



The Safety Observer



Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

May 2014 - Issue 6

Welcome to the May 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 subscribers. 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 14 April last and the next edition for NISO members is scheduled for mid July.

May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

We are now also 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 Quiz Results

At the All Ireland Safety Quiz Finals, held in Westport on Saturday, 5 April 2014, Bord na Mona Littleton and Abbott Ireland Diagnostics Division, Longford, were the overall winners in the Previous Entrants and Novice Categories respectively, which were attended by over 180 persons. [Read more](#)

Annual General Meeting

NISO's AGM a substantial increase in turnover and its surplus; new faces representing the Health and Safety Authority and Insurance Ireland on NISO's Executive and Pauric Corrigan re-elected President for a fourth term. [Read more](#)

Restriction on Use of Mobile Phones while Driving

New regulations which came into effect from 1 May 2014, make it an offence to send or read a text from a mobile phone while driving. [Read more](#)

Farming accidents in the news again

Man dies in Wexford farm accident

Gardai and the Health and Safety Authority are investigating a fatal farm accident in Co Wexford on 18 March last.

A 33-year-old man was found dead on a farm in the Newbawn area. It's understood the accident happened as he was tending to cattle in the field.

<http://goo.gl/v6ToFw>

Man dies in Donegal farm accident

An investigation is under way after a man in his 70s was found dead on a farm in Co Donegal on 30 April. The man is understood to have been working on a car when it collapsed on top of him on the outskirts of Ballybofey.

<http://goo.gl/E6yrNq>

News

Workers' Memorial Day 2014

An international day of remembrance for those killed, injured or made unwell by their work was held on 28 April where a commemorative plaque was unveiled at the headquarters of the Communication Workers' Union in Dublin.

<http://goo.gl/hmrDeH>

Linking farm safety standards to CAP policies

It is reported that the senior agricultural inspector with the Health and Safety Authority has stated that reducing accidents on Irish farms must be taken to the next level which could mean linking farm safety inspections to cross compliance measures put in place to monitor eligibility for Single Farm Payment support.

<http://goo.gl/rHb1rA>

EHS jobs rise by 47 per cent

The Irishjobs.ie job index for the first quarter of 2014 show that Environmental, Health and Safety jobs advertised online grew 47 per cent over the correspondence period last year compared to the year on year growth of job advertised online of 5 percent.

<http://goo.gl/NNI0rv>

Carbon monoxide alarms to become compulsory

It is reported that Carbon monoxide alarms will become compulsory in homes from September 1st onwards in an effort to prevent deaths from

the poisonous gas known as the "silent killer". The changes will mean householders will be required to ensure alarms are fitted when new or replacement boilers, fires, heaters and stoves are installed. Building firms will also be required to make sure the alarms are fitted in new houses.

<http://goo.gl/bWVvaz>

HSE to ban use of e-cigarettes in all its healthcare facilities

From 1 May 2014, the use of e-cigarettes are not permitted in any HSE building or on any HSE tobacco-free campus. Separately, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has proposed rules that would ban the sale of e-cigarettes to anyone under 18.

<http://goo.gl/wKa34F>

European Parliament backs safer lorries

The European Parliament has voted to support revised rules on the dimensions of heavy goods vehicles that will enable manufacturers to produce safer lorries. The legislation will allow for cabs with improved visibility, especially important for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists in urban areas. The proposed rules now need to be agreed with EU member states.

<http://goo.gl/GYVGFL>

In the Courts

Bar owners to be sentenced for lift shaft death

Two former bar and nightclub owners are to be sentenced for health and safety breaches that resulted in an employee being crushed to death in a lift shaft.

<http://goo.gl/jJXwZj>

Ann Summers party injury dismissed

A damages claim has been dismissed at the High Court. The claim was for injuries a woman sustained after being knocked down at an Ann

Summers lingerie party held at a Dublin pub.

