



The Safety Observer



Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

September 2016 - Issue 20

Welcome to the September 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 2 August last and the next edition for NISO members is scheduled for mid October 2016. The last edition of Safety Observer was distributed on 1 July 2016.



NISO News

53rd Annual Conference, Trade Exhibition and Awards Dinner

Friday, 7 October 2016, The Malton Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

[Learn more](#)

Last chance to enter upcoming safety awards

[Safety Representative of the year](#)

[Good Practice Awards](#)

Workplace Wellbeing Masterclass

Dublin: 15 September

Waterford: 19 September

Limerick: 26 October

[Learn More](#)

Safe Working at Height Workshop

Galway: 12 September

Dublin: 14 September

[Learn More](#)

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

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IRISH NEWS

Agriculture accounts for highest number of workplace fatalities

The health and safety authority finds that 21 of 56 fatalities in 2015 involved self-employed persons.

<http://goo.gl/zmRWbb>

HSA publishes 2015 Annual Report and Statistics Summary

Bulk of inspections carried out in high risk agriculture and construction sectors.

<http://goo.gl/To9sga>

New measures could see drink-drivers having to resit their tests

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) is looking to bring in new measures to combat drink-driving among young people and in rural areas.

The body says drivers who have been convicted of drink-driving may have to take their test again.

<http://goo.gl/BvPiOo>

HSA emphasise education in three-year farm safety action plan

A drive to change cultural behaviour in farmers through education is one of the key components of the Health and Safety Authority's three-year action plan to save lives and reduce injuries on farms.

<http://goo.gl/G60SLs>

HSA funding for farm safety initiatives cut by over €150,000 for 2016

The Health and Safety Authority has allocated a budget of €244,000 for 2016 for farm safety initiatives, according to the Minister of State at the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Pat Breen. This figure is down on the funding allocated in 2015, which stood at €396,251 – a decrease of €152,251.

<http://goo.gl/vQbtnq>

Construction occupational health inspection campaign findings

Findings from the HSA's one-week campaign that focused on the prevention of occupational ill-health when working on construction sites. During this week, 302 inspections were carried out.

<http://goo.gl/LLU5BS>

Ministerial support for improving farm safety

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Michael Creed declared his intention in Seanad Eireann "to be a vocal advocate for safety and vigilance in order to ensure our farms are the safest working environments possible."

<http://goo.gl/Ftwpt7>

Construction Safety Week launched

The Construction Safety Partnership Advisory Committee has launched Construction Safety Week which will be taking place from 12-16 September. The week will see a series of week-long initiatives run across construction sites and offices nationally. The aim is to help construction companies establish a safety mindset amongst their employees.

NISO is hosting two Safe Working at Height Workshops during construction week. See Upcoming Training and Events at the end of this newsletter for details.

<http://goo.gl/ORuWV7>

Berkeley families call for sweeping changes to building safety laws

The families of six students who died in the Berkeley balcony tragedy want Californian legislators to study building safety laws from New Zealand and Japan.

<http://goo.gl/UsCGGX>

Cutbacks blamed for drop in HSA workplace inspections

Figures show the number of inspections and investigations carried out by the HSA fell considerably from 15,340 in 2011 to a low of 10,719 in 2014. The HSA lost 12 inspectors between 2011 and 2015.

<http://goo.gl/pfMKls>

More emphasis to be placed on farmer health and fitness

Farmers need to place more emphasis on their health for quality of life and farm-production reasons.

<http://goo.gl/V7RnZ0>

A year on, no report on cause of Limerick bridge tragedy

Almost a year after the tragic accident which claimed the lives of two workers at Thomond Bridge in Limerick city, the families are still awaiting the completion of a report into the cause of the incident.

<http://goo.gl/6vxVy5>

UK NEWS

Firms fined £815,000 after worker fatally crushed by refuse collection vehicle

Two companies were fined a total of £815,000 after a worker and father-to-be was crushed to death by a refuse collection vehicle.

<http://goo.gl/ATMCwK>

Deaths in construction industry increased by almost 25% in 2015

The number of workers killed while carrying out their jobs in the UK construction industry rose by almost 23 per cent last year, according to new data.

Provisional figures released by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) shows 43 workers died onsite in 2015/16 - up from 35 worker deaths in 2014/15 – to equal the average for the previous five years.

<http://goo.gl/RofySA>

Five fatalities in recycling plant accident

Five men have died after a wall collapsed at a recycling plant in Birmingham. Police said all five victims were pronounced dead at the scene of the industrial accident.

<http://goo.gl/PKFYR6>

Scottish Power appeals against £1.75m health and safety fine

Energy firm Scottish Power is to appeal the £1.75m fine they were handed after a worker suffered steam burns at a Power Station.

