



The Safety Observer



Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

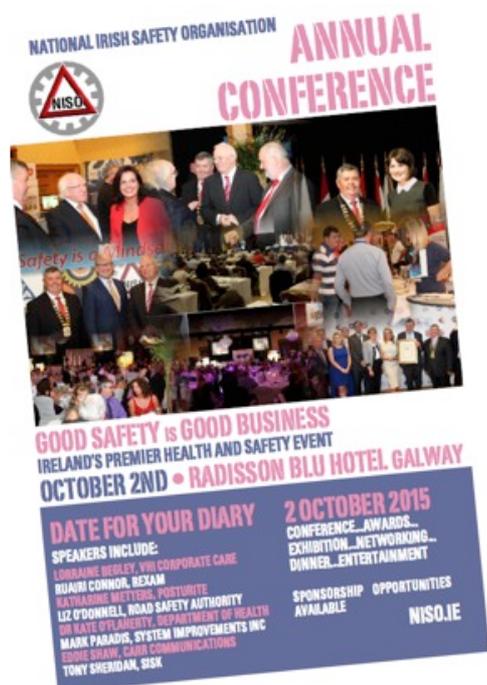
May/June 2015 - Issue 11

Welcome to the May/June 2015 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. The last edition of SAFETY OBSERVER was distributed on 9 March 2015. Exclusively for members, our other publication, the quarterly NISO UPDATE, was circulated on 29 April last and the next edition is scheduled for late July 2015.

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>.

* Corporate members only



NISO NEWS

National Irish Safety Organisation is hosting a nationwide **Safety Representation** seminar series in June and July.

[Click here for further information.](#)

The NISO/NISG **Annual Health and Safety Conference** is taking place in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Galway, on 2 October. The theme of this year's conference is 'Good Safety is Good Business'.

[Click here for the conference flyer.](#)

NISO AGM hears call for proper resourcing of HSA

NISO has called for a reversal to the reduction of funding allocated to the Health and Safety Authority.

[Click here for further information.](#)

Entries to the following awards are now being accepted:

Construction Safety Innovation Award (NISO in association with CSP)

[Download the application form here.](#)

Safety Representative of the Year Award (NISO in association with Nifast)

[Download the application form here.](#)

In this issue... Safety news... Fatalities and Accidents... Statistics... In the courts... Inquests... Safety Alerts... Safety Tidbits... Publications/Guidance... Resources... Safety in Images... Safety Videos... Research Reports... NISO training and events...

IRISH NEWS

Public Consultation on HSA's Statement of Strategy 2016–2018

The Health and Safety Authority has opened a public consultation process on their strategy statement for the three year period 2016–2018. Interested parties are asked to make written observations on the draft Statement. The final document will be presented to the Minister of State at the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Gerald Nash T.D., in September 2015. The final strategy statement will include additional contextual information and a review of the outcomes and effectiveness of the current strategy period (2013-2015). The statement will further specify the manner in which the Authority proposes to assess its performance in respect of the goals it sets. The closing date for feedback is Friday 5 June 2015.

<http://goo.gl/eJRpVe>

<http://goo.gl/ubWlKx>

Unions and employers mark Workers' Memorial Day

The Government, Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), Ibec and the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) joined together for what was the first joint national event to mark Workers' Memorial Day Ireland on 28 April 2015.

<http://goo.gl/lBaZ1m>

NISO AGM hears call for proper resourcing of HSA

At the Annual General Meeting of the National Irish Safety Organisation on 23 April 2015, Harry Galvin, Hon Secretary of NISO, called for a reversal to the reduction of funding allocated to the Health and Safety Authority. This view was echoed by ICTU and IBEC at the launch of Workers' Memorial Day on 28 April 2015.

<http://goo.gl/L4CGbB>

Low-cost airlines creating safety concerns

Employment practices, particularly among low-cost airlines, are creating safety concerns according to a comprehensive study funded by the EU for the European Cockpit Association which represents pilots.

<http://goo.gl/Wzmid4>

Keep children safe on farms this summer

With summer approaching, we can expect more children outdoors on farms, whether farm-dwelling or visiting children. A farm is an exciting place of discovery for many children, but sometimes dangers are underestimated.

