



The Safety Observer



Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

July 2016 - Issue 19

Welcome to the July 2016 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 magazine, was circulated on 27 April last and the next edition for NISO members is scheduled for mid July 2016. The last edition of Safety Observer was distributed on 1 June 2016.

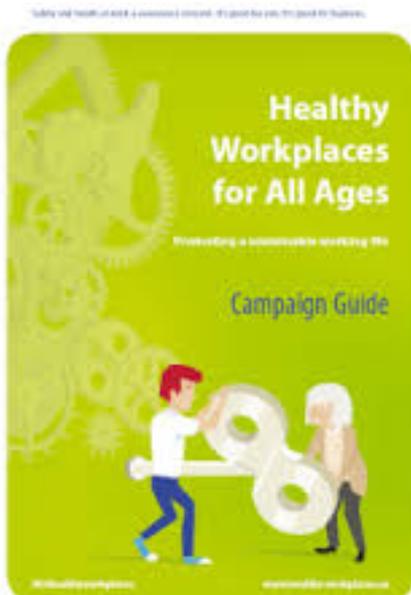
NISO NEWS

Upcoming Safety Awards

Here is a round up of upcoming occupational health and safety awards.

NISO Safety Representative of the Year Award in association with The CPL Institute.

[Further information](#)



CSP Construction Safety Representative Award

[Further information](#)

CSP Construction Safety/Health Innovation Award

[Further information](#)

Healthy Workplaces Good Practice Awards

[Further information](#)

PRAISE AWARDS presented by the European Transport Safety Council

[Further information](#)



We are now also sending The Safety Observer to all contacts within

member organisations for which we have an email address. Want additional employees added to our distribution list*, or to check the listing for your organisation, call 01 465 9760 or email info@niso.ie.

*Corporate members only

[In this issue...](#) [Safety news...](#) [Fatalities and accidents...](#) [Publications...](#) [Code of Practice...](#) [Guidance...](#) [Resources...](#) [Research...](#) [Research Reports...](#) [Statistics...](#) [Safety blogs and opinion...](#) [Safety tidbits...](#) [Safety alerts...](#) [Safety in pictures...](#) [Safety videos...](#) [Safety apps...](#) [NISO training and events...](#)

IRISH NEWS

HSA Annual Report and Statistics Summary 2015

The Health and Safety Authority has published its Annual Report for 2015 and Statistics Summary for 2014–2015. There were 10,880 workplace inspections and investigations carried out in 2015, with over half of these targeting the agriculture (3,056) and construction (3,932) sectors. The manufacturing sector received the third highest number of inspections with 1,108 carried out.

<http://goo.gl/CFyaDI>

Eighty per cent of farm deaths in 2016 associated with farm vehicles and machinery

Teagasc have called for higher safety vigilance on farms, particularly around farm vehicles and machinery. Five people, representing 80% of the total number of farm fatalities in 2016, lost their lives in accidents involving farm vehicles and machinery compared with six in 2015 and twelve with 2014.

<https://goo.gl/2wEyWz>

Agriculture accounts for highest number of work place fatalities

According to the HSA's Annual Report, self-employed workers made up a disproportionate amount of fatalities in the workplace in 2015.

Twenty-one of the workplace 56 fatalities in 2015 involved self-employed persons.

<http://goo.gl/GPy0qV>

Twenty building sites sent material containing asbestos

Twenty building sites in Co Wicklow and Dublin were supplied with material contaminated with a cancer-causing mineral from a local quarry.

<http://goo.gl/xl4krR>

Warning over risky behaviour at level crossings

Iarnród Éireann has said there were 89 incidents at level crossings around the country in 2015 which resulted in a vehicle, person or property being struck by a train or barrier.

<http://goo.gl/LM6TCH>

Farm safety and fire advice for farmers

To reduce farm deaths, Teagasc has asked farmers to take more caution when working with machinery, while Bord na Móna and the Fire Service warns that the countryside is now exposed to a high risk of fire.