<http://goo.gl/mEF7IF>

Steel plant fined £2m after site accidents

A steel plant has been ordered to pay more than £2m after two workers suffered serious injuries at one of its plants.

<http://goo.gl/5X8aSi>

EUROPEAN NEWS

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

The first wave of official campaign partners have joined the 2016-17 Healthy Workplaces for All Ages campaign which focuses on sustainable working lives and healthy ageing. By joining the campaign, organisations can lead by example and be at the forefront of implementing practical solutions for age management in the workplace. The campaign partners benefit from increased visibility, campaign tools and materials, networking and learning exchange.

<http://goo.gl/05TOuG>

US NEWS

Auto parts manufacturer faces \$3.42M in fines

An Ohio-based auto parts manufacturer faces \$3.42M in fines after OSHA finds company willfully exposed temporary workers to machine hazards. The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued 57 citations for safety violations to the company. The fines assessed are one of the largest OSHA penalties ever filed against a company in the automotive parts industry.

<http://goo.gl/XTeM58>

GENERAL SAFETY NEWS

Paralympian told to leave concert early as wheelchair a "H&S risk"

A British Paralympian was told to leave a Rihanna concert 10 minutes early because she was a "health and safety risk" in her wheelchair. The incident is being investigated by the event organisers.

<http://goo.gl/pScSx3>

3,000 cars unfit for the road

More than 3,000 cars undergoing the NCT in the first half of this year were deemed unfit for the road. A total of 822,001 vehicles were tested from

January to June 2016.

<http://goo.gl/wYNCwa>

Consultations on extending Dublin city's 30km/h speed limit

A proposal to extend Dublin's 30km/h speed limit to all residential roads between the canals went to public consultation today. The change is supported by council officials and councillors who say it will improve road safety but the Automobile Association has said it could be counter-productive.

<http://goo.gl/ZQjrU4>

Beef ravioli recalled over fears the food contains rubber

A supermarket chain has recalled its beef ravioli over fears that it may contain pieces of rubber. The food safety alert was issued on the Food Safety Authority of Ireland's website in relation to the 400g pack of Beef Ravioli with an expiry date of December 2018.

<http://goo.gl/glZVya>

Road Safety Authority urges Pokemon Go players to be careful

Chief Executive of the Road Safety Authority, Moyagh Murdock, has advised Pokémon Go players to be careful. Her words come after an inquest report that a 15-year-old girl died after stepping out in front of a truck while using her mobile phone.

<http://goo.gl/zdlktq>

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

Tragic death of eight-year-old girl in farm accident

An eight-year-old girl was fatally injured in an accident involving a tractor in Co. Mayo. Gardaí and the HSA have launched separate investigations into the death.

<http://goo.gl/rQHVFQ>

Fatality on Co. Cork construction site

A man in his 50s has died and another man was injured after an accident at a building site in Cork. The Gardaí and the HSA have launched separate investigations into the incident.

<http://goo.gl/xCim1b>

Elderly man killed in farm accident in Armagh

An elderly man has been killed in a farm accident in Co. Armagh. The HSENI are investigating the incident.

<http://goo.gl/5Wkty6>

IN THE COURTS

Company fined €30,000 following accident which resulted in amputated thumb

A chocolate manufacturer was fined €30,000 by the Circuit Court last month after pleading guilty to not providing a “safe system of work” following an accident which resulted in an employee’s thumb being amputated.

<http://goo.gl/3BcXW5>

PUBLICATIONS

Personal Injuries Assessment Board Annual Report 2015

The Personal Injuries Assessment Board Annual Report is now available to download.

<http://goo.gl/JyJ1V8>

EU-OSHA Publications

- Research review on rehabilitation and return to work
- Executive summary: Rehabilitation and return to work: Analysis report on EU and Member States policies, strategies and programmes
- Summary: Research review on rehabilitation and return to work
- Analysis report of workplace good practices and support needs of enterprises

<http://goo.gl/Hjzxlr>

infoIRSST - News about research

- Vibrations and OHS
- A Low-Cost System for Measuring Hand-Handle Coupling Forces
- Preventing the musculoskeletal disorders
- Implementing Job Rotation in an Aircraft Assembler Population
- Ultrafine Particles
- Efficacy of N95 Respirators in Conditions Representative of Human Breathing

<http://goo.gl/j1q2tx>

ETSC Safety Monitor: Transport safety news from ETSC

- Follow-up needed on EU cross border enforcement rules
- Cuts to police enforcement across Europe doubly damaging for road safety
- Transport safety implications of the UK referendum on EU membership
- Deaths on US roads increase 8%
- Using a hands free kit while driving “as distracting”
- Norwegian study confirms “safety in numbers” effect of increased cycling
- And more...

