



The Safety Observer



Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

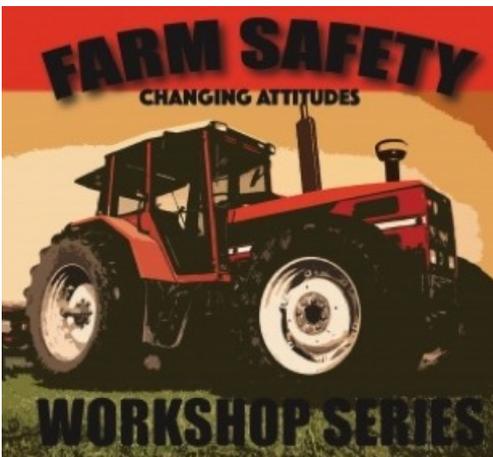
November/December 2015 - Issue 15

Welcome to the November/December 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 29 September 2015. Exclusively for members, our other publication, the quarterly NISO UPDATE, was circulated on 13 October last and the next edition is scheduled for mid January 2016.

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

NISO Workshop Series: Farm Safety - Changing Attitudes

NISO is hosting a nationwide series of workshops on Farm Safety - Changing Attitudes. Workshops will be taking place in Tralee, Athlone, Monaghan, Westport and Tullamore between November 2015 and February 2016.

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

NISO Safety Awards Workshops

NISO will be running a series of Safety Awards Workshops in the coming months, starting in [Cork on 1 December](#) and [Limerick on 2 December](#) [click on the links to book]. Further dates/venues will be available for bookings soon.

NISO/NISG ALL Ireland Safety Quiz 2016

Quiz season is almost here again. It's time to start getting ready for the Regional Heats! To register your interest in the 2016 All Ireland Safety Quiz, please send an email to info@niso.ie with "Quiz 2016" in the subject line.

In this issue... Irish News...UK News...EU News...US News...Fatalities and Accidents...Inquests...In the Courts...Research Reports...Statistics...Publications/Guidance...Safety Alerts...Safety Tidbits...Safety Videos...NISO Training and Events

IRISH NEWS

Farmers urged to stop and think about safety at recent All Ireland Farm Safety Conference

Farm workers were recently encouraged to stop and think about safety, and to take action to ensure safe working on their land, at an event staged by the Ireland and Northern Ireland branches of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH).

<https://goo.gl/blsnJi>

Transport minister rules out making cycle helmets compulsory

Speaking at the Road Safety Authority (RSA) annual academic road safety lecture, Minister for Transport, Paschal Donohoe, announced that there are no plans to make cycle helmets compulsory though they are proven to reduce serious injury. Cyclists without helmets are three times more likely to suffer head trauma, a recent study has found.

<http://goo.gl/NsfDrg>

Safe Driving Advice

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) has issued motoring advice for drivers in stormy conditions

<http://goo.gl/WpBl4P>

Clare GAA investigate gate dislodging incident during player clash

Clare GAA chiefs are investigating how a gate at Cusack Park became dislodged within feet of a child's buggy during an intermediate hurling championship semi-final replay. The incident occurred in the first half when a melee developed between players.

<http://goo.gl/ArgY1S>

Minister for Agriculture launches farm safety programme

A new farm safety programme "Safe Family Farms" was launched by Minister for Agriculture Simon Coveney earlier in November. The partnership between the *Irish Farmers Journal* and ESB Networks aims to deliver the safety message to prevent further injuries and accidents on Irish farms.

So far this year, 16 people have lost their lives on Irish farms, with 30 fatal incidents in 2014.

<http://goo.gl/VFMpt7>

No action against navy over asbestos exposure

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) will not prosecute the Naval Service after some of its personnel were exposed to asbestos during maintenance work onboard ships last year.

<http://goo.gl/lgXpAX>

Central medical unit in the Curragh described as a third world facility

The Defence Forces central medical unit has been described as "totally unfit for purpose." Delegates attending the PDforra conference heard the facility has a leaking roof, peeling paintwork, broken window panes, is totally understaffed and the subject of a litany of health and safety issues.

<http://goo.gl/GsrP7W>

HSA launches national farm safety multimedia competition

Students are invited to design a multimedia entry, such as: a video, app., social media campaign, website, animation or interactive game on farm safety and submit it for judging via the Authority's competition website www.choosefarmsafety.ie.

<http://goo.gl/pEY3DI>

School Transport Safety Campaign launched by Bus Eireann

The new campaign which aims to engage primary school students with the Belt-Up characters, "Buster and the Belt Ups", is endorsed by the Road Safety Authority, the INTO (Irish National Teachers Organisation), the National Parents Council (NPC), and the National Parents Council Post Primary (NCP PP).

