



The Safety Observer



Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

October 2016 - Issue 21

Welcome to the October 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 2 September 2016.



NISO News

53rd Annual Conference, Trade Exhibition and Awards Dinner

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

[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

HSA funding for workplace safety initiatives cut by almost a half

Funding for workplace safety initiatives through the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) has been cut by 47% since 2015. A sharp decline in the number of inspections carried out by the HSA in recent years has also been recorded.

<https://goo.gl/W45Puf>

Major concerns over risk management at care centres

Care centre health, safety and risk management concerns revealed in HIQA report.

<https://goo.gl/qeLbx0>

Road fatalities have increased by 18% in 2016

The number of fatalities on Irish roads has increased by 18pc this year compared with the same period in 2015.

<https://goo.gl/1hVutO>

Warning on dangers of using motorway hard shoulders

Road safety experts have warned that while motorways are by far the safest roads, the hard shoulder is the most dangerous place on them.

<https://goo.gl/CCF1vh>

New survey reveals most scenic roads in Ireland are among most feared

Getting by car to some of Ireland's most famous beauty spots can be both a pleasure and a nightmare, a new study shows.

<https://goo.gl/DAtqjO>

“Safe Stop” disc-holder launched for tractor and farm vehicles

The new disc-holder gives six easy steps on how to stop safely and reduce the risks of serious and fatal crush injuries that occur when the driver has left the cab and the vehicle moves suddenly.

<https://goo.gl/PGdk84>

New Book of Quantum to bring consistency to personal injury awards

A new book of quantum, produced from research into 52,000 cases between 2013 and 2014, is to be published shortly to be used by the Injuries Board and to provide a benchmark for damages claims for the legal profession.

<https://goo.gl/twi4XV>

IOSH Event: Farm and farmer safety

Free farm and farmer safety event will be taking place in Teagasc Mountbellew Agricultural College in Galway on 16 November. The purpose of this event is to help make the local farming community more aware of the dangers of unsafe practices and demonstrate how a safer farmyard can help prevent accidents, and even death.

<https://goo.gl/7y3bRY>

UK NEWS

Renewed concerns raised over safety of Sellafield

BBC documentary shows ancient nuclear plant is falling apart. Concerns were raised by a whistleblower who has said he dreads that a fire at the plant could release a radioactive cloud which could contaminate much of western Europe.

<https://goo.gl/1i2E0N>

London Construction is leading the world in health and safety

The London skyline evolves year by year. While construction will always be a high-risk profession, Health and Safety in the UK's Capital is second to none.

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

UK manufacturing firm fined £1M following death of lone worker

A manufacturing company based in Hemel Hempstead has been fined £1million after a worker was crushed to death by falling machinery. The deceased was involved in moving a large CNC milling machine when it overturned, crushing him fatally. The Health and Safety Executive found during its investigation that the work was not properly planned.

<https://goo.gl/bapIYi>

Red Arrows pilot death: Ejector seat firm to be prosecuted

An ejector seat firm will be prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) over the death of a Red Arrows pilot in 2011.

<https://goo.gl/hAF8ii>

Construction company fined £800,000 after worker injured

A construction company has been fined after a contractor was run over on a large site.

<https://goo.gl/QXfldg>

Alton Towers' owners fined £5million over Smiler crash

The owners of Alton Towers have been fined £5million with costs of £69,955.40 following a rollercoaster collision which left 16 people injured, a number of them seriously.

<https://goo.gl/ecmVUm>

US NEWS

Berkeley families praise construction safety law

The uncle of one of the Berkeley balcony collapse victims has expressed his gratitude to those involved in signing a new law that increases oversight over construction companies in the US.

<https://goo.gl/zdYYEu>

GENERAL SAFETY NEWS

Facebook's Safety Check alert now to be prompted manually

Facebook has decided to enable users to trigger their Safety Check service if they are near a disaster zone, as opposed to the team at Facebook activating it.

<https://goo.gl/kJNytq>

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

One dead and two injured in Naas ambulance fire

Oxygen may have played a part in an ambulance fire outside the emergency department at Naas General Hospital in which an elderly male patient died. Two ambulance personnel were also injured after the vehicle burst into flames outside the emergency department at the hospital in Co Kildare. The Gardai, Health and Safety Authority and Health Service Executive are investigating the incident.

<https://goo.gl/ZdxnSN>

Man killed in industrial incident in Cork

A man in his 30s died in an industrial incident in a factory on the outskirts of Cork city. It is understood the victim was working on a machine used to extrude aluminium when the incident occurred. The Gardai and HSA are investigating the fatality.

<https://goo.gl/vVcMTP>

HSENI investigating death of man on Dungannon farm

The Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland is investigating the death of a man on a farm near Dungannon in Co. Tyrone. It is understood the man, who is reported to have been in his 30s, died after becoming trapped in machinery.

<https://goo.gl/rjMsJO>

IN THE COURTS

Derry shipping company fined £15,000 for health and safety breach

A shipping company has been fined £15,000 for health and safety failures which led to three employees sustaining “significant” injuries. The company pleaded guilty to three health and safety breaches on August 20, last year. Derry Crown Court heard

that three employees sustained injuries after they fell 12 feet as they unloaded cement powder from a boat.

<https://goo.gl/e36pUx>

County council to pay firefighter €100,000 over fatal fire

A County Council has agreed to pay €100,000 to a firefighter who was on duty when two of his colleagues died in a fire in 2007.

<https://goo.gl/jB1CK7>

PUBLICATIONS

Safety Representatives and Safety Consultation Guidelines

Updated for 2016 - These guidelines are aimed at employers, employees, safety representatives, safety committee members and safety and health practitioners.