<http://goo.gl/i8Ri60>

HSE Biocides e-Bulletin 8 July 2016 - Special Edition

- 1 September 2016 deadline for treated articles
- in-situ generated biocides
- biocidal products that are newly within the scope of the EU BPR

<http://goo.gl/44XxBY>

HSE Biocides e-Bulletin

ECHA consultation on 8 Rodenticide AS; ECHA Consultation on Harmonised Classification and Labelling Proposals

- ECHA publication consultation - Eight anticoagulant rodenticide active substances
- ECHA publication consultation - proposal for Harmonised Classification and Labelling (CLH) for Fludioxonil (ISO); 4-(2,2-difluoro-1,3-benzodioxol-4-yl)-1H-pyrrole-3-carbonitrile

<http://goo.gl/yB08Y5>

80th edition of the REACH Competent Authority

Welcome to the HSE Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation & restriction of Chemicals (REACH) eBulletin.

- Registration 2018: REACH 2018 update - phase four
- Regulatory activity
- Reports, Guidance and Updates

<http://goo.gl/Abq66E>

Pesticides e-Bulletin: Maximum Residue Level (MRL) confirmatory data

This edition of the UK's HSE's Pesticides e-Bulletin provides an update on Maximum Residue Level (MRL) confirmatory data.

<http://goo.gl/AEs8Rf>

Summary: Research review on rehabilitation and return to work

The summary is based on a review that provides an up-to-date summary of knowledge regarding vocational rehabilitation and return to work systems, programmes and interventions and their different components.

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

LEGISLATION UPDATE

Legislation Update: SI No 370 of 2016 Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2016

The Regulations set out the statutory responsibilities on employers in respect of the reporting of accidents and dangerous occurrences that occur at workplaces to the Health and Safety Authority. These regulations will come into effect on 1 November 2016.

<http://goo.gl/R7wQAd>

SI No 345 of 2016 European Union (Making available on the market of electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits) Regulations 2016

This legislation sets out the requirements of manufacturers, importers and distributors in relation to the selling of low voltage electrical products.

<http://goo.gl/2H7XC3>

GUIDANCE

Physical Hazards

Guidance from the HSA: Physical hazards are based on the intrinsic properties of the chemical. There are five main classes of physical hazard namely Explosive, Flammable, Oxidising, Gases under Pressure and Corrosive to metals. These are then sub-divided into different categories

depending on the degree of danger and these are assigned specific hazard statements to identify them.

<http://goo.gl/cf1fkS>

Environmental Hazards

Guidance from the HSA: Chemical products that are labelled as environmentally hazardous should never be poured down the drain.

<http://goo.gl/oiZ79F>

Mental health and wellbeing: A line manager's guide

Ibec has launched an updated guide for managers on how to promote mental health and wellbeing in the workplace.

<http://goo.gl/KHu6lo>

New guide to managing mobile workers' safety, health and security

Managing the safety, health and security of mobile workers: an occupational safety and health practitioner's guide outlines the aspects of safety, health and security for which organisations should take responsibility when they have workers travelling for work or on international assignments.

The publication, developed jointly by the International SOS Foundation and the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH), addresses the need for careful planning and preparation in considering worker wellbeing and medical, personal safety and security issues.

<http://goo.gl/RZcm5y>

Working on fragile roofs

Since 2011 fourteen people have lost their lives in Ireland while carrying out roof-work. The following guidance on working on fragile roofs follows on from the Safety Alert issued by the HSA in May 2016.

<http://goo.gl/XHyO5v>

Safety around the milking parlour

The milking parlour is a hazardous place so try to reduce the health and safety risks.

<http://goo.gl/A044Jo>

HSE UK: Safety in the storage and handling of steel and other metal stock

This revised guidance is aimed at directors, owners, managers and supervisors and pays particular attention to the most common hazards, including (un)loading of delivery vehicles, storage systems, workplace transport, mechanical lifting and injuries from sharp edges.

<http://goo.gl/PYrfao>

Safety Representatives and Safety Consultation Guidelines

This guide to sections 25 and 26 of the SHWWA 2005 (No. 10 of 2005) is aimed at employers, employees, safety representatives, safety committee members and safety and health practitioners.

<http://goo.gl/2S2raC>

RESEARCH

French report highlights risks to underground sewerage workers

The French ANSES undertook a campaign of individual measurements and evaluation for sewer workers of the City of Paris, between October 2014 and March 2015. These exploratory measurements show that they may be exposed to a cocktail of chemical and biological agents present in the water and in the air.

<http://goo.gl/Lbdz9>

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.

