

NISO Safety Observer
December 2017; Issue 31

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Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

December 2017 - Issue 31

Welcome to the December 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 20 November 2017 last and the next edition for NISO members is scheduled for mid January 2018. The last edition of Safety Observer was distributed on 28 November 2017.

NISO NEWS

Safety Awards Workshops 2018

NISO is hosting nationwide Safety Awards Workshops in preparation for the All Ireland Safety Awards 2018. The Awards Workshops are free to attend and are highly recommended for all organisations entering the awards scheme in 2018.

Find out more [here](#).

NISO Regional AGMs

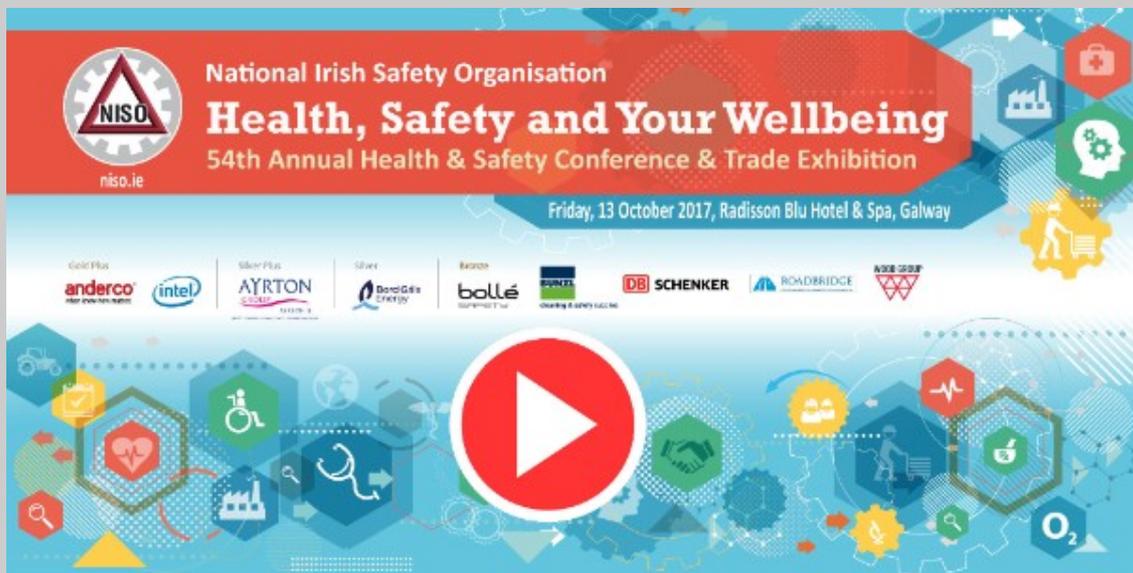
The regional AGMs of the National Irish Safety Organisation will be taking place throughout January and February 2018. The National Annual General Meeting will take place on 14 April 2018 in the Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.

Find out more [here](#).

All Ireland Safety Quiz - Regional Heats

The regional heats of the NISO/NISG All Ireland Occupational Safety Quiz will take place nationwide throughout February and March 2018.

Find out more [here](#).



Watch the 54th Annual NISO Health and Safety Conference 2017 highlights courtesy of our conference sponsor, Bunzl Cleaning and Safety Supplies. Thanks again to all the sponsors of the 54th Annual Conference - Gold Plus: Anderco, Intel Ireland; Silver Plus: The Ayrtton Group; Bronze: Bollé, Bunzl Cleaning and Safety Supplies, DB Schenker, Roadbridge and Wood Group.

[Watch the 54th Annual Conference Highlights!](#)

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

O'Halloran and Higginson leaving HSA

Martin O'Halloran, Chief Executive Officer, Health and Safety Authority (HSA) and Brian Higginson, Assistant Chief Executive for Operational Compliance and Prevention, HSA, have both recently announced that they will be leaving the HSA in 2018. O'Halloran is leaving due to retirement and Higginson is moving onto a new role with the Commission for Railway Regulation. National Irish Safety Organisation would like to acknowledge both Martin O'Halloran's and Brian Higginson's contribution to health and safety in Ireland and to wish them well in their future endeavours.

Statement of the HSA regarding first aid training

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) has determined, in consultation with Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) and Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC), that dual recognition of QQI 5N1207 and PHECC FAR will continue until 31st May 2018. Thereafter the HSA will only recognise PHECC FAR.

<https://goo.gl/cMLkzt>

Project EDWARD trended number 1 in Ireland

Project EDWARD (European Day Without A Road Death) took place on 21 September 2017. Statistics from this day showed that the number of countries with zero deaths on this day was 15 and also that the Project EDWARD campaign trended number 1 on Irish social media.