<http://goo.gl/6BCkw5>

Farm Accident Ecumenical Remembrance Service on 28 June

Embrace is organising a FARM Accident Ecumenical Remembrance Service in Abbeyleix, Co Laois on 28 June at 2pm. All are very welcome to attend the service. Please pass on this information on Embrace's behalf to others within your organisation that you feel should or may like to attend the service. It is a way for the Agriculture Industry and others to show their solidarity of support and pay respects to the families who find themselves in devastating situations following the death or serious injury of a loved one from a farm accident. RSVP to Brian 087-2343775 or Norma 086-8381427.

Ardmac wins prestigious safety award

Ardmac Group, Dublin based and international interior construction group, is a winner of three Order of Distinction Awards in the RoSPA Awards 2015.

<http://goo.gl/DgkRct>

Coveney: Introduction of a safe pass certificate for farms responsibility of HSA

The Minister for Agriculture Simon Coveney, responding to a request by Fianna Fáil TD Éamon Ó Cuív, has said that the responsibility for introducing the equivalent of a safe pass certificate for farmers lies with the Health and Safety Authority.

<http://goo.gl/YndMNy>

Medical Fitness to Drive Guidelines

Fitness Rules covering a person's mental and physical ability to drive should not be applied too stringently, said chairperson of the Road Safety Authority (RSA) Liz O'Donnell. Ms O'Donnell is appealing for balance and care in the way the rules are applied.

The guidelines were published in April 2014 according to the RSA website.

<http://goo.gl/AatRn2>

Farm safety programme in schools urged

Minister for Agriculture, Simon Coveney, has been urged by newly elected Macra na Féirme President, Sean Finan, to fund a farm safety programme in schools following the worst year for farm deaths since 1991.

<http://goo.gl/YfumJG>

RSA launch public consultation for emergency packs in all vehicles

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) has launched a public consultation to seek views on the requirement for a breakdown emergency pack, including a first aid kit, a high visibility vest, a breakdown triangle and a torch to be carried in all vehicles. The closing date for submissions is Friday 12 June 2015.

<http://goo.gl/PzY11k>

Health Promotion course at WIT receives European accreditation

The BA (Hons) in Health Promotion in Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) is the first undergraduate programme in Ireland to be awarded accreditation under the International Union of Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE), a European Health Promotion Accreditation System.

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

Safety improvements at historic structures

The Office of Public Works has revealed its schedule of proposed works for a major upgrade of the iconic King John's Castle in Carlingford which will include safety improvements. Meanwhile, Duncannon Fort, run by Duncannon Fort Trust Ltd., is to temporarily close Duncannon Fort on health and safety grounds. Wexford County Council said there are serious electrical issues at the fort which could have led to serious health and safety issues.

<http://goo.gl/IAvDNq>

<http://goo.gl/EvlwBR>

Water protesters face surveillance

It is reported that a local authority has met with a surveillance company to discuss ways to monitor water charge protesters after council workers were subjected to a spate of "bullying and harassment" attacks.

<http://goo.gl/tjOv1D>

Ulster Bank says farmer safety a priority

Increased farm safety awareness must be a top priority for all farmers irrespective of enterprise, age or location, Ulster Bank says.

<https://goo.gl/98pzyv>

Spring Show chooses “Health and Safety on and off the Farm” as its theme

NISO was represented by NISO President, Pauric Corrigan, at The Connacht Spring Show held on 17 May at Ballinrobe Racecourse.

<http://goo.gl/JxNWYI>

Safety Advice: Beware of the dangers this silage season

Tractors and machinery are the main cause of farm accidents in Ireland and with the silage season beginning it is important to be safety conscious.

<https://goo.gl/uRHZET>

Survey by INMO of members show an increase in Bullying

A large-scale survey of nurses and midwives on workplace bullying has identified a 13% increase in incidences compared to a similar survey in 2010 according to the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO).

<http://goo.gl/mMAA6n>

Occupational Cancer biggest cause of workplace deaths

Speaking at the launch in Ireland of the IOSH “No Time to Lose” campaign, which seeks to raise awareness of occupational cancer, Dr John Gallagher said cancer is the biggest cause of workplace deaths.