<http://goo.gl/78dFi6>

Report on night work and atypical working times highlights risks to workers

The French Agency ANSES has been commissioned to assess health risks for workers exposed to atypical working schedules, particularly night work. This expert report highlights proven risks such as sleep disorders and metabolic disorders, and likely risks of carcinogenic nature or cardiovascular disorders and mental health problems among concerned workers.

<http://goo.gl/BtLrDr>

STATISTICS

At 23 August 2016, 25 persons were killed in workplace accidents since 1 January 2016.

<http://goo.gl/yuyxmR>

SAFETY BLOG/OPINION

Safety intelligence - a data-driven approach to workplace protection

This article will show how asset-intensive organisations can avoid incidents by applying visual analytics to data they already use.

<http://goo.gl/jELzaK>

Why healthy staff mean healthy profits

According to data from the Health and Safety Executive (UK), the cost of illness to the British economy is approximately £9.4 billion and the bill for employers is £8 billion. On an individual level, the median cost of accidents is £554, according to the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development

(CIPD).

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

Safety statistics show workplace deaths are not going away

Organisations need top-down commitment to protecting staff and preventing accidents.

<http://goo.gl/iSKX5l>

How employee safety has improved with technology

<http://goo.gl/MAH3G5>

Your Business: Engineered risk management

Sean Gallagher investigates the handling of potentially hazardous material on business premises.

<http://goo.gl/k5ekxS>

Will Brexit be good or bad for UK occupational health and safety?

The EU referendum vote has led to financial, economic and political turmoil.

But how will Brexit affect UK occupational health and safety?

<http://goo.gl/UBBHg8>

SAFETY IN PICTURES

Gardai warn farmers drawing bales on the road

Gardai stopped a tractor and trailer that were transporting bales recently in Askeaton, Co. Limerick – for not having the top row of bales secured.

<http://goo.gl/jJLnVJ>

RSA call for compliance transporting bales

The Road Safety Authority has called for compliance transporting bales after

tractors and trailers have been spotted transporting unsecured loads.

<http://goo.gl/2JJHa>

EHS Safety Cartoons: Asbestos

Barbour EHS, a long-established health and safety information service, recently partnered with Jincom EHS – a company that uses animation and illustrations to simplify information.

The illustrations are designed to convey good practice to workers whatever their language skills and level of understanding.

<http://goo.gl/JwNyFN>

SAFETY IN VIDEOS

Occupational Health and Safety in small companies

Accidents at work, stress and occupational sicknesses affect workers' health. They also come at a cost for businesses, especially for small and micro companies.

This video, launched by the EU Commission Audiovisual Services, showcases companies that have developed cost-effective and efficient health and safety management.

<http://goo.gl/UCEYBI>

SAFETY APPS

Free Building Regulations App

The Building Regulations Ireland app is a Division of Building Compliance Ltd one of Ireland's leading information services on the Building Regulations.

<http://goo.gl/UbDbSF>

TRAINING AND EVENTS

[NISO Safe Pass Training](#)

Dublin: NISO Training Centre, A11 Calmount Park, Ballymount, Dublin 12; 9, 16, 23, 30 Sept

Cork: Clayton Hotel Silver Springs, Cork; 14 Sept; 12 Oct

Kilkenny: Springhill Court Hotel; 28 Sept; 19 Oct

Clonmel: Clonmel Park Hotel, Co. Tipperary; 7 Sept; 5 Oct

NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12

All courses listed below available to be delivered in-house, nationwide, on request

[Introduction to Health and Safety for the Non Safety Specialist](#) (2 day); 5-6 Sept

[IOSH Working Safely](#) (1 day); 8 Sept

[Health and Safety Representation](#), QQI L5 (4 day); 12-15 Sept

[Manual Handling Basic](#) (half day); 15 Sept

[Risk Assessment - Basic Concepts](#), NISO Certificate, (2 day); 19-20 September

[VDU/DSE Assessor](#) (1 day); 21 September

[Risk Assessment](#) QQI Level 5, (4 day); 10-13 October

[IOSH Managing Safely](#) (4 day); 17-20 October

[Hand Arm Vibration Risk Assessment and Management Training](#) (2 day); 19-20 October

[Noise at Work Risk Assessment and Management Training](#) (4.5 day); 24-28 October

[Safety Representation](#) NISO Certification (2 days); 25-27 October

Regional Courses

[Introduction to Occupational H&S, Athlone IT](#), (13 wks/2 Hrs p/w); Sept 2016

[Introduction to Occupational H&S, Limerick IT](#), (13 wks/2 Hrs p/w); Sept 2016

Regional Events

[Safe Working at Height Workshop](#) (half day); Galway, 12 Sept; Dublin, 14 Sept

[Workplace Wellbeing Masterclass](#) (Half day); Dublin, 15 Sept; Waterford, 19 Sept; Limerick, 26 Oct

NISO Events

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



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