<http://goo.gl/FZbahb>

Farm Relief Services raises €1,660 for Embrace FARM support network

A total of €1,660 was raised for Embrace FARM, the bereavement support network, at the recent Ploughing Championships.

<http://goo.gl/JvZBUf>

HSA promotes positivity at work

A positive working environment has tangible benefits both for companies and workers, according to a campaign launched in October to mark the European Week for Safety and Health at Work.

Run by the Health and Safety Authority here, the campaign focuses on the advantages of a positive working environment, which include increased productivity, lower rates of absenteeism due to ill-health and reduced staff turnover.

<http://goo.gl/seDvca>

Safety Certs should be key to farm payments

A former Ulster rugby captain and beef farmer raised the suggestion that all farmers applying for a farm payment should have to show they have completed a health and safety certificate at the recent All Island Farm Safety Conference in Co. Monaghan. This idea was backed by the HSA Senior Inspector Pat Griffin.

<http://goo.gl/tVfix9>

UK NEWS

Death of GAA footballer at concrete factory was "avoidable"

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland (HSENI) into the work place death, in September 2012, of a GAA footballer has found that the incident had been "avoidable".

<http://goo.gl/T66m8X>

How leaving the EU could affect health and safety in the UK

Findings of an extensive poll and the implications of leaving the EU discussed in depth.

<http://goo.gl/kqoUlh>

Criminal prosecutions brought by Health and Safety Executive have more than doubled in 2015

The number of criminal prosecutions for serious wrongdoing brought by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has jumped from 24 in 2012 to 52 in 2015, according to data obtained by online compliance business Cerico.

<http://goo.gl/G7kQdP>

HSE issues health warning to stone industry workers

The Health and Safety Executive is urging the stone industry to do more to protect workers' health after inspections in the South of England.

<http://goo.gl/j3mt9O>

Cattle are the most dangerous large animals in the UK, figures reveal

According to the Health and Safety Executive 74 people have been killed by cows in the past 15 years.

The HSE report found that the farm animals, which can weigh a tonne, typically crush, butt or trample victims to death, with walkers targeted

as they stroll on public footpaths through fields where cows are grazing. Eighteen of those killed by cows were ramblers and 56 were farm workers.
<http://goo.gl/N82xyS>

EUROPEAN NEWS

Seminar Report: Healthy Workplaces Summit 2015

This event is brought together leading European experts and decision makers to discuss the results of the 'Healthy workplaces manage stress' Campaign 2014-15, exchange good practices and explore future strategies for managing stress and psychosocial risks in European enterprises.

<https://goo.gl/TrHaC4>

Stress accounts for 60% of all lost days in the workplace

According to a study on work-related stress from the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, stress is the second most frequently reported work-related health problem in Europe, after musculoskeletal disorders.

<http://goo.gl/Anc0nq>

Reducing road deaths and injuries at work – five companies recognised

The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) has announced the 2015 winners of its PRAISE awards recognising organisations that have taken outstanding measures to improve road safety at work.

<http://goo.gl/rPI9y5>

Is your employer ready for the REACH 2018 deadline?

ECHA has published a leaflet informing workers in chemical companies about the upcoming 2018 REACH registration deadline. Workers are encouraged to check with their employer whether the chemical substances used in the workplace are intended to be registered by 2018.

<http://goo.gl/VM3qIS>

Priorities for occupational safety and health research in Europe for the years 2013–2020

EU-OSHA's report "Priorities for occupational safety and health research in Europe: 2013-2020" outlines the priorities for occupational safety and health (OSH) research for the coming years.

<https://goo.gl/fZOJHo>

Executive summary - Current and emerging occupational safety and health (OSH) issues in the healthcare sector, including home and community care

This report gives an overview of the current and emerging OSH issues for health- and social care workers and how these affect their safety and health at work and influence the quality of care they provide.

<https://goo.gl/fX9JcU>

US NEWS

US-Report on breast cancer risk for working women

A review of the scientific literature on women workers and breast cancer, released by the US Breast Cancer Fund, uncovered more than 20 occupations associated with increased risk of breast cancer compared to the risk for the general population. With the release of this report the Breast Cancer Fund launched an ongoing advocacy campaign that involves lawmakers, state and federal agencies, and consumers to decrease toxic exposures on the job.

<https://goo.gl/w7GAhw>

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

Body of farmer found on his farm in Co Galway

The Health and Safety Authority and gardaí are investigating the death of a farmer on his premises in north Galway.

