

NISO Safety Observer
June 2017; Issue 26

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Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

June 2017 - Issue 26

Welcome to the June 2017 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 3 May 2017 last and the next edition for NISO members is scheduled for mid July 2017. The last edition of Safety Observer was distributed on 30 March 2017.

NISO NEWS

54th Annual Health & Safety Conference 2017

The 54th NISO Annual Health & Safety Conference 2017 will be taking place on 13 October in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Galway. Visit niso.ie for updates.

Workplace Safety Workshop Series

National Irish Safety Organisation, supported by Insurance Ireland, is running a nationwide Workplace Safety Workplace series starting in June 2017. [Click here](#) for 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

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IRISH NEWS

Farming is Ireland's "most dangerous occupation"

The fatality rate for farmers was 10 times that of the average worker between 2009 and 2015, a trend which may be explained in part by excessive risk-taking behaviour, according to a new report.

<https://goo.gl/D4USgo>

Rise of mental health issues amongst doctors

A new report has revealed that fifty doctors, dentists and pharmacists were treated for addiction and mental health problems last year, however, this number is believed to be just the "tip of the iceberg" of health professionals with similar issues.

<https://goo.gl/lprtR9>

Just over 3% of fatal road traffic collisions involved tractors in 2014

Recent figures from the Road Safety Authority show that 3.4% of fatal road traffic collisions on public roads in 2014 involved tractors.

<https://goo.gl/pV1I7F>

REACH 10 Year Anniversary Conference

The Health and Safety Authority is marking the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the REACH Regulation with the REACH 10 Year Anniversary Conference. Attendees will hear speakers from the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), the EU Commission, the Irish Competent Authority, NGOs and Irish industry representatives share their experiences of the past 10 years and speak about what they see as the emerging issues and challenges ahead.

<https://goo.gl/NWUOB5>

Teagasc survey on farmer health

Farming is often considered to be a "healthy occupation" in comparison with other manual occupations because it is mostly carried out outdoors. However, according to this Teagasc survey on farmer health, the reality is that farmers have a poor health profile when compared to other occupations.

<https://goo.gl/wdHTh0>

Are road safety advertising campaigns effective?

A look at the Road Safety Authority's advertising campaigns, budget and their effectiveness.

<https://goo.gl/5y4ZrF>

Skin cancer and working outdoors

The Irish Cancer Society (ICS) has reported that one in four people dying from skin cancer are involved in outdoor-based work such as construction and farming.

<https://goo.gl/DSAoJz>

Proposed tractor "NCT" Testing

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) has confirmed that compulsory testing for farm vehicles will be confined to what it describes as "fast tractors" that have maximum speeds of over 40km/hr.

<https://goo.gl/MeuFxm>

Three injured after bull attack in Co. Clare mart

Three people have been injured following a bull attack in a Co. Clare mart, the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) has confirmed. An investigation into the bull attack is set to be carried out by the HSA.

<https://goo.gl/Yww26q>

UK NEWS

Food manufacturer fined £2m following fatality

A food manufacturing giant has been fined £2m after a worker was fatally crushed when a plastic bale weighing 700kg collapsed on him.

<https://goo.gl/B1x81o>

Two-thirds of women given ill-fitting PPE

According to a report from the TUC, fewer than one in three women are given protective clothing specifically designed for women which can negatively impact their safety at work.

<https://goo.gl/1oL1cO>

Female zookeeper killed by tiger in “freak accident”

A female zookeeper has been killed in a "freak accident" after a tiger entered the enclosure she was in.

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

Health and safety fines rise by 148%

UK companies paid £6.1 million in health and safety fines in 2016. That's a rise of 148% on fines paid in 2015, according to the health and safety tracker of UK-based insurance law and risk law firm.

<https://goo.gl/xZ6lb2>

Girl dies after fall from water ride in theme park

An 11-year-old girl has died after falling from a ride at a popular theme park, in the UK. The HSE (UK) is investigating the fatality.

<https://goo.gl/ejdSkE>

Construction firm fined £800,000 after Heathrow Airport fatality

A construction firm has been sentenced following the death of a worker at Heathrow Airport in October 2014. The court heard that deceased brother accidentally reversed into his 38-year-old sibling when the pair were trying to move a broken down scissor lift on a service road, while working for construction firm in question.

A Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation found that neither worker was authorised with the appropriate certificate to use the dumper truck, and that the operation was not properly overseen or managed.