<https://goo.gl/L6BtJy>

Working at Height in Agriculture

Before carrying out any work at height around the farm involving minor repairs on sheds, on buildings or on silos, you must ask yourself if you are competent and whether or not you have the right equipment to carry out the work safely.

<https://goo.gl/iiZepo>

HSE's Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSD) eBulletin September 2016

In this edition:

- New Risk Assessment of Pushing and Pulling (RAPP) tool
 - This new simple tool will help you identify high-risk manual pushing and pulling operations and check the effectiveness of any risk-reduction measures.
- New edition of L23 Manual handling: Guidance on Regulations

<https://goo.gl/00AwOr>

GUIDANCE

BeSMART: Smart Businesses Manage Health and Safety

Good health and safety management reduces the chances of people getting killed or injured in the workplace. Have a look at this BeSMART infographic detailing the benefits of managing health and safety in the workplace.

<https://goo.gl/jgsOgs>

Sexual harassment and violence in the workplace – explained in infographics

Sexual harassment and violence in the workplace often lead to very serious consequences for the victims. Two infographics show key data on these issues, explaining the concepts and highlighting the need to take these issues very seriously.

<https://goo.gl/QUBpxR>

Third-party violence at work - Infographic

Download this infographic from The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) which looks at violence committed by non-colleague contacts at work, such as the public, patients, or students. The diagram looks at potential consequences and how to tackle the problem.

<https://goo.gl/jGDm94>

Safety and health at work: it's the law

National safety and health legislation in Member States is governed by European legislation. This includes legally binding EU directives, non-binding EU guidelines to facilitate the implementation of directives and EU standards.

<https://goo.gl/hHfEca>

Seven chainsaw safety tips

Manufacturers have incorporated different safety features into a chainsaw, but it is up to the user to ensure that their tool is working properly.

<https://goo.gl/q6VNdD>

RESEARCH REPORTS

Report: Container Port Health and Safety Evaluated

An independent study Commissioned by the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) and the ITF International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) is hoped to pave the way for significant improvements in the health, safety and welfare of workers in the global container port industry.

<https://goo.gl/2VOb7L>

Investigating OSH promotion for older workers

As more workers are passing their 50th birthday – an estimated 2 billion people will do so by 2050 – employers are becoming increasingly concerned with keeping older workers in work or having people return to work.

<https://goo.gl/XZZC7x>

SAFETY MYTHS

The top 10 health and safety myths, from banning conkers to throwing mortarboards

Health and safety is blamed for all sorts of baffling decisions, from stopping youngsters playing conkers without wearing goggles to banning hanging baskets in case people bang their heads on them.

But many of these supposed regulations on what people should or should not do are, in fact, not required by and health and safety law at all.

<https://goo.gl/raDxQ8>

SAFETY BLOG/OPINION

Why construction workers need more than a “thick skin”

The marketing director at Deb explains how a dedicated skin care programme for the construction sector can help health and safety practitioners to combat the threat of occupational skin disease.

<https://goo.gl/veDsw4>

Safety at work: “The biggest mistake I made was not wearing a safety helmet”

Kerryman Peadar Farrell, a part-time farmer who runs a construction business with his son Peter, has no recollection of the accident that almost claimed his life.

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

If we don't halt the rising carnage on our roads now, we will lose all the gains made in 10 years.

Liz O'Donnell, Chairperson, Road Safety Authority expresses her concern over the rise in road fatalities in 2016.

<https://goo.gl/zMzhhx>

Fatal cases: Health and safety lessons for businesses

Why should businesses invest in health and safety? Sarah Wheadon firmly believe that it is to ensure that employees and anyone affected by the business' activities finish the working day in the same (if not better) state of health as when they arrived.

<https://goo.gl/tMIPoC>

STATISTICS

At 3 October 2016, 31 persons were killed in workplace accidents since January

2016.

<https://goo.gl/0AmSNb>

MCIB REPORTS

The report into a fatal incident at Killybegs Harbour on 24 August 2015 was published recently by the Marine Casualty Investigation Board.

<https://goo.gl/kg13On>

Interim Report of the Investigation into the Bottom Contact of the “MV Cielo Di Monaco” at Greenore Port on 28 September 2015.

<https://goo.gl/YBT3Yp>

TRAINING AND EVENTS

[NISO Safe Pass Training](#)

Dublin: NISO Training Centre, A11 Calmount Park, Ballymount, Dublin 12; 12, 21, 28 October

Cork: Clayton Hotel Silver Springs, Cork; 9 Oct; 13 Dec

Kilkenny: Springhill Court Hotel; 19 Oct; 16 Nov; 7 Dec

Clonmel: Clonmel Park Hotel, Co. Tipperary; 2 Nov, 14 Dec

NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12

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

[Manual Handling Basic](#) (half day); 13 Oct

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

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

[Safety Representation](#) NISO Certification (2 days); 26-27 October

[Introduction to Health and Safety for the Non Safety Specialist](#) (2 day); 7-8 Nov

[IOSH Working Safely](#) (1 day); 14 Nov

[Risk Assessment - Basic Concepts](#) NISO Certificate, (2 day); 21-22 Nov

[First Aid Refresher Training](#) NISO Certificate (1 day); 2 Dec

[Health and Safety Representation](#) QQI L5 (4 day); 5-8 Dec

[Occupational First Aid](#) QQI L5 (3 day); 7-9 Dec

Regional Courses

[Introduction to Occupational H&S, Athlone IT](#), (13 wks/2 Hrs p/w); Jan 2017

[Introduction to Occupational H&S, Limerick IT](#), (13 wks/2 Hrs p/w); Jan 2017

Regional Events

[Workplace Wellbeing Masterclass](#) (Half day); Limerick, 26 Oct

Farm Safety Workshop, Claremorris, Co. Mayo; 1 Dec (TBC)

NISO Events

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

October, Killarney



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