<http://goo.gl/KPQS6S>

Sixty per cent of farmers classified as overweight or obese

Some 60% of farmers are classified as "overweight or obese" compared to 50% of the Irish population while among farmers, just 27% believed that they were too heavy, a new study has found.

<https://goo.gl/whmtCA>

Major farm safety event planned for Beef 2016

A major practical health and safety exhibit will take place as part of the Teagasc National Beef Open Day – Beef 2016 – on Tuesday, July 5 at the Research and Innovation Centre, Grange, Co. Meath.

<https://goo.gl/LCYtLZ>

UK NEWS

Firm fined £1 million after young worker killed by exploding tyre

A Kent tyre company has been sentenced for safety failings after a 21-year-old male employee was killed when a tyre exploded.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the deceased was working on his own with inadequate work equipment which was not properly maintained. He was not trained or competent to undertake the work he was told to complete.

<http://goo.gl/PIulhJ>

Scottish power firm fined £1.75m after worker seriously scalded

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) into the incident which happened in October 2013 found that firm were aware of the defect which caused the injuries but did not ensure appropriate steps were taken to either repair or remove the defective valve from use.

<http://goo.gl/RBi8Xu>

Zoo pleads guilty to tiger death health and safety breaches

A UK Zoo has pleaded guilty to health and safety breaches after a female keeper was killed by a tiger. The zoo admitted that it failed to ensure the health, safety and welfare at work of employees and to failing to ensure that persons not in its employment at the date of the incident were not exposed to risk to their health and safety.

<http://goo.gl/KaGIig>

BT fined £500k after engineer breaks his back in fall

British Telecom plc (BT) has been fined £500,000 after an engineer fell seven metres from a loft in London, breaking his back and his ankles. The company faced fines of £600,000 last month for two further falls from height.

<http://goo.gl/vGRYSq>

Farmers to face prison and unlimited fines for health and safety breaches

Farmers are being urged to ensure they are properly insured ahead of the introduction of tougher new penalties for businesses convicted of corporate manslaughter and other health and safety offences.

<http://goo.gl/rFefAW>

Wear helmets on quad bikes, pleads UK farm safety chief

An agriculture safety chief has urged farmers not to ignore simple life-saving advice to wear helmets when riding quad bikes.

<http://goo.gl/GmDAvC>

UK claims enviable workplace safety record

Although criticised by some, stringent workplace safety rules have enabled the UK to claim one of the best safety records in Europe.

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

EUROPEAN NEWS

Accidents with agricultural vehicles: harmonised reporting to boost safety in Europe

CEMA welcomes the adoption of a new European standard that will harmonise reporting on accidents with agricultural vehicles and calls on EU Member States to implement the new template. The final Draft FprEN 16831 was largely approved by the European standardisation body CEN and the official EN standard will be published in the coming next months. It is the first standard of its kind to harmonise the way accidents involving agricultural vehicles are evaluated and reported.

<http://goo.gl/793zvr>

EU-OSHA's Annual report 2015: adapting to change and the risks and challenges this brings

EU-OSHA's Annual report 2015 highlights the Agency's key activities of the year. Its flagship projects all experienced successes: the first findings of ESENER-2 were released, the OiRA project was awarded a Best Practice Certificate, and the Healthy Workplaces Summit in Bilbao marked the close of the Manage Stress campaign.

<https://goo.gl/TQftr6>

Cuts to police enforcement across Europe doubly damaging for road safety

Declines in the level of police enforcement of traffic offences are contributing to Europe's failure to cut the numbers dying in road collisions, according to the European Transport Safety Council.

<http://goo.gl/bE1PHO>

Over 100 partners across Europe committed to Healthy Workplaces for All Ages

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) has confirmed the first wave of official campaign and media partners to join its 2016–17 pan-European campaign, Healthy Workplaces for All Ages. The first wave of official campaign partners to get on board is largely made up of organisations that have renewed their commitment following their successful participation in the 2014–15 Healthy Workplaces Manage Stress campaign. They stand to benefit from the many advantages that the partnership offers including increased visibility, campaign tools and materials, networking and learning exchange.