<https://goo.gl/E4uL1J>

EUROPEAN NEWS

EU road death figures: third year of poor results

The European Commission has published new data showing that deaths on EU roads fell by just 2% last year, following a 1% increase in 2015. According to ETSC analysis, road deaths will now need to fall by 11.5% a year in order to meet the EU target of cutting deaths by half in the decade to 2020.

<https://goo.gl/jq6vw9>

European Commission Taking Public Comments on EU-OSHA's

Performance

The European Commission has begun a public consultation about the performance of these four EU agencies up until July 5:

- the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)
- the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound)
- the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop)
- the European Training Foundation (ETF)

<https://goo.gl/CNiMT2>

PRAISE Awards 2017

The annual PRAISE Awards, coordinated by the European Transport Safety Council, are open for submissions. The PRAISE awards showcase the organisations that are leading on road safety at work. The three categories of awards are SME, large company and public authority.

<https://goo.gl/B6t303>

EU-OSHA Good Practice Awards ceremony

As part of EU-OSHA's Healthy Workplaces for All Ages Campaign, the Good Practice Awards ceremony was co-hosted by the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU in Valletta on 26 April 2017. The awarded and commended examples of good practice show the benefits that can be achieved by organisations that recognise the potential for keeping employees healthy throughout their working careers.

<https://goo.gl/pKQxJd>

Call for urgent action on vehicle safety standards

A coalition of industry, NGOs, consumer groups and cities are calling on the European Commission to urgently bring forward new minimum safety standards for new cars, vans and trucks, after years of delays. EU vehicle safety standards were last updated eight years ago, despite rapid advances in technology since then. Safer requirements have been expected for at least the last three years, but have been subject to numerous delays.

<https://goo.gl/bvIKsf>

GENERAL SAFETY NEWS

Salmonella outbreak in North Dublin affects over 50 people

The Health Service Executive says multiple groups of people have been affected by an outbreak of food poisoning due to salmonella in Dublin. The HSE knows of more than 50 people, including four children, who were taken ill after a north Dublin food business supplied food to separate groups of parties.

<https://goo.gl/Pov1Mj>

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

Quad bike death on Co. Offaly farm

Garda and HSA Investigations were launched after the body of the pensioner, understood to be in his early 80s, was discovered near an overturned quad bike on a farm in Co Offaly.

<https://goo.gl/rYGVaF>

Four-year-old boy dies in Co. Fermanagh farm accident

A four-year-old boy has died in a farm accident at his family home in Co. Fermanagh. The fatal accident involved a farm vehicle known as a teleloader. The Health and Safety Executive has investigated the incident.

<https://goo.gl/q8N50p>

Man in his 70s dies on Co. Clare farm

A man in his 70s has died on a farm in Co. Clare. A tractor was involved in the accident and the Health and Safety Authority are investigating.

<https://goo.gl/vnXI6r>

Farm fatality in Co. Wexford

Gardaí are investigating the sudden death of a man in his 70s on a farm in Co. Wexford. The deceased had been herding cattle on his farm on the evening of his death.

<https://goo.gl/hLCeNN>

Man dies in accident at workshop in Co. Wexford

A man in his 50s has died after an accident at a home workshop. It is believed

the accident involved a home incinerator..

<https://goo.gl/jfgwA1>

Man in his 60s killed Co. Kilkenny farm accident

A farmer has died in hospital following injuries sustained while working with livestock on his farm in Co. Kilkenny. The HSA has launched a fatal accident investigation.

<https://goo.gl/ngK56n>

Farm fatality in Co. Waterford

A man in his 60s died when the tractor he was driving hit a ditch in Co. Waterford. No other vehicles were involved in the accident. Gardaí are investigating the incident.

<https://goo.gl/NMAF3I>

Fisherman found dead on trawler in Co. Cork

Gardaí have notified the Health and Safety Authority and the Marine Casualty Investigation Board about the death of a fisherman on a trawler in Co. Cork. Investigations are ongoing.

<https://goo.gl/vKPzUm>

Injured fisherman airlifted from trawler off coast of Cork

A fisherman has been airlifted to hospital after he sustained injuries on board a trawler off the south coast. It is understood the crew member sustained crush injuries to the fingers of one hand.

<https://goo.gl/On7yyI>

Man injured in Co. Tipperary workplace accident

The Health and Safety Authority is investigating an incident in a Co. Tipperary creamery in which an employee sustained serious burns to his body. The injured man was airlifted to Cork University Hospital.

<https://goo.gl/N4vpk8>

HSA investigating Co. Galway farm accident

The Health and Safety Authority is investigating an incident on a farm in Co. Galway in which a man in his 70s was airlifted to hospital after becoming trapped in farm machinery.