<http://goo.gl/dTKFfN>

Staircase collapse at Dublin secondary school

A Galway firm is facing a charge under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act after a staircase they designed collapsed under its own weight at a newly built Dublin secondary school.

<http://goo.gl/cq0AAc>

Factory worker settles over abseiling exercise

A chewing gum factory worker has settled a High Court action over a back injury he says he sustained while doing a company training exercise involving him abseiling from the cab of a forklift machine at a height of 31 feet.

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

Woman sues over alleged electrocution in creche sink

A woman has claimed that a plugged in appliance left in a sink at a creche where she worked caused her to be electrocuted.

<http://goo.gl/lZdqdT>

Nurse who taped patient's mouth remains on register

On 24 April, a judge ruled that a nurse who admitted placing surgical tape across a patient's mouth be given the Probation Act and not be struck off the register of nurses. The judge found that the nurse was overworked in stressful conditions and that there was severe understaffing in the unit.

<http://goo.gl/tfkXpi>

Court Awards

Elderly man settles injury claim for €250,000 in pub fall

An elderly man who claimed he suffered a brain injury after falling down a stairs in a Dublin pub has settled his High Court action for €250,000.

<http://goo.gl/79dMzK>

PPE specialist failed to protect worker

One of Europe's leading manufacturers of personal protective equipment has been prosecuted and fined after a worker's hand was crushed when it became trapped in an unsafe machine at their factory in Oxfordshire.

<http://goo.gl/FBM1xG>

Garda award for boiling oil burns

A garda who was badly injured when boiling oil was splashed over him as he tried to sort out a domestic row had been awarded €50,000 damages in the High Court.

<http://goo.gl/53lFfK>

Safety Alerts

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

Nail Penetration and Safety Shoes

The Health and Safety Authority has been made aware of research that shows that certain designs of safety shoes may not provide adequate protection where there is a risk of penetration from construction nails.

<http://goo.gl/XcO79I>

Augers on bulk feed blow trailers

The Health and Safety Executive, Northern Ireland have issued an alert to highlight the potential hazard associated with augers on bulk feed blow trailers.

<http://goo.gl/0mNd5f>

Risks from redundant solid fuel back boilers

The UK's Health and Safety Executive have issued an alert to raise awareness of the potential dangers of lighting a solid fuel fire when a redundant solid fuel back boiler has been left within the fireplace.

<http://goo.gl/SKEiBq>

Safety Awards

All Ireland Occupational Health and Safety Awards

The standard closing date for the All Ireland Safety Awards has now passed. A few entries are expected from organisations who notified us by the closing date that entries are to be expected shortly.

New for 2014 is the Occupational Health and Safety Award sponsored jointly by the Health and Safety Authority and the Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland.

<http://goo.gl/CCA5s1>

Small Contractor Construction Safety Innovation Award 2014

Entries are now being invited for the above award sponsored by the Construction Safety Partnership (CSP). Further details and an application form are available from the NISO website.

<http://goo.gl/XZ4BOU>

European Good Practice Award

EU-OSHA has launched the 12th edition of the European Good Practice Awards in occupational safety and health. The awards welcome applications from European companies or organisations who are implementing measures to successfully manage stress and psychosocial risks in their workplaces.

<http://goo.gl/yKlnsS>

Safety Legislation

European Union (Prevention of Sharps Injuries in the Healthcare Sector) Regulations 2014

The Regulations, signed into law on 14 March 2014, relate to the risks posed by sharps to those working in healthcare. They implement specific control measures to protect employees at risk, and require an appropriate response in the event of an incident occurring.

<http://goo.gl/S3NMxM>

Restriction on Use of Mobile Phones while Driving

The Regulations which came into force on 1 May 2014 make it an offence to send or read a text from a mobile phone while driving.

<http://goo.gl/ZZqSjo>

Safety Publications, Resources and Safety Guidance Documents

REACH - Production, Import and Supply of Articles

This information sheet aims to outline the key responsibilities under the REACH Regulation of those who produce, import or supply articles onto the EU Market.