The 59-year-old farmer is believed to have fallen through the roof of his shed and sustained fatal injuries.

<http://goo.gl/Ht0Kya>

Man (19) dies in Co Offaly farming accident

Gardaí and the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) are investigating the death of a 19-year-old man in a farming accident in Co Offaly. It's understood the accident involved a farming trailer. He was pronounced dead at the scene and his body was removed to the Midland Regional Hospital in Tullamore.

<http://goo.gl/qAvawY>

Two men die in separate incidents in Co Clare

Gardai are investigating the tragic deaths of two men in incidents involving heavy machinery that occurred within 24 hours in Clare in October.

<http://goo.gl/s9mtyf>

Young man fatally injured while working at pallet factory in Cork

Gardaí and the Health and Safety Authority begun separate investigations following the death of a teenager in a workplace incident in Co Cork in late October.

<http://goo.gl/Qw1Hjk>

INQUESTS

Inquest recommends secure fixings for stone fireplaces after boy's death

An inquest into the death of a five-year-old boy who died when a mantelpiece and fireplace came loose and fell on him has recommended a change in Irish building regulations to ensure stone fireplaces are securely fixed.

<http://goo.gl/IBlfr6>

Three brothers drowned after safety device failed to activate, Inquest finds

The brothers from Co Waterford died in June 2013 after the EPIRB (electronic position indicating radio beacon) device, which should have sent a beacon to the emergency services when their vessel ran into trouble, failed to go off.

<http://goo.gl/kH2qUJ>

IN THE COURTS

Coach tour company convicted on five charges

A coach tour company in Kerry has been convicted on five charges, including failing to provide tachograph records. The summonses were brought by the RSA under the European Communities, Road Transport, Working Conditions and Road Safety regulations. The company had no previous convictions and the maximum fine on each count was €5,000, with full discretion to mitigate.

<http://goo.gl/6AI2Zj>

RESEARCH REPORTS

Bullying in the Workplace: An Analysis of Cases at the Employment Appeals Tribunal under the Unfair Dismissals Acts (1977 - 2007)

DCU research looks at gender and outcomes of work-related bullying cases.

<http://goo.gl/1XmdlM>

RR1067 Case studies to demonstrate the practical application of the Leadership and Worker Involvement Toolkit (LWIT)

This research explored the use of the Leadership and Worker Involvement Toolkit by five construction small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to gain an understanding of how it is applied in practice and the associated benefits as well as challenges. The toolkit is available on the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE's) website to assist SME dutyholders in making health and safety (H&S) improvements through the adoption of leadership and worker involvement practices.

<http://goo.gl/LWEca5>

RR1066 The use and non-use of seat belts in the operation of forward tipping dumpers

Using semi-structured interviews to gauge the opinions of trainers, original equipment manufacturers, seat and seat belt manufacturers and FTD operators, this research aimed to better understand the reasons why FTD operators choose not to wear their seat belt when operating their machines.

<http://goo.gl/oLvwth>

RR1069 Establishing direct and contributory factors to the uncontrolled movement of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) during coupling and uncoupling

A number of fatal or major vehicle incidents are reported to the Health and Safety Executive and local authorities every year where heavy good vehicle drivers have been injured during the coupling and/or uncoupling of the tractor and the trailer unit. The study explored the factors that contribute to vehicle runaways using a multi-method approach.

<http://goo.gl/bls3Jo>

Risk of cancer from occupational exposure to ionising radiation: retrospective cohort study of workers in France, the United Kingdom, and the United States (INWORKS)

<http://goo.gl/rQvyVv>

Reducing road risk at work through procurement integrating safety requirements in the transport sector supply chain

This report gives an overview of public and private procurement in Europe, and looks at how procurement specialists can integrate specific requirements into their procedures that could reduce work related road risks.

<http://goo.gl/d4cVXM>

STATISTICS

Health and Safety Statistics - Annual Report for Great Britain 2014/15

The HSE has released its latest statistics on work-related illnesses, injuries and death in UK workplaces.

