



# The Safety Observer



Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

October 2015 - Issue 14

Welcome to the October 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 31 August 2015.

Exclusively for members, our other publication, the quarterly NISO UPDATE, was circulated on 22 July last and the next edition is scheduled for mid October 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](mailto:info@niso.ie)>.

\* Corporate members only

## NISO NEWS

### NISO Safety Representation Conference

**Venue:** Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

**Date:** Friday, 23 October

[Visit the webpage for bookings and to view brochure.](#)

### NISO Annual Conference and Health and Safety Exhibition

#### Good Safety is Good Business

Ireland's premier health and safety event for safety professionals and business leaders.

**Venue:** Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Galway

**Date:** Friday, 2 October 2015

[Download the Conference Brochure.](#)

### NISO Safety Awards Presentation Dinner (SOLD OUT)

**Venue:** Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Galway

**Date:** Friday, 2 October 2015

**In this issue...**Irish News...UK News...Fatalities and Accidents...Publications/Guidance...Resources...Safety... NISO training and events...

## IRISH NEWS

### FARMING POLL: Deaths see 70% of farmers change work practices

According to a recent farming poll, 70% of respondents said they had changed their work practices in the past year in light of the rise in farm deaths — 31% strongly agreed with this assertion while 39% agreed.

However, 19% suggested they had made no change to their work practices in light of last year's high number of farm deaths.

<http://goo.gl/fBewmZ>

### Road Safety Authority has commercial vehicles in its sights

New technology to detect drivers of commercial vehicles and cars who may be in breach of the law is being piloted by the Road Safety Authority.

Information on hundreds of cars, including private cars, has been captured by automated number-plate recognition at checkpoints across the country as part of the project.

<http://goo.gl/MfyQc0>

### Injuries Board mid-year review 2015

The Injuries Board received 17,132 new claims in the first six months of the year representing a 7% increase on the 15,987 new claims received in the same six month period last year, according to a mid-year analysis. The Board recorded an increase of just 1% in new claims for the full year in 2014 bringing the total increase in new personal injury claims over the past 18 months to 8%.

<http://goo.gl/zMWWGg>

### **“Compo culture” and big payouts are leading to surge in premiums**

There has been a surge in compensation claims for accidents, due to more economic activity and a reawakening of the “claims culture”. A review of a number of court cases also shows a rise in the level of awards being made by judges and legal costs that end up being double what insurers had been expecting.

<http://goo.gl/yzTwLN>

### **Food Safety Authority of Ireland issues ten closure orders in August**

The FSAI served a total of 12 closure and prohibition orders for restaurants and takeaways during the month of August. The authority reported that ten closure orders and two prohibition orders were served on food businesses for breaches of food safety legislation.

Environmental health officers in the Health Service Executive (HSE) issued the orders following inspections of premises.

<http://goo.gl/wAcigH>

### **Teagasc to launch Farm Safety Code of Practice courses**

Teagasc will be holding a series of half-day Farm Safety Code of Practice Training Courses nationwide from October 2015 to March 2016.

<http://goo.gl/ND2TUD>

### **Garda doles out penalty points to misbehaving child cyclists**

A Community Garda has introduced the feared points system as part of her own safer cycling scheme, which is about to be rolled out in Ashbourne and other areas nationwide.

Under the novel programme, children from fourth class upwards receive their own “driving licence” and registration plate for the bike, but they face getting slapped with penalty points if they don’t follow three golden rules.

“If they don’t wear a helmet, follow the safe cross code and dismount from their bikes before entering school grounds, they get a penalty point,” Garda Connor explained.

<http://goo.gl/zZiafL>

### **Poolbeg incinerator firm faces €70,000 fine in US for “dangerous workplace”**

The company behind the controversial Poolbeg Incinerator, off Pidgeon House Road in Dublin, is facing a \$80,000 fine in the US for dangerous workplace practices.

The hazards were uncovered at a waste-to-energy facility in Bristol, Pennsylvania, similar to the €500m unit under construction in Dublin.

<http://goo.gl/axWlvA>

## **UK NEWS**

### **Ex-Dundee FC director’s company admits failings over worker’s death**

A company run by a former Dundee FC director of football is facing a massive fine after one of his workers suffered a horrific death in a chemical tank.

Diamond Wheels (Dundee) Ltd, owned and operated by Paul Marr, son of ex-Dark Blues owner Peter Marr, admitted a catalogue of health and safety failings over the death of Steven Conway at their premises in the city.

<http://goo.gl/o9B77o>

### **Health and Safety Executive informed after girl trapped in Brean rollercoaster**

A TEENAGE girl had to be rescued from theme park rollercoaster after becoming trapped.

Fire and ambulance crews were called to Brean Theme Park on Coast Road when a 15-year-old became trapped in the footwell of the rollercoaster car, needing emergency assistance.

<http://goo.gl/35VuWv>

### **Court fines Hugo Boss £1.2m after boy, 4, is crushed by 18-stone mirror**

Designer brand Hugo Boss has been fined £1.2m in England over the death of a four-year-old boy who was killed when an 18-stone mirror crushed him in a shop changing room.