<https://goo.gl/ELTHR6>

Gardaí facing H&S risks due to unfilled vacancies

The Department of Justice has been told that senior gardaí are dealing with "unsustainable workloads" posing serious "health and safety" risks because critical vacancies are not being filled.

<https://goo.gl/MSS2KS>

UK NEWS

Top OSH prosecutions of 2017

From million-pound plus fines to prison sentences, there have been some major prosecutions in occupational health and safety in 2017 in the UK. In the first full year where new sentencing guidelines have been in effect, fines have risen from over £35m to over £61m.

<https://goo.gl/WZYstA>

UK H&S statistics 2016/17

The HSE UK has recently published health and safety statistics for 2016/17. The statistics show that 137 workers have been killed at work during this period and 1.3 million working people are suffering from a work-related illness.

<https://goo.gl/n8ZD8c>

EUROPEAN NEWS

Countdown on for he 2018/19 Healthy Workplaces Campaign

The countdown for the launch of the EU-OSHA's next campaign "Health Workplaces Manage Dangerous Substances" in April 2018 has begun. The 2018/19 campaign aims at raising awareness of the risks posed by dangerous substances in the workplace and promoting a culture of risk prevention to eliminate or effectively manage these risks.

<https://goo.gl/edFwRn>

Survey on risk assessments in EU countries

The results of the ESENER-2 survey which asked "does your company regularly carry out workplace risk assessments?" are now available on the EU-OSHA website. The survey reveals that Ireland is just under the EU average for organisations carrying out risk assessments in the workplace. The EU average is 77.2% while the average in Ireland is 72.7%.

<https://goo.gl/MMT2go>

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

Man killed working near Co. Leitrim canal

A man in his 50s has died following an incident while working beside a canal lock in Co. Leitrim. Gardaí and the HSA are investigating the fatality.

<https://goo.gl/p6XdX4>

Man airlifted to hospital following Co. Mayo work accident

A man has been airlifted to hospital after being seriously injured at a major machinery production plant in Co. Mayo. It is believed the man suffered serious arm injuries when his arm became caught in a baler. The HSA is investigating the incident.

<https://goo.gl/9Zj5KZ>

PUBLICATIONS

Dangerous substances and successful workplace communication

Employers and workers need to know what dangerous substances are in the workplace and how to deal with them. This e-fact sheet from EU-OSHA offers hints for successful communication in the workplace about dangerous substances, including the use of safety data sheets, and provides a list of sources of further information.

<https://goo.gl/HvYY2W>

Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls - Information Sheet

This information sheet from the Health and Safety Authority will help you understand how to control work-related slips, trips and falls.

<https://goo.gl/vLXkb9>

SAFETY TIPS

High lift pallet truck safety tips

If you work around heavy equipment, including high lift pallet truck equipment, you need to make sure that you are doing everything in your power to promote as safe a work environment as possible. Here is some advice to help you stay safe.

<https://goo.gl/1BU1nf>

Six ways to reduce VOC exposure in the workplace

VOCs are Volatile Organic Compounds that give off odorous fumes and increase the concentration of potentially harmful chemicals in the air. VOCs can be found in many household items such as fresh paint, air fresheners, perfumes and nail polishes. This guidance gives six easy ways to reduce VOC exposure in the workplace.

<https://goo.gl/YzLqcT>

Five festive farm safety tips for kids

During the festive season it is important to remain vigilant of child safety on farms.

<https://goo.gl/okSEo6>

SAFETY BLOGS/OPINION

Legal drugs and the workplace

Control of the use of alcohol in the workplace has been in the public debate for some time - however employers often overlook the dangers of employees taking prescription and over-the-counter drugs.

<https://goo.gl/tWkwvm>

Driving fatigue

Where driving is part of work roles, most organisations have adopted fatigue management policies. But as vehicles include more automation and less driver input, will we also turn to driver monitoring technologies? In the UK, driver fatigue is implicated in one in five road accidents and one in four fatalities.

<https://goo.gl/C3do2S>

Using virtual reality to simulate real risks

The advent of convincing and accessible virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) platforms allows for health and safety training to take place that is more practical, realistic and engaging than some existing training solutions. The ability to replicate real locations and introduce convincing, danger-free hazards could herald a revolution in health and safety training, reducing deaths and injuries in high-risk professions.

<https://goo.gl/Q2VNry>

Farm accident survivor's story

A Meath farmer's daughter was just six years of age when she sustained life-changing injuries in a farm accident in May 1997. The accident left her in a wheelchair, but it has never stopped her from achieving her goals.