<https://goo.gl/77ydwU>

Worker sustains injuries setting up funfair

A man was injured while unloading a vehicle used to transport rollercoaster equipment on the funfair site when it is understood that a piece of metal track became dislodged and was struck by the falling beam.

Garda technical experts sealed off the incident site for a forensic examination and an inspector from the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) also visited the scene.

<https://goo.gl/gjTUss>

Multi agency effort saves farmer's life following accident

A major operation last month saw a host of emergency services attend the scene of a serious farm accident in Co. Meath. Units from the Fire Service, local gardaí and Air Corps 112 responded to the scene. The farmer is said to be recovering well in hospital.

<https://goo.gl/9ll1e1>

IN THE COURTS

Co. Meath firm fined €1m over workplace fatality

A Co. Meath concrete firm had a fine of €125,000 quashed and a new fine of €1m imposed following the death of a worker in 2011 which was caused by a deliberate breach of safety procedures.

<https://goo.gl/pn6WmA>

Limerick steelworker awarded €675,116 following accident

A Limerick steelworker who suffered “near fatal” and severe personal injuries has been awarded €675,116 at the High Court. The accident happened as the injured party was moving a jig from a dryer. The jig suddenly became detached from one of the hooks on the crane and struck the plaintiff, pinning him between the jig and the barrier. The court heard that he suffered near fatal and severe personal injuries, loss, damage and expense.

<https://goo.gl/k2jFhf>

Haulage company fined after RSA investigation

Following an investigation by the Road Safety Authority (RSA), a large Co.

Louth haulage company was before the District Court in April 2017. The company, who operate a road transport business, pleaded guilty to a series of charges for failing to produce driver's hours records in respect of several vehicles operated by the company.

<https://goo.gl/c2gEYC>

Deli worker awarded €65k following ligament tear

An assistant chef who hurt her shoulder and ankle while working in the deli at a branch of a national supermarket chain has been awarded €65,000 by the High Court. The plaintiff suffered a jerking injury to her left shoulder and a partial tear of a ligament in her ankle joint when she attempted to catch a piece of deli counter glass which was falling to the ground after she washed it.

<https://goo.gl/m8mHO7>

Airport worker awarded €60k injuries sustained in "mini avalanche"

An airport worker, who was injured when a mini avalanche of snow and ice fell on his head from the curved roof of the new Terminal 2 seven years ago, has settled a €60,000 damages claim.

<https://goo.gl/2bc05v>

Hotel worker awarded €77k after cutting hand

A hotel worker who cut his hand on a piece of glass while gathering up till receipts was awarded over €77,000 by the High Court. The plaintiff suffered a fairly serious injury and has been left with a zig zag scar on his left ring finger. He also now had a decreased grip on his left hand as a result of the accident. The plaintiff claimed there was a failure to have a safe system of work in or about the disposal of broken glass and till receipts and that a hazard or trap had been created at the cash register.

<https://goo.gl/ExxMRo>

INQUESTS

Man was crushed to death beneath 40 tonnes of cheese, inquest hears

A 32-year-old man died after he was crushed beneath forty tonnes of cheese in a workplace accident, an inquest has heard. The deceased suffered catastrophic crush injuries when a shelf rack collapsed at a cold storage warehouse where he worked. The accident happened in a cold store-room in

north Dublin.

<https://goo.gl/aWKT6v>

Inquest returns verdict of death by misadventure

An inquest into the death of a 29-year-old man who died while clearing trees for the construction of a wind farm in Donegal recorded a unanimous verdict of death by misadventure. The jury concluded that the cause of death was traumatic/mechanical asphyxia and the compression of his chest by a fallen tree.

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

Verdict of accidental death in factory fatality

An inquest recorded a finding of death by accident of a young man who died while retrieving a fallen box of fish from an industrial machine in a Co. Donegal fish factory.

<https://goo.gl/YhOjDJ>

PUBLICATIONS

Risk-taking and accidents on Irish farms: ESRI report

The agricultural, fishing and forestry sector in Ireland has the highest rate of fatal injuries across sectors, with a rate that is ten times higher than the overall rate. This report examines risk-taking and accidents on Irish farms.

<https://goo.gl/oJMLqo>

Health and safety risks at the workplace: a joint analysis of three major surveys

This joint analysis report covers three major European surveys and provides an in-depth picture of how safety and health is managed in Europe's workplaces. The findings aim to support policy-makers, employer and employee representatives, and OSH professionals in their efforts to create safer and healthier workplaces.