<http://goo.gl/dytKss>

<http://goo.gl/hE3olO>

Construction Industry Federation and Pieta House launch “Mind Our Workers” campaign aimed at reducing suicide in construction

A new campaign has been launched aimed at raising awareness of suicide and mental health throughout the construction industry. An estimated 1,039 men from a construction or production background died by suicide between 2008 and 2012.

<http://goo.gl/5Y1ID8>

UK NEWS

HSL launch new GRIP footwear ratings scheme

Slips and trips continue to be the biggest cause of workplace injuries so the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) has launched a footwear rating scheme called GRIP that provides free information to health and safety managers so that they can make informed, evidence-based decisions before purchasing slip-resistant footwear.

<http://goo.gl/sTmnCe>

HSE inspection programme in food manufacture to focus on occupational health

HSE is targeting occupational health topics – carcinogens, asthmagens and MSDs - through an inspection programme, in industries including food manufacture. In food manufacture the inspection focus is on: control of flour dust – an asthmagen – in bakeries and biscuit and cake manufacturers and the control of MSD risks in the same industries as flour dust and also the poultry and meat processing and dairy sectors.

<http://goo.gl/Vh535W>

Final report issued on implementing UK health and safety reforms

A final progress report from the Department for Work and Pensions gives an update on the work done on implementing Professor Löfstedt's recommendations, as well as the recommendations in Lord Young of Graffham's earlier report “Common Sense, Common Safety”. It provides a comprehensive overview of the government's progress with health and safety reform and the achievements HSE has made in delivering reforms to health and safety legislation and guidance. The UK's Health and Safety Executive added that they “have simplified and modernised a large amount of regulation without compromising standards of protection for workers”.

<https://goo.gl/FbV5tl>

Football Legend backs HSE's Asbestos Safety Campaign

England football star Stuart Pearce is backing an asbestos safety campaign by the HSE urging all tradespeople to be aware of asbestos and take sensible measures against the hidden killer.

<http://goo.gl/IYNVLp>

Family fined after child was seriously injured in farming accident

A family has been fined £9,000 after a three-year-old boy was injured on a Derbyshire farm where another boy died.

<http://goo.gl/jOWjfw>

Kayak manufacturer fined £200,000 after worker burned to death in industrial oven

In the first of two recent deaths involving employees being burned to death in industrial ovens (also see US news), a UK-based Kayak maker was convicted of corporate manslaughter after a father of three was burned to death in an industrial oven and has been fined £200,000.

His body was found at the door of the oven, still in the position in which he had desperately tried to prise his way out with a tool. The oven did not have an escape hatch or alarm and was not in the line of sight of the operator, so no one could have known he was there.

<http://goo.gl/BV3906>

EUROPEAN NEWS

Commission report gives “green lights” for mandatory fitting of new safety tech

Commission report gives green lights for mandatory fitting of new safety tech

A major new study for the European Commission has identified a range of new vehicle safety technologies that are suitable for mandatory fitting as part of a review of EU vehicle safety legislation. The report names technologies including Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA), Automated Emergency Braking (AEB) and seat belt reminder systems in passenger seats as "feasible in terms of the technology required", already available on the market and offering a positive benefit-cost ratio.

<http://goo.gl/n8L9O6>

The EU-OSHA Healthy Workplaces Good Practice Awards Ceremony

The Healthy Workplaces Good Practice Awards, acknowledging outstanding examples of workplace stress management, took place in Riga on 27 April. Organised by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) as part of the 2014–15 Healthy Workplaces Manage Stress campaign, the 2014–15 awards aimed to highlight leading examples of companies or organisations actively managing stress and psychosocial risks at work.

Eleven innovative and outstanding examples of psychosocial risks and stress management were awarded, from organisations of different sizes and sectors throughout Europe.

<https://goo.gl/EqQGKq>

Read the Awards report here:

<https://goo.gl/YL9n0y>

US NEWS

Proper protections could have saved four DuPont workers in the US killed by gas

Four workers killed by a lethal gas in November 2014 would be alive today had their employer, DuPont, taken steps to protect them, a U.S. Department of Labor investigation found.

<http://goo.gl/PdUv6n>

Man cooked to death in industrial food oven

A food processing worker in California was cooked alive in five tonnes of tuna after colleagues switched on an industrial oven unaware he was inside.