<https://goo.gl/DbTviS>

PRAISE AWARDS 2016

Apply now for the PRAISE awards: Showcasing the organisations that are leading on road safety.

<http://goo.gl/a7umHO>

GENERAL SAFETY NEWS

Alcohol a factor in almost four in ten road deaths, RSA report shows

A recent Road Safety Authority (RSA) report found that alcohol plays a part in almost 40% of all road deaths, according to a new report. The RSA Fatal Collisions Report analysed figures from all fatal collisions between 2008 and 2012.

<http://goo.gl/EJK75T>

Public health warning: Bounce Energy Balls recalled

The Food Safety Authority have confirmed that Bounce Energy Balls which are sold in health food shops and gyms across the country have been recalled because of safety fears as experts believe may contain meningitis-causing bacteria.

<http://goo.gl/aZzs67>

Nine hundred children were poisoned by "liquitabs" over five years

A warning about the brightly coloured 'liquitabs' was made at the National Poisons Centre, in Beaumont Hospital, Dublin. More than 900 poisoning incidents involving children who bit into liquid detergent capsules have been reported in the past five years.

<http://goo.gl/SHfPmQ>

Cycling-related injuries are under-reported

If all the hospital data in Ireland were to be analysed, the total number of cycling injuries presenting to Irish hospitals would be much higher than current Road Safety Authority (RSA) data trends suggest, the authors of a recent study concluded.

<http://goo.gl/WqEPxK>

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

Man in early 20s dies on stud farm

A young man in his early 20s died following an accident on a stud farm in Co Tipperary. Another man in his mid-20s sustained injuries and was taken to Cork University Hospital.

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

Man dies in farming accident in Cork

A farm death occurred in Cork after a man fell when the roof he was standing on collapsed. The Gardaí and the Health and Safety Authority are understood to be investigating the incident.

<https://goo.gl/XxKRhT>

Man dies in tractor accident in Co. Meath

A man was killed in a farm accident in Co. Meath. According to a spokesperson from the HSA, the deceased appeared to have been spreading manure when he "became trapped between a JCB and a tractor". Gardaí and the HSA are investigating the fatality.

<http://goo.gl/z8wIRp>

PUBLICATIONS

Crystalline Silica Dust Information Sheet

Crystalline silica is widely found in nature. Occupational exposure to crystalline silica dust occurs in many industries.

<http://goo.gl/6OrDv4>

Watch Your Step - Preventing Vehicle Related Slips, Trips and Falls Information Sheet

This information sheet will help you understand the causes of vehicle STFs and what you can do to prevent them.

<http://goo.gl/ne86vU>

Manual Handling Risk Reduction for the Transport and Logistics Sector

This information sheet highlights the physical risks associated with manual handling in the transport and logistics sector. Examples of risk reduction measures that could be considered appropriate in different workplace settings are illustrated, but is by no means an exhaustive list of possible solutions.

<http://goo.gl/feCqAL>

Safe Working with Diesel Engine Exhaust Information Sheet

Diesel engines power many machines and vehicles including trucks, buses, private vehicles, farm machinery and construction equipment. Such vehicles and equipment are also potential sources of exposure to diesel exhaust fumes in the workplace. This information sheet will help you understand the composition of the exhaust, its health effects, and ways to assess and prevent exposure.

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

HSE UK: CONSTRUCTION INFONET

Construction Infonet is a free eBulletin from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to provide a regular update on health and safety issues for all in the construction industry.

<https://goo.gl/R9Zccs>

HSE Biocides e-Bulletin June 2016

ECHA's Open invitations following withdrawal of 6-(phthalimido)peroxyhexanoic acid (PAP) for product types 3 and 4.

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has published an open invitation, which allows interested companies to take over the role of participant for the above active substance/product type combinations. Interested companies should complete the notification procedure in Article 17 of the Review Regulation by the 27 April 2017.

Notifications should be submitted to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), via R4BP.