<http://goo.gl/hpyhkc>

PUBLICATIONS/GUIDANCE

Health and Safety Matters: The Health and Safety Authority Newsletter

Features:

Myths about Respiratory Protective Equipment

Construction Inspection campaign targets occupational health issues

European Safety Week

Driving for Work
Chemicals
<http://goo.gl/J4CKLR>

ECHA Newsletter

Features:
REACH 2018: the road ahead
New substance infocards - more useful and transparent information on chemicals
REACH 2018: How to get in contact with your co-registrants
ECHA Helpdesk's top tips: What do importers of chemicals need to know?
And lots more.
<http://goo.gl/MsR1cC>

HSA Working safely with bales on the farm Information Sheet

Farmers, Contractors and all on farms need to know and understand the risks involved when dealing with all types of bales.
<http://goo.gl/JM7Z2T>

Sexual harassment and violence in the workplace – explained in infographics

Two infographics show key data on these issues, explaining the concepts and highlighting the need to take these issues very seriously.
<https://goo.gl/XMFF53>

Managing risks from skin exposure at work

HSE UK: Many materials used at work can affect the skin or can pass through the skin and cause diseases elsewhere in the body. If you are an employer, health and safety adviser, trainer or safety representative, this book provides guidance to help you prevent these disabling diseases.
<http://goo.gl/WvNdjR>

Assessment of repetitive tasks of the upper limbs (the ART tool)

HSE UK: The assessment of repetitive tasks (ART) tool is designed to help you risk assess tasks that require repetitive moving of the upper limbs (arms and hands). It helps you assess some of the common risk factors in repetitive work that contribute to the development of upper limb disorders (ULDs).
<http://goo.gl/PWKN1y>

SAFETY ALERTS

Safety Alert: Hook Loader Skip Lorry

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) is issuing an urgent warning to owners and operators of hook loader skip lorries primarily used in the waste disposal/recycling and construction sectors. This follows an incident where the rear beam of hook loader skip lorry collapsed without warning during maintenance work beneath the rear beam.
<http://goo.gl/3Ddnr>

Hazards of Electrically Powered Gates

This Safety Alert is issued after a serious incident in 2015 where a person was trapped and fatally injured by an electrically powered gate. If powered gates have been installed in your workplace, they can present a very real danger of entrapment and crushing of adults or children, which could lead to serious injury or death. This danger is particularly acute if the gate can be operated remotely from a mobile phone or fob, without the operator having sight of the gate opening or closing.
<http://goo.gl/4J6rjC>

Safety Alert for Working from MEWPs / Working Platforms Near or Over Water

The Health and Safety Authority issued this safety alert to highlight the need for stringent health and safety procedures when working at height above or near to water.
<http://goo.gl/JP2ibB>

SAFETY TIDBITS

Urinating dogs could force closure of postbox

The British Royal Mail is threatening to close a post box for "health and safety" reasons - as dogs keeps urinating on it.
<http://goo.gl/iRUIXc>

Call for ban on perfume and aftershave from hospital wards

According to two Canadian doctors, perfume and aftershaves should be banned from hospital wards on health and safety grounds. Evidence suggests they run the risk of aggravating asthma and other allergy conditions, they claim.
<http://goo.gl/WAawGt>

Health and safety is not a trap, so don't get caught

The Health and Safety Executive (UK) has been keen to lay to rest some of the more bizarre myths that have grown around the field of Health and Safety.

<https://goo.gl/l8WPy9>

Britain's most dangerous jobs

Figures from confused.com website reveal nearly a quarter of Brits have been injured in the course of their work.

<http://goo.gl/0N4JhO>

Cannabis farmers arrested after €1.4m haul but Internet more concerned with 'shocking' health and safety

A photograph of a 'nest' of cables unearthed in a cannabis sting is being shared widely online.

<http://goo.gl/FRBVFfs>

SAFETY VIDEOS

New ad campaign launched by RSA entitled Anatomy of a Split Second

The video aims to highlight the dangers of using mobile phones when driving, with research showing that texting while driving makes you up to 23 times more likely to crash.

<http://goo.gl/dzPxhN>

RSA launches series of videos outlining the revised standards for agricultural vehicles

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

<http://goo.gl/AEauyL>

What it's like to be a cyclist on the busy roads of Dublin

<http://goo.gl/jMfHLt>

TRAINING

[Safe Pass, Ballymount](#): 20 & 27 December

[Safe Pass, Kilkenny](#): 2 December

[Safe Pass, Cork](#): 09 December

[Safe Pass, Clonmel](#): 16 December

NISO Workshop Series: Farm Safety - Changing Attitudes

[Fels Point Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry](#): 30 November

[Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry, Co. Galway](#): 20 January

[The Hillgrove Hotel Leisure & Spa, Co. Monaghan](#): 27 January

[Castlecourt Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo](#): 17 February

[Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly](#): Date TBC

Visit niso.ie for updates on the **NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Quiz 2016** and the **Safety Awards Workshops**.

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

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