<http://goo.gl/UV4ngZ>

New Medical Fitness to Drive guidelines published

New medical fitness to drive guidelines, Slainte agus Tiomaint, for bus and truck drivers, known as Group 2 drivers, were launched on 24 April 2014. As in the past these guidelines require a higher standard of physical and mental fitness on the part of these drivers in light of the duration of time they spend behind the wheel and the greater size and weight of their vehicles.

<http://goo.gl/Q6u3RA>

Download

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

Slurry Safety DVD launched

These three videos which make up the DVD can be viewed on Youtube

<http://goo.gl/iJzwnw>

Repairs to Fork Arms of fork-lift trucks

Guidance from the HSE provides information regarding the repair of fork arms of fork-lift trucks (FLT), and alerts all to certain bad practices which may cause FLT arms to fail.

<http://goo.gl/RclVPq>

New International Guidelines on Safe Load Securing for Road Transport

The IRU International Commission on Technical Affairs (CIT) has developed an International Guidelines on Safe Load Securing for Road Transport. It promotes safe load securing practices for the transport of goods by road. Irish company, STL Logistics Ireland and the Health and Safety Authority were involved and contribution to this publication.

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

Local Government Safety Representatives

The UK's Health and Safety Executive has launched an eBulleting for health and safety representatives in local government and has new web resources on sensible risk management for local government. Safety reps might find this guidance useful in tackling risk adverse practices at source while encouraging managers and colleagues to focus on serious risks such as those found in waste and recycling, grounds maintenance and construction activities.

<http://goo.gl/WiHH8f>

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

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

New Guidance for the Safety of Dock Workers

This UK code of practice and guidance covers safety in dock operations and is applicable to people who control dock premises, suppliers of plant and equipment, dock employers, managers, safety officers, safety representatives and workers.

Electrical safety at places of entertainment

This UK guidance contains advice on preventing electrical danger at places of entertainment. It is primarily for managers of places of entertainment, and for people who provide facilities for entertainers. It will also be of use to technicians and technical managers.

Electrical safety for entertainers

This UK leaflet is for entertainers who use electrical equipment for sound, lighting or other effect. It sets out basic measures you can take to help control the electrical risks from the use of such equipment.

Ozone - Health hazards and control measures

This UK guidance is primarily aimed at employers and managers of people exposed to ozone in the course of their work. Other groups, such as employees and health and safety professionals, will also find the guidance useful. It draws attention to the potential ill health which exposure to ozone can cause and indicates potential sources of ozone at work as well as offering advice on the precautions you may need to take to prevent or control exposure.

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

7 ... Agriculture, forestry and fishing
2 ... Manufacturing
4 ... Construction
2 ... Wholesale and retail
1 ... Administrative and support service activities
16 .. TOTAL

Figures from HSA 28 April 2014

Note that some accidents may be 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 Awards](#) closing date: 30 April 2014 [late entry fee applies to May entries]
Annual Conference and Safety Awards Dinner: 3 October 2014; Mullingar Park Hotel

Training

[Safe Pass \(1 day course\)](#): 9 May, 23 May
[Health and Safety Representation, L22487, FETAC Level 5 \(3 day course\)](#): 12, 13, 14 May [one place remaining]
[Health and Safety Representation, L22487, FETAC Level 5 for construction, maintenance and professional personnel \(3 day course\)](#): 12, 13, 14 May [one place remaining]
[Manual Handling Instructor and Assessor, FETAC Level 6 \(5 day course\)](#): 19, 20, 21 & 26, 27 May
[VDU / DSE Assessor Course \(1 day course\)](#): 9 June
[Occupational First Aid, FETAC Level 5](#): 16 - 18 June
[Manual Handling Basic \(half day course\)](#): 25 June

To book any of the above courses online, [click here](#)

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>

NATIONAL IRISH SAFETY ORGANISATION, A11 Calmount Park, Ballymount, Dublin 12, Ireland
info@niso.ie ; Web: www.niso.ie