Physiotherapist who fell on icy hospital steps awarded EUR1m

The Health Service Executive has been ordered to pay just over EUR1 million in damages to a physiotherapist who slipped on icy steps outside Baggot Street Community Hospital in Dublin.

<http://goo.gl/M6GRRx>

Revealed: The unnecessary safety measures wasting business' time and money

A new survey has revealed the lengths some small firms mistakenly go to trying to comply with health and safety. One business completed a risk assessment for using a crane to move and install a roof truss, with the truss falling on a worker.

risk assessment for using a tape measure and another introduced written guidelines for walking up stairs.

<http://goo.gl/hKplVM>

HSA Board now Complete

The last few government appointees have been made to the board of the Health and Safety Authority for the three year period December 2013 to December 2016. The full board is as follows:

Chairperson: John Horgan

Employers Nominees: George Brett (Bausch and Lomb), Robert Butler (CIF), Michael Gillen (IBEC)

Employee Nominees: Pat Kenny (CWU), Christine Rowland (SIPTU), Frank Vaughan (ICTU)

Ministerial Appointees: Carol Bolger (formerly Ulster Bank), Paul Cullen (DJEI), John McCartney (Savills Ireland), Vicki O'Reilly (Sisk Healthcare), Prof James Phelan (UCD).

<http://goo.gl/PEg9TH>

America's OSHA blasts mobile phone companies over increase in mast worker deaths

Concern has been issued by the US's Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of labour for occupational safety and health due to 13 communication tower-related fatalities in 2013. "Tower worker deaths cannot be the price we pay for increased wireless communication" he said.

<http://goo.gl/p4MJav>

Safety Alerts

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

Alerts issued by the Health and Safety Authority include:

- Failure of a foot valve actuator on an LPG road tanker to operate on demand at low temperatures created by a loss of containment
- Genie Z135/70 Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP)
- Use of Generators During Power Outages
- Petzl "ZIGZAG" Recall
- Scaffolding Boards Alert
- Passenger Lift Safety Alert

<http://goo.gl/XcO79I>

The UK's Health and Safety Executive have issued an alert for:

- Preventing catastrophic failure of luffing jib tower cranes in high winds

<http://goo.gl/O9EDP6>

Injuries Board release claim figures for 2013

The average Employer's Liability award which accounted for 8% of total awards in 2013 was EUR28,886 compared with EUR27,286 in 2012, an increase of 5.9%. After several years of below average workplace claims, volumes increased by 5.5% in 2013.

<http://goo.gl/33JGQA>

HSA Launches Programme of Work for 2014

The Health and Safety Authority state in their Programme of Work for 2014 that the following issues will have an important focus in 2014:

- Agriculture
- Work related vehicle safety
- Healthcare
- Taking Care of Business
- Chemical management under the Chemicals Act (REACH, CLP, Detergents, etc.)
- Control of Major Accident Hazards at COMAH and Sub-COMAH sites
- Representation of Irish interests at international and EU fora
- Pro-active workplace inspections including the construction, quarrying and manufacturing sectors
- Accident investigations

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

Safety Publications and Safety Guidance Documents

Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) Guidance

This guidance is written for employers, managers, employees and their safety representatives and those who provide, install and maintain local exhaust ventilation (LEV) systems

<http://goo.gl/CBmr5W>

2013 Code Of Practice for Biological Agents

This Code of Practice, contains the approved list of biological agents, their classification, minimum containment measures and dispensation from minimum containment measures, and dispensation from minimum containment measures,

<http://goo.gl/E9IVKY>

Legionella Control in Water Cooling Towers

This information sheet provides general information on the control of Legionella spp. bacteria in water cooling towers.

Contact [HSA](#) for a copy

Wetstock Reconciliation at Fuel Storage Facilities - An Operator's Guide

The purpose of the guidance is to assist petrol station operators to control fuel losses on their site in order to minimise any adverse impacts on safety, the local community and environment, to ensure compliance with the law.