<https://goo.gl/PSrbOr>

infoIRSST: News About Research June 2016

In this edition:

- Safety App: Preventing Falls from Height - App for designing a fall protection system
- Protective Gloves: New models in the Protective Gloves Selection Guide
- National Physiotherapy Month (Canada) - Preventing work-related musculoskeletal disorders
- Mental Health at Work - The harmful effects of occupational stress

<http://goo.gl/ANioOH>

CODE OF PRACTICE

Code of Practice for Safety in Roofwork

This code of practice gives practical guidance to roofing companies, clients, designers, project supervisors (design and construction stages), safety representatives, safety consultants, advisors and anyone carrying out roofwork.

<http://goo.gl/LOYIzI>

Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger from Underground Services

This Code of Practice is a result of a joint initiative between the Health and Safety Authority, Construction Industry Federation, Irish Congress of Trade Unions, key utility companies/service providers and local authorities that are involved in the provision and maintenance of vital underground services. It provides practical guidance to assist in complying with safety, health and welfare legislation requiring that adequate precautions are taken in any excavation, shaft, earthwork, underground works or tunnel to avoid risk to persons at work arising from possible

underground dangers. It replaces the Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger from Underground Services issued by the Authority in 2005.

<http://goo.gl/IJRIGW>

Code of Practice for the Chemical Agents Regulations 2016

This Code of Practice transposes the provisions of Commission Directive 2000/39/EC establishing a first list of IOELVs in implementation of Council Directive 98/24/EC on the protection of the health and safety of workers from the risks related to chemical agents at work.

<http://goo.gl/9H6JxM>

GUIDANCE

How to look after yourself at the mart

Advice from the Health and Safety Authority and Teagasc on staying safe in the often chaotic atmosphere of a livestock mart.

<https://goo.gl/LlyunZ>

UK: Safe management of ammonia systems guide

A new guide to replace the HSE's now withdrawn guide to managing ammonia refrigeration systems has been developed by refrigeration and health and safety experts in the UK.

<http://goo.gl/FVHCp6>

E-guide on managing safety and health at work for an ageing workforce

EU-OSHA has released an e-guide on managing health and safety at work for an ageing workforce. Whether you're an employer, worker, human resources manager or OSH professional, the e-guide has something for you. Simply select your profile and discover more.

<https://goo.gl/4ibqx7>

Sharps inspection initiative 2015/16

Healthcare workers can be at risk of exposure to blood borne viruses (BBVs) due to the nature of their work. An inspection initiative was carried out in 2015/16 to identify any common causes of non-compliance with legislation designed to protect staff from the risk of exposure to BBVs.

<http://goo.gl/m26f18>

Health Hazards: Chemicals

All chemicals we use can potentially cause harm to our health so its very important that we understand what those hazards are and how to prevent exposure. There are four main classes of health hazard namely corrosive, toxic, harmful and irritant. These are then sub-divided into different categories depending on the degree of danger and assigned specific hazard statements.

<http://goo.gl/IFwSIG>

RESOURCES

The challenge of safety and health in micro and small enterprises: what can be done?

In a project looking at micro and small enterprises (MSEs) — the size group most at risk of occupational accidents and ill-health in Europe — EU-OSHA identifies how policies, strategies and practical solutions can improve the occupational safety and health (OSH) in these enterprises.

<https://goo.gl/DcBjCQ>

Project to help keep kids safe launched by UK security firm

A community initiative that aims to protect primary school children from serious harm on building sites has taken off in a big way.

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

RESEARCH

Inspection Process Survey - Research Report

This report provides details of a representative quota controlled sample of 1,000 businesses who received a Health and Safety Authority (HSA) inspection visit in 2015. The aim of the survey was to understand the experience and rating of the HSA Inspection Service.