<https://goo.gl/rZ02u5>

GUIDANCE

Most common MSK issues in the workplace

Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) are the most commonly reported cause of work-related ill health in Ireland, costing businesses and the State around €750 million per year. Everyone is looking for a solution but whether you are an individual or an organisation, knowing how to start is the first step.

<https://goo.gl/8U5p4I>

On the lookout for occupational asthma

People who develop asthma because of the type of work they do have what's known as occupational asthma. It's actually referred to as adult-onset asthma and accounts for up to 15% of asthma cases in adults. In certain industries, as many as 10% of workers develop occupational asthma.

<https://goo.gl/2B0zAb>

Stock bull safety - guidance

The dangers associated with the stock bull during breeding season and how to avoid them.

<https://goo.gl/d9A8Gt>

Preventing Occupational Respiratory Disease

Guidance from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) on Preventing Occupational Respiratory Disease from Exposures Caused by Dampness in Office Buildings, Schools, and Other Nonindustrial Buildings.

<https://goo.gl/hv1v0p>

What can employers do to reduce workers' exposure to dust?

Exposure to dust remains one of the biggest risks to the health of workers in the construction sector, and it is the quantity of dust concerned which elevates the risk to workers the most.

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

How to Work Safely at Height: 5 tips

Health & Safety Executive (HSE) statistics have shown that falls from a height were the most common cause of fatalities in the workplace in the UK, accounting for nearly three in ten workplace fatalities. Here are some tips to ensure you stay safe when working at height.

<https://goo.gl/3Ge1z0>

info IRSST: New About Research

In this edition:

- Definition and Assessment of Potential Chemical and Biological Risks to Workers' Health
- Working Safely in the Hazardous Zones of Industrial Machines
- Development of a Confined Space Risk Analysis and Work Categorization Tool

<https://goo.gl/DaVahZ>

RESOURCES

Free Chemical Safety in the Workplace online course

A short, interactive online course on Chemical Safety in the Workplace is now available on the Health and Safety Authority's e-learning portal.

<https://goo.gl/Okrsnf>

ROSPA: Little Book of Big Ideas

This short book is a small contribution to help experts and non-experts alike to refresh their knowledge and understanding of the basic ideas which underpin discourse about safety. The booklet can be used as a gateway to further reading, a handy reference guide to remind you about essential terms and concepts, or as a resource in teaching.

<https://goo.gl/1Zm0ku>

Safer and healthier work at any age: Review of resources for workplaces

This review presents a wide variety of tools and resources to be used to make workplaces safe and ensure employees are healthy, no matter what their age.

<https://goo.gl/GM8bfZ>

RESEARCH REPORTS

RR1099 - Review of consequence model evaluation protocols for major hazards under the EU SAPHEDRA platform

To safeguard the public, predictive mathematical models are used to estimate the potential consequences of major accident hazards in order to inform risk

based decision making. This report describes work done within the "SAPHEDRA" collaborative EU platform for evaluation of consequence models.

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

SAFETY BLOGS/OPINION

Grooming in the workplace

How to identify and handle incidents of grooming - grooming is the behaviour used by a bully to ascertain whether a possible target will be susceptible to a campaign of workplace bullying. Grooming occurs during the period *before* a campaign commences.

<https://goo.gl/KtRN3o>

Eleven ways to boost H&S culture

Here are some warning signs of a poor H&S culture, some signs that you're on the right track and some solid advice for boosting your H&S culture.

<https://goo.gl/vZ0AY6>

Mental health in the workplace: Five tips for organisations

Guidance from IOSH on how organisations can help improve mental health at work.

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

Benefits of health and wellbeing in construction

In the macho world of construction, discussions about "wellbeing" seem out of place. But the truth is that health is important for all employees, regardless of which industry they work in which is why construction companies need to take a more proactive lead in managing worker wellbeing.

<https://goo.gl/VmyTE2>

Importance of the lunch break

Only 17% of British employees take their full lunch break, but it can be an invaluable time for refuelling, de-stressing and connecting with others. Here is some advice on making the most of the lunch break.

<https://goo.gl/zfqbdx>

Standing up to bullies at work

Advice on how to deal with bullying in the workplace.

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

Ten ways to boost mental health at work

Here are ten ideas from employers on how best to boost mental health at work.

<https://goo.gl/nLKzOV>

Advice on returning to work following a head injury

Visual guide to raise awareness of how an employee that has suffered a head injury may come back to work.