This Best Practice document replaces the previous HSA Guidance on Wetstock Inventory Control for Petrol Stations and has been updated to include all types of fuel and incorporate current best practice.

<http://goo.gl/NQaM8g>

Safety with Lead at Work

This guide provides general information on lead with regard to chemical health and safety issues for workers using or exposed to lead while they are at work.

<http://goo.gl/vsS7QI>

International Guidelines on Safe Load Securing for Road Transport

The aim of these guidelines is to enable key stakeholders involved in the international road transport industry to correctly load and secure goods on vehicles.

<http://goo.gl/wfKd5j>

New publications from the UK's Health and Safety Executive include:

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

INDG388(rev2) – Safety in isocyanate paint spraying

This guidance is aimed at owners, managers and supervisors of vehicle bodyshops. It outlines the risks in using isocyanate paints in motor vehicle repair and how you can minimise them by taking the right precautions. It is also relevant to isocyanate paint spraying in other industries.

INDG473 – SMART paint spraying: How to control health and safety risks

This guidance is aimed at SMART (small and medium area repair technique) repair sprayers using isocyanate-based and other paints and who generally operate as a mobile unit. It is also useful for franchisees, managers and operators in motor vehicle repair bodyshops. It replaces the HSE publication WEB33, Motor vehicle repair: Good practice for SMART sprayers.

HSG276 – Isocyanate paint spraying: Safely managing spray booths and rooms

This guidance is aimed at vehicle bodyshop owners, managers and supervisors, their employees (particularly paint sprayers) and suppliers. It will also be useful to industries other than motor vehicle repair where there is spraying of isocyanate-containing paints and lacquers. This replaces the previous HSE publication Controlling isocyanate exposure in spray booths and spray rooms (WEB36).

HSG196 – Moving food and drink: Manual handling solutions for the food and drink industries

This book is aimed at employers and dutyholders within the food and drink industry. It discusses manual handling risks and solutions specific to the industry.

INDG455 – Safe use of ladders and stepladders: A brief guide

This leaflet gives advice to employers, employees and self-employed people on simple, sensible precautions to take when using ladders and stepladders to work at height.

INDG401 – Work at height Regulations 2005 (as amended): A brief guide

This recently revised brief guide describes what employers need to do to protect their employees from falls from height. Falls from height are one of the biggest causes of workplace fatalities and major injuries. Work at height means work in any place where, if there were no precautions in place, a person could fall a distance liable to cause personal injury. Common causes are falls from ladders and through fragile roofs.

Pneumonia vaccination for employees exposed to welding and metal fume

Guidance to employers who are considering offering the pneumonia vaccine (PPV) for employees exposed to welding or metal fume who may be at risk of pneumococcal pneumonia.

Managing health and safety in civic amenity sites

This guidance gives advice about health and safety management at household waste and recycling centres.

Access the above UK publications at <http://goo.gl/3jalUk>

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

2 ... Agriculture, forestry and fishing
1 ... Manufacturing
1 ... Construction
1 ... Administrative and support service activities
5 ... TOTAL

Source: HSA 24 February 2014

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

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](#).

Events

[Safety Quizzes](#)

[National AGM](#), Westport, 5 April 2014

[Safety Awards](#) closing date: 30 April 2014 [early bird 2 April 2014]

Annual Conference and Safety Awards Dinner: 3 October 2014; Mullingar Park Hotel

Training

[VDU / DSE Assessor Course \(1 day course\)](#): 10 March

[Safe Pass \(1 day course\)](#): 14 March, 28 March, 11 April

[Manual Handling Basic \(half day course\)](#): 30 April

[Health and Safety Representation, L22487, FETAC Level 5 \(3 day course\)](#): 12, 13, 14 May

[Health and Safety Representation, L22487, FETAC Level 5 for construction, maintenance and professional personnel \(3 day course\)](#): 12, 13, 14 May

[Manual Handling Instructor and Assessor, FETAC Level 6 \(5 day course\)](#): 19, 20, 21 & 26, 27 May

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.

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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