<https://goo.gl/qj9WyZ>

LEGISLATION UPDATE

European Communities (Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2017

These Regulations give further effect to the provisions of Directive 2010/35/EC of the European Parliament and the Council on transportable pressure equipment in as much as they allocate the responsibility for the role of Notifying Authority under that Directive to the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, this responsibility having previously sat with the Health and Safety Authority.

<https://goo.gl/wajh2t>

STATISTICS

Forty seven people have been killed in workplace accidents since 1 January 2017 - Correct at 19 December 2017.

<https://goo.gl/Db6vL3>

SAFETY IN VIDEOS

New construction animated videos

BeSMART.ie has developed four short animated videos outlining the duties and roles of the Client, PSCS, PSDP and the Construction Stage Safety and Health Plan. These four short videos all under two minutes duration will give an overview of the requirements that each duty holder must comply with when taking on the role of the Client, PSDP, PSCS or what needs to be included when developing a construction stage safety and health plan for a project.

<https://goo.gl/i5sdvN>

Carry out your own risk assessment

The “Risk assessment with OiRA in 4 steps” video highlights risk assessments as the legal cornerstone of the European approach for accidents, occupational diseases and sickness absence prevention at the workplace. It also illustrates how easy it is for businesses to manage occupational safety and health (OSH) with OiRA tools, showing viewers how to carry out a sector-specific risk assessment test in a flexible and easy way through the OiRA website.

BeSMART.ie is the online risk assessment tool for Ireland.

<https://goo.gl/HyShFg>

Watch: near miss while moving machinery

<https://goo.gl/zsb5AD>

SAFETY IN PICTURES

Fire safety fail - a disaster waiting to happen

<https://goo.gl/8s7PRD>

TRAINING AND EVENTS

NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12

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

[Introduction to H&S for the Non Safety Professional](#), NISO Certificate (2 day); 10-11 January [Book now](#)

[Manual Handling Basic](#), NISO Certificate (half day); 18 January; 22 February [Book now](#)

[Risk Assessment - Basic Concepts](#), NISO Certificate (2 day); 22-23 January [Book now](#)

[Risk Assessment](#), QQI L5 (4 day); 5-8 February [Book now](#)

[Safety Representation](#), NISO Certificate (2 day); 12-13 February [Book now](#)

[IOSH Managing Safely](#), IOSH Certificate (4 day); 19-22 February [Book now](#)

[Manual Handling Instruction](#), QQI L6 (5 day); 19-21 & 26-27 February [Book now](#)

[Health and Safety Representation](#), QQI L5 (4 day); 5-8 March [Book now](#)

[VDU/DSE Assessor Training](#), NISO Certificate (1 day); 6 March [Book now](#)

Safe Pass Training

[Kilkenny](#): 10 January; 7 February [Book now](#)

[Dublin](#): 12, 19 & 26 January [Book now](#)

[Clonmel](#): 17 January; [Book now](#)

[Cork](#): 24 January [Book now](#)

NISO/NISG Safety Awards Workshops

Free to attend

Limerick, 9 January [Book Now](#)

Cork, 16 January [Book Now](#)

Athlone, 17 January [Book Now](#)

Dublin/Gormanstown, 22 January [Book Now](#)

Waterford, 30 January [Book Now](#)

Sligo, 1 February [Book Now](#)

Northern Ireland, TBC

Regional Quiz Dates

Galway, 8 February [Book Now](#)
Belfast, 2 March (contact NISG)
Dublin, 8 March [Book Now](#)
Limerick, 8 March [Book Now](#)
Cavan, 8 March [Book Now](#)
Tullamore, 13 March [Book Now](#)
Sligo, 15 March [Book Now](#)
Waterford, 27 March [Book Now](#)
Cork, 28 March [Book Now](#)

Workplace Safety Training (Subsidised Fee - €20)

[Dundalk](#): 08 March 2018 [Book Now](#)

Temporary Traffic Management in Ireland

National Seminar Series

[Dublin](#): 1 March 2018 [Book Now](#)

[Limerick](#): 22 March 2018 [Book Now](#)

[Waterford](#): 12 April 2018 [Book Now](#)

[Dundalk](#): 26 April 2018 [Book Now](#)

Regional Courses

[NISO Certificate in Health, Safety and Welfare at Work](#),

(13 wks/2 hrs p/wk)

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[Limerick: Limerick IT, Moylish Campus;](#) Commencing spring 2018

National Events:

[All Ireland Safety Quiz Finals](#), Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary; 14 April 2018

[NISO National Annual General Meeting](#), Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary; 14 April 2018

[55th Annual NISO Conference](#), Great Southern Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry; 12 October 2018

[NISO/NISO All Ireland Safety Awards](#), Great Southern Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry; 12 October 2018



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

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