<http://goo.gl/G4yWHE>

Limerick man dies in a workplace accident in New York

A Limerick businessman was overseeing work at a site in Midtown in Manhattan on 24 April 2015 when part of a miniature crane, called a knuckle boom, fell on him after a mechanical component apparently failed. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

<http://goo.gl/aO8c5W>

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

Council death

An investigation is being conducted into the death on 14 April 2015 of a father of two who worked for a Council. It is reported that the man was found dead in the council yard where apparently he was crushed by the gates.

<http://goo.gl/FjPD7M>

Oyster fisherman drowns in Co Clare

In the early hours of 19 April 2015, emergency services were contacted when four men working on oyster beds were reported to be in difficulty in Poulasherry Bay, Moyasta, Co Clare. The fishermen were using tractors and trailers and got cut off from shore when the tide came in. The deceased man is believed to have attempted to swim ashore.

<http://goo.gl/VtM2Ym>

Fatal accident at business premises in Cavan

An investigation by Gardaí and the Health and Safety Authority has commenced into an industrial accident which happened on 7 May 2015 resulting in the death of a man on the outskirts of Cavan town. The father of three was in his 50s and from Lithuania was repairing the roof of a premises on the Ballinagh Road when he fell through the roof, 4 metres to the ground.

<http://goo.gl/ismNIE>

STATISTICS

At 12 May 2015, 11 persons have been killed in workplace accidents. Four have been in agriculture, two in construction and one each in fishing/forestry, quarrying, education, public administration/defence and human health/social work activities.

<http://goo.gl/Q2S5n8>

IN THE COURTS

No induction training in fatal fall case

In a HSA prosecution following the death of a worker who fell from a scaffold, a District Judge said that if the law had been complied with the worker would not have been on site. The Judge imposed the maximum fine, EUR5,000, and ordered the firm, Michael Quinn Construction, to pay the HSA's costs.

<http://goo.gl/dnD6tr>

<http://goo.gl/UpD0u>

Former garda awarded EUR390,000 for severe post traumatic stress disorder

A former garda sergeant, who suffered the effects for almost a decade as a result of being threatened by a gunman, has been awarded more than €390,000 compensation for severe post traumatic stress disorder and loss of career, social and family life.

<http://goo.gl/8XD3PD>

Worker awarded EUR356,000 for fall off ladder

A cable television installation inspector who fell when the ladder he was on was hit by a gust of wind has been awarded €356,000 in High Court damages. The man had sued his employer, Kilkenny-based Ipone Ltd, as a result of the accident on March 10, 2011.

<http://goo.gl/d7xocm>

Award made in Airport escalator fall

A woman who fell on an escalator at Dublin Airport has been awarded €40,000 damages by a High Court judge. It is reported that suddenly and without warning, she was caused to fall down on her face as she was travelling up the escalator in Terminal 2. All the claims were denied. The judge directed that payment of €25,000 be made and put a stay on the award in the event of an appeal.

<http://goo.gl/Dpl8K3>

Award made after accident at health club swimming pool

A hotel supervisor who dived into a shallow swimming pool at a health club causing injury to her front upper teeth received compensation award. As liability was denied, the Injuries Board issued the plaintiff with an authorisation to pursue her compensation claim through the courts which awarded the plaintiff EUR30,000.

<http://goo.gl/xrrvsF>

Award made in hotel foyer slippage

A retired council worker and farmer who claimed he slipped in the foyer of a hotel where he had attended an afternoon tea dance has settled his High Court action for damages. The plaintiff claimed he had "slipped on some matter on the floor" and hurt his shoulder.

<http://goo.gl/Th36WR>

LUAS accident - girl awarded EUR25,000

A young girl who was injured when the doors of a train closed on her head has had a EUR25,000 settlement of compensation approved by the Circuit Civil Court in Dublin in respect of her claim for an accident on the Luas.

<http://goo.gl/bVy177>

Tragic death of jockey leads to EUR250 fine

The family of a 17-year-old jockey from Murroe, Co Limerick, killed in a tragic accident last year did not want a man prosecuted in connection with his death, Kilmallock Court heard. Patrick Murphy, aged 59, of New Road, Athlacca, Co Limerick, pleaded guilty to allowing the jockey to ride as a passenger on the drawbar of a trailer contrary to the Safety, Health and Welfare Work Act. The judge described the accident as "just tragic all round" and fined the defendant EUR250.