<http://goo.gl/ZUn9vb>

Higher intake of whole grains associated with lower risk of major chronic diseases

Whole grain consumption and risk of cardiovascular disease, cancer, and all cause specific mortality: systematic review and dose-response meta-analysis of prospective studies

<http://goo.gl/BPIDnW>

Female workers highlight problems with ill-fitting protective equipment

Women are still encountering difficulties with ill-fitting personal protective equipment at work causing discomfort and putting their safety at risk, according to a Prospect survey.

<http://goo.gl/wnwQPP>

RESEARCH REPORTS

RR1036 Rewriting the PIPIN code to use a Monte Carlo solution approach

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) uses a fracture mechanics model, PIPIN (PIPeline INtegrity model), to predict the likelihood of failure if a buried pipeline is struck by machinery (known as third party activity or TPA). This report details the

fracture mechanics within PIPIN, the Monte Carlo method and the process used to derive failure frequencies by specified hole sizes.

<http://goo.gl/S4Lut8>

RR1037 Science updates to HSE's PIPeline INtegrity model (PIPIN)

The science underlying the Third Party Activity (TPA) model, a predictive model that used structural reliability techniques to predict the failure frequency of major hazard pipelines, has undergone a peer review with a number of recommendations made for improvements. HSE asked the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) to investigate the recommendations of the peer review and ascertain which recommendations improved the scientific basis of the model.

<http://goo.gl/Pbf43u>

RR1038 Data updates to HSE's PIPeline INtegrity model (PIPIN)

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) uses the PIPIN (PIPeline INtegrity) model to determine failure frequencies of major hazard pipelines. The Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) used statistical techniques to determine the damage data distributions that provide the best fit to UKOPA (UK Onshore Pipeline Operators' Association) data. The strike rates were also updated using the same dataset. The effect of the revised data on a set of 584 pipelines has been investigated and it has been shown that the failure rates are reduced in the majority of cases.

<http://goo.gl/FMg1mL>

RR1039 Summary of the rewrite of HSE's PIPeline INtegrity (PIPIN) model

The effect of the revised model on the results generated from a set of 584 pipelines has been investigated and it was shown that the combined effect of all the modifications is to reduce the failure rates, on average, for all hole sizes compared to the original model.

<http://goo.gl/zhw4Ue>

STATISTICS

At 1 July 2016, 17 persons were killed in workplace accidents since 1 January 2016.

<http://goo.gl/S42irB>

SAFETY BLOG/OPINION

Learn lessons from safety - it's time to focus on health

The HSE UK's Chief Medical Adviser explains why effective management of workplace health risks is just as important as addressing the potential immediacy of safety issues.

<http://goo.gl/j0DyVe>

Taking the field - Obligations on employers under the new UK Control of Electromagnetic Fields at Work Regulations 2016

From next month, employers will be required to consider specifically the risks posed to their employees by electromagnetic fields (EMFs).

<http://goo.gl/a25UTM>

Labelling solutions for agrochemical safety (UK)

Information regarding Denny Bros' labelling solutions to help reduce the risk of injury to farmers and their employers from using agrochemicals.

<http://goo.gl/Z0kDJ2>

Personalising health and safety helped strengthen safety culture

Personalising health and safety was one way an FMCG leader was able to strengthen the strong people-first culture in two companies he was responsible for.

<http://goo.gl/jd8I55>

Workplace health and safety tips for nurses

A healthy work environment is empowering for both employees and the administrators. It creates a culture of safety, which is paramount for performance. While it applies to every industry, it is especially true for the health care sector.

<http://goo.gl/e0wAuj>

Opinion: Don't we all have the same goal when it comes to health and safety?

HR and OHS should be singing from the same hymn sheet but far too many organisations are missing the trick on this holistic approach.

<http://goo.gl/9hYFpK>

SAFETY TIDBITS

Ban on carnival bunting over health and safety fears

Organisers of a carnival in Cornwall have been told colourful bunting could be banned over health and safety fears. For decades Lostwithiel Carnival has hung the traditional decorations over several streets in the town with no incidents or injuries recorded. But Cornwall Council has now deemed the flags too dangerous to put up without meeting a list of strict conditions.