<https://goo.gl/Gnjtwe>

Farm accidents: real life story

A horrific accident at just 12 years old changed William Sears' life forever. Now, the son of a Derry dairy farmer is spreading the message about farm safety to ensure no one else suffers the same fate.

<https://goo.gl/Ssf2or>

How to create a happy workplace

Happiness at work brings a variety of positive outcomes such as improved collaboration, higher levels of innovation and the desire to meet common goals. So how can you create a happy workplace?

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

Mood boosting foods to snack on at work

We often hear about the physical benefits of a healthy diet, but what foods help to improve your mood?

<https://goo.gl/twKGnV>

LEGISLATION UPDATE

Use of semi-automatic quick hitches on excavators

The Health and Safety Authority has advised that it now considers that the supply and use of semi-automatic quick hitches is not in compliance with the relevant legislation. The basis for this opinion is related to the requirements of an important harmonised standard that relates to earthmoving machinery.

<https://goo.gl/K5hB5O>

STATISTICS

Correct at 31 May 2017 - 24 people have been killed in workplace accidents since 1 January 2017.

<https://goo.gl/LNuF68>

SAFETY MYTHS

Nightclub refused to serve salt and lemon with Tequila shots

Bar manager refused to serve salt and lemon with Tequila shots to customers in a nightclub due to health and safety.

<https://goo.gl/uX3zuH>

Bus company separates boys and girls on school bus

A bus company providing contracted service to a school stated that they separated boys and girls on their school bus in order to comply with health and safety regulations.

<https://goo.gl/Myw3ev>

Odd job person not allowed to change light bulbs

The management company of a block of flats advised that odd job person is unable to change light bulbs as they would only be protected from negligence if a competent electrician carried out the job.

<https://goo.gl/HiRnIO>

SAFETY IN VIDEOS

Health and safety impact video series

Series of six thought provoking health and safety videos which highlight the impact of not following good health and safety practice.

<https://goo.gl/V5OMyh>

“Catchy” video highlights construction site risks

Do you have one of these guys in the workplace? Watch this catchy musical video that highlights safety risks on construction sites.

<https://goo.gl/ngH1GL>

HSENI Farm Safety Campaign Ad 2017

Effective ad to raise awareness of the need to plan an escape route when working with animals, and to always Stop and Think SAFE.

<https://goo.gl/KuFYSA>

MCIB REPORTS

The report into explosion and fire on "Pegasus" off Oranmore Strand, Co. Galway was published recently by the Marine Casualty Investigation Board.

<https://goo.gl/f5mlSo>

TRAINING AND EVENTS

NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12

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

[Safety Representation](#) NISO Cert (2 days); 12-13 June [Book now](#)

[Manual Handling Basic](#) NISO Cert (half day) 15 June; 6 July [Book now](#)

[Risk Assessment](#) QQI L5 (4 day); 19-22 June [Book now](#)

[Health and Safety Representation](#) QQI L5 (4 day); 26-29 June [Book now](#)

[VDU/DSE Assessor Course](#) NISO Cert (1 day); 3 July [Book now](#)

[Intro to H&S for the Non Safety Specialist](#) NISO Cert (2 days); 1-2 August [Book now](#)

[IOSH Managing Safely](#) IOSH Cert (1 day); 28-31 August [Book now](#)

[IOSH Working Safely](#) IOSH Cert (2 days); 6 September [Book now](#)

[Hand Arm Vibration Risk Assessment & Management](#) IOSH Cert (2 days); 18-19 October [Book now](#)

Safe Pass Training

[Dublin](#): 2, 9, 6 & 23 June [Book now](#)

[Cork](#): 6 & 21 June; 26 July [Book now](#)

[Kilkenny](#): 7 June; 12 July [Book now](#)

[Clonmel](#): 14 June; 19 July [Book now](#)

Workplace Safety Workshops

[Cork](#): 22 June; [Book now](#)

[Castlebar](#): 30 June 2017; [Book now](#)

Tullamore: 21 September 2017

Dublin: 26 September 2017

Letterkenny: 2 November 2017

Limerick: 23 November 2017

Carlow: 30 November 2017

Dundalk: 8 March 2018

Regional Courses

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

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

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

[Introduction to Occupational H&S](#) Dublin (13 wks/2 Hrs p/w); Sept 2017

National Events:

[Annual NISO H&S Conference](#), Radisson Blu Hotel, Galway; 13 October

[All Ireland Safety Awards Presentation Ceremony](#), Radisson Blu Hotel, Galway;
13 October



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