<http://goo.gl/Lyybou>

Woman settles claim after fall at soccer club

A 52-year-old woman, who fell in a pothole and broke her ankle after drinking 10 pints of beer in her local soccer club, has settled a €38,000 damages claim in the Circuit Civil Court.

<http://goo.gl/uoCkMG>

INQUESTS

Modifications on lift in fatal incident

Lift engineers doing "nixers" carried out "ad hoc" repairs on a lift in a Dublin bar that claimed the life of a father of two, an inquest has heard. The court heard that the modifications were done by 'someone who knew what they were at'.

<http://goo.gl/JYXXsu>

Inquest hears of asbestos-related death

A coach-builder who died of an asbestos-related cancer was exposed to the deadly dust while working on bus engines, an inquest has heard. The 67-year-old man died after developing mesothelioma tumour linked to asbestos.

<http://goo.gl/LV5szO>

Farmer died after heifer knocked him to the ground, an inquest has heard.

A father of five from Bonniclonon, Ballina in Co Mayo, suffered severe head injuries when he was struck by the heifer after it went out of control and charged at him on February 15 last year.

<http://goo.gl/fXrRAu>

SAFETY ALERTS

Large Tyre Inflation Alert

A series of fatal accidents involving large tyre inflation in 2014 has prompted the Health and Safety Authority to issue a safety alert to highlight the need for safe procedures during large tyre inflation in all work sectors. This safety alert deals with the dangers associated with large tyre

inflation.

<http://goo.gl/Nd8MDW>

Product Safety Information

Zanussi's quality control programme has identified that in certain circumstances there is a slight risk of an electric shock whilst using a limited number of Zanussi Cooker Hoods, Model Number ZHC60136X.

<http://goo.gl/8H0NoI>

Corrosion cracking of stainless steel lokring pipe connectors

This UK HSE Safety Alert highlights the issue of chloride stress corrosion cracking which has been found to affect stainless steel (grade 316/316L) Lokring pipe connectors.

<http://goo.gl/NiuBZZ>

SAFETY TIDBITS

Insurance firm sought to set aside an agreement

In a recent UK Court of Appeal case, an insurance company sought to set aside a settlement agreement in a case where a man sued his employer following an injury at work.

An interesting case with the following issues:

- liability was conceded for mobility issues and a depressive illness
- video surveillance suggesting his injuries may been exaggerated
- the man's lack of candour in relation to his physical condition leading to non acceptance of his depressive state
- A change of view from an orthopaedic expert after viewing the video evidence
- An agreed reduced settlement as a result
- "Neighbourhood watch" evidence two years later that they believed the man's claim was dishonest. Proceedings in the County Court by the insurer claiming damages for deceit.
- A judgment significantly reducing the compensation
- An appeal by the man to the Court of Appeal.
- Read the details and the outcome

<http://goo.gl/llyoWF>

PUBLICATIONS / GUIDANCE

New Safety Representative Resource Book

A new 278 page Safety Representative Resource Book commissioned by the Health and Safety Authority was launched by the Minister for Business and Employment, Ged Nash, T.D., on Workers' Memorial Day, 28 April 2015.

<http://goo.gl/7vCAqo>

Driving for Work Summer Safety Tips

The HSA reminds employers and employees of key seasonal tips for safer work-related journeys over the coming months.

<http://goo.gl/XPYtYQ>

RESOURCES

Hazardous Substances Resource Databases

The German DGUV (German Social Accident Insurance) is the umbrella association of the accident insurance institutions for the industrial and public sectors. It has a very useful resource online in English with offerings such as a database on hazardous substances; an information system for safety data sheets; a database of validated lists of methods from various EU member states described as suitable for the analysis of chemical agents at workplaces; a database of OELs for chemical agents plus other useful database and research.

<http://goo.gl/v44lu8>

MOBILE APPS

GESTIS - International limit values for chemical agents [OELs]

This database contains a collection of occupational limit values for hazardous substances gathered from various EU member states, Australia, Canada (Ontario and Québec), Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, The People's Republic of China, and the United States as of September 2014. Limit values of almost 1,800 substances are listed.