<http://goo.gl/RCZMmQa>

The HSE strikes back! Star Wars film producers prosecuted

A film production company is to be prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive UK for an incident in which the actor Harrison Ford was injured during filming of Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens.

<http://goo.gl/eQ1mnC>

SAFETY ALERTS

Safety Alert Relating to the Use of Chain Flail or Other Non-Standard Cutting Attachments on Brush Cutters (2016)

This safety alert, originally published in 2010, has been re-issued as it has come to the attention of the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) that Non –Standard flail brush cutter trimmer heads have been on sale recently. These attachments are extremely dangerous and should not be supplied or used. The safety alert is directed at suppliers and users of portable, hand-held, brush cutters and accessories. These machines are commonly used for cutting wild grass, weeds, brush and similar vegetation, using a variety of standard cutting attachments. They are frequently utilised in landscape maintenance and ground-clearance operations.

<http://goo.gl/Fj7j6Y>

SAFETY IN PICTURES

Fish processing firm fined £500,000 after man killed by falling boxes

A UK company has been fined £500,000 after an employee suffered fatal injuries when a stack of boxes of frozen fish fell on him. An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive into the incident found there was no safe system of work or instruction to staff on how pallets should be stored.

<http://goo.gl/FFKQii>

SAFETY VIDEOS

Video: RSA advice on dealing with an unattended level crossing

The Road Safety Authority has released a series of videos to prevent accidents at unattended level crossings.

<http://goo.gl/KdtggN>

Healthy Workplaces for All Ages campaign video

Want to discover what the Healthy Workplaces for All Ages campaign is all about? Then watch EU-OSHA's new campaign video. A bright and colourful animated film, it summarises the key messages of the campaign.

<https://goo.gl/Wu8Wyr>

Napo discovers the "key ingredients" for a sustainable working life

From ergonomic positions and correct lifting procedures to training workers of all ages and return-to-work initiatives, Napo shows us the importance of managing risks from the beginning of a worker's career to its close. He also reminds us that we need to tackle age discrimination whenever it occurs. The overarching message? Good safety and health management is good for business.

<https://goo.gl/BuxeAY>

SAFETY APPS

Preventing falls from height : App for Designing a Fall Protection System

Intended as much for engineers designing new active fall protection systems as for prevention officers wanting to review the compliance of existing systems, the app can be used to design horizontal lifeline systems (HLSs), also called flexible continuous anchorage systems.

<http://goo.gl/wvqsX2>

Big Red Button - "Get Connected. Stay Safe"

Big Red Button is a personal safety support service on your phone giving you immediate access to 24/7 effective support and peace of mind whenever you decide you need it.

<https://goo.gl/VsBFFX>

NISO TRAINING AND EVENTS

[NISO Safe Pass Training](#)

Dublin: NISO Training Centre, A11 Calmount Park, Ballymount, Dublin 12; 8, 15 July

Cork: Clayton Hotel Silver Springs, Cork; 13 July; 10 August

Kilkenny: Springhill Court Hotel; 20 July; 17 August

Clonmel: Clonmel Park Hotel, Co. Tipperary; 6 July; 3 August

NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12

[Manual Handling Basic](#) (half day); 7 July

[Manual Handling Instructor](#) (5 day); 18-20 & 25-26 July

[Hand Arm Vibration Risk Assessment and Management Training](#) (2 day); 21-22 July

[Introduction to Health and Safety for the Non Safety Specialist](#) (2 day); 2-3 August

[Safety Representation](#) NISO Certification (2 days); 8-9 August

[VDU/DSE Assessor](#) (1 day); 12 August

[Risk Assessment](#) QQI Level 5, (4 day); 15-18 August

[IOSH Managing Safely](#) (4 day); 29 August to 1 September

[Occupational First Aid](#) (3 day); 12-15 September

NISO Events

Diary Date: [NISO Annual Conference and Safety Awards Dinner](#); 7 October, Killarney





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National Irish Safety Organisation
A11 Calmount Park
Ballymount
Dublin 12, D12 EH21,
Ireland

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