<http://goo.gl/KX68zY>

## **FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS**

### **HSA investigating fatal workplace accident in Galway**

The Health and Safety Authority is investigating the scene of a workplace accident in Galway in which a man died. The incident happened on 11 September at a stone quarry when a lorry rolled back on top of the man, who was his 50s. It’s understood he died at the scene.

The Health and Safety Authority says it’s been made aware of the incident, and is sending an inspector to the scene.

<http://goo.gl/ukBJ6J>

#### **Two men injured as they fall 20ft from scaffolding in Antrim building site**

Two men have been taken to hospital with head injuries following a fall from scaffolding at a Co Antrim building site.

It is understood that the men fell from the scaffolding which was up to 20ft high.

The Health and Safety Executive is investigating the incident.

<http://goo.gl/sO6Z7F>

### **PUBLICATIONS / GUIDANCE**

#### **Dairy UK launches injury prevention guidance**

**Dairy UK has published a report on how to prevent injuries in the workplace, which will be made available to all dairy processing sites.**

**According to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), more than one third of injuries in the food and drink industry are due to slips and trips in the workplace. The report looks at how to prevent injuries due to slips and trips in dairy sites.**

<http://goo.gl/EYcKSK>

#### **EU-OSHA releases its comprehensive guide to EU funding in OSH**

If you are trying to identify funding sources for activities, initiatives or projects related to occupational safety and health (OSH), then look no further than the EU-OSHA funding guide.

Targeting EU-OSHA's stakeholders, the guide provides a comprehensive and up-to-date overview of European funding opportunities.

<https://goo.gl/ajvsBY>

### **RESOURCES**

#### **OSHWiki: connecting the OSH community**

OSHWiki is an ideal way to share specialised knowledge and collaborate online within the occupational safety and health (OSH) community.

OSHWiki articles are written by accredited OSH professionals and academics, but anyone can access OSHWiki free of charge to read a large variety of informative articles. Moreover the platform supports all languages, and some articles have already been written and translated by the OSHWiki community into languages other than English.

<https://goo.gl/K4p7UD>

#### **The HSA's BeSMART available in OSHWiki**

Interactive Risk Assessment tools are fashionable nowadays driven by a huge growth of digital technologies. Among the most popular in Europe, we find the Dutch RI&E (pioneering since 2004), Prevencion10 developed by INSHT in Spain and BeSMART by HSA in Ireland.

Some of these have been a source of inspiration for EU-OSHA's OiRA tools project with the common challenge of encouraging small companies to handle their occupational risks. These projects also enrich the know-how share and can help to develop new tools by country or sector.

<https://goo.gl/60j55D>

#### **RSA launches a series of new trailer booklets and videos**

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) has followed up on its booklet entitled Revised Standards for Agricultural Vehicles which was launched at last year's Ploughing Championships, with a new series of short "Show-Me-Tell-Me" series of booklets on the issues, for this year's Ploughing at the RSA stand.

The RSA is also using the occasion to draw attention to a number of further changes to vehicle width limits applicable to agricultural vehicles. These changes will also be effective from 1 January 2016.

<http://goo.gl/exyUxX>

### **SAFETY VIDEOS**

#### **Tackling electrical safety risks at work – a new Napo film**

There are simple precautions that can be taken to significantly reduce the risk of injury when working with or near electricity. "Napo in... Shocking situations" describes common electrical hazards and risks, and provides some preventive and safety tips. This film, like all Napo films, is designed to raise awareness about workplace risks, to promote discussion and to lead to safer working practices.

<https://goo.gl/oXVS5q>

#### **Powerful road safety ad shows a split second is all it takes**

A new advertisement from the Road Safety Authority shows the devastating effect that one split second spent texting while driving can have.

<http://goo.gl/ptnl17>

### **Silicosis must be stopped, says BOHS**

The BOHS is urging the construction industry to take decisive action to stop workers being exposed to silicosis.

This follows the release of a powerful new video testimony from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) which shows a silicosis sufferer telling his story to Dr David Fishwick, chief medical officer at the Health and Safety Laboratory.

Terry, a former stone mason, who suffers from the debilitating lung disease, describes how despite his high fitness level he has been left facing silicosis with devastating personal effects.

The video shows Terry describing how the "intense" work with stone dust in a small area created the "disastrous" conditions.

<http://goo.gl/tCOi6s>

### **Video: See if your tractor is road worthy**

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) launched a series of videos outlining the revised standards for agricultural vehicles, at the National Ploughing Championships this year.

The standards, which were announced last year, will apply to both new and existing vehicles from 1 January 2016.

<http://goo.gl/l5nSJJ>

## **TRAINING**

[VDU/DSE Assessors Course](#), Ballymount: 6 October

[Safe Pass, Kilkenny](#): 7 October

[Safe Pass, Ballymount](#): 9 & 10 October

[Safe Pass, Clonmel](#): 14 October

[Occupational First Aid Re-Certification](#), QQI L5: NISO Training Centre, Ballymount: 19 October

[Safe Pass, Cork](#): 18 October

[Manual Handling Instructor and Assessor Course, QQI L6](#): (5 days) November

## **SEMINARS AND EVENTS**

[NISO Annual Conference and Awards Presentation Dinner](#)

Good Safety is Good Business

Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Galway; 2 October

[NISO Safety Representation Conference](#)

Mullingar Park Hotel; 23 October

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](mailto:info@niso.ie)>

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