<http://goo.gl/ApDkTE>

Available for iOS [Apple App Store] and Android [Google Play]

SAFETY IN IMAGES

Tractor cut in two after it was hit by a train but the driver survives

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

RESEARCH REPORTS

ESRI say boom was bad for health and safety

Trends and Patterns in Occupational Health and Safety in Ireland, published by the ESRI, brings together for the first time twelve years of data collected by the Central Statistics Office on injury and illness, with data from the Health and Safety Authority on fatalities to analyse whether these outcomes changed over the recent period of labour market turbulence. Groups most at risk were younger workers, men, shift and night workers, persons working longer hours and new recruits. Those working in the construction, agriculture, health and industry sectors had the highest risk of injury. Work-related illness risks were highest in the agriculture, construction, transport and health sectors.

<http://goo.gl/o7PUlw>

Walking an extra two minutes each hour may offset hazards of sitting too long

A new study published in an American clinical journal suggests that engaging in low intensity activities such as standing may not be enough to offset the health hazards of sitting for long periods of time.

<http://goo.gl/BDddTN>

Study links insomnia to impaired work performance in night shift workers

A new study, conducted at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, of night shift workers suggests that overnight occupational and cognitive impairment is more strongly correlated to insomnia than it is to sleepiness.

<http://goo.gl/gvflF4>

Potential need for mental health support for up to 20 per cent of trainee doctors

On 30 April 2015, The Medical Council published its Your Training Counts report on health and wellbeing. This is the second report from the first-ever survey of trainee doctors in Ireland, Your Training Counts.

Its findings show that there may be concern for possible mental health and wellbeing difficulties and a potential need for support for up to 20 per cent of doctors training for senior posts. Almost 20 per cent of trainees described their quality of life as poor or very poor. 29 per cent of trainees said they needed to access support services but most did not.

<https://goo.gl/fqlWxG>

NISO MEMBER SUBSCRIPTIONS 2015

Many thanks if you have paid your annual subscription to NISO for 2015. If your subscription is still outstanding, a subscription email reminder will be sent to you shortly which will allow you to pay online or you can [request](#) a copy invoice. Remember you need to be a subscribed corporate member to use the [NISO Member logo](#).

TRAINING

[Safe Pass](#); NISO Training Centre, Ballymount; 29 May and 5 June

[Occupational First Aid Re-Certification QQI level 5](#); NISO Training Centre, Ballymount; 15 June

[Occupational First Aid Certificate, FETAC Level 5](#); NISO Training Centre, Ballymount; 17 to 19 June

[VDU/DSE Assessors Course](#); NISO Training Centre, Ballymount; 6 July

[Manual Handling Basic Course](#); NISO Training Centre, Ballymount; July 2015

[Manual Handling Instructor and Assessor Course](#), QQI level 6 (5-day course); NISO Training Centre, Ballymount; September 2015

SEMINARS

NISO Safety Representation Seminar Series

Dundalk: 8 June 2015; 14.00hrs-17.00hrs; Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk

Athlone: 9 June 2015; 14.00hrs-17.00hrs; Prince of Wales Hotel, Athlone

Waterford: 15 June 2015; 14.00hrs-17.00hrs; Tower Hotel, The Mall, Waterford

Cork: 16 June 2015; 09.00hrs-12.00hrs; Oriel House Hotel, Ballincollig, Cork

Sligo: 22 June 2015; 14.00hrs-17.00hrs; Sligo Southern Hotel, Strandhill Road, Sligo

Dublin: 25 June 2015; 14.00hrs-17.00hrs; Red Cow Moran Hotel, Naas Road, Dublin 12

Limerick: 2 July 2015; 09.00hrs-12.00hrs; Greenhills Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick

Galway: 2 July 2015; 14.00hrs-17.00hrs; Oranmore Lodge Hotel, Oranmore, Galway

[Click here for more information and to book.](#)

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>

This email was sent to members, customers and persons who have enquired about services or products offered by the National Irish Safety Organisation and those who have previously subscribed. Should you wish to unsubscribe from all emails coming from NISO, please send an email to info@niso.ie with subject: Unsubscribe. Please allow up to seven days to be removed from our distribution lists.

NATIONAL IRISH SAFETY ORGANISATION, A11 Calmount Park, Ballymount, Dublin 12, Ireland

info@niso.ie ; Web: www.niso.ie