

NISO Safety Observer
March 2018; Issue 32

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Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

March 2018 - Issue 32

Welcome to the March 2018 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 29 January 2018 last and the next edition for NISO members is scheduled for mid April 2018. The last edition of Safety Observer was distributed on 19 December 2017.

NISO NEWS

All Ireland Safety Quiz - Regional Heats

The regional heats of the NISO/NISG All Ireland Occupational Safety Quiz will be continuing throughout March 2018.

Find out more [here](#).

National NISO AGM

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 Awards 2018

The All Ireland Occupational Safety Awards season is here. Early Bird deadline: 29 March; Standard deadline: 4 May.

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 Ayrton 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

In this issue... Safety news... Fatalities & Accidents... In the Courts... Publications... Resources... Research... Guidance... Safety Tips... Research... Safety Blogs/Opinions... Statistics... Training and Events...

IRISH NEWS

National Irish Safety Organisation extends its sincere sympathy to the family of Dessie McNamara who sadly passed away in February 2018. Dessie was a long-term, active member and officer of the NISO Mid West Committee and served on various sub committees of the organisation. His considerable contribution to NISO was recognised in 2017 when Dessie was presented with the NISO Roll of Honour. May he rest in peace.

Rescue 116 final crash report expected to take some time

The Air Accident Investigation Unit's final report into the crash of the Irish Coast Guard Rescue 116 helicopter off the north Mayo coast last March is not expected to be issued for some time. The State air accident investigator says that it is still gathering factual and background information and is making "steady progress", but will not have the final report within a year of the crash.

<https://goo.gl/qrc6jA>

Air Corps whistleblower sends protected disclosure to Defence Minister

A new protected disclosure has been sent to the Defence Minister detailing a number of "verified deaths" of those allegedly affected by the Air Corps chemical scandal. The new protected disclosure includes "a list of 56 verified deaths of serving and former colleagues with an average age of death of 48."

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

Reports of risky workplace incidents increase

The number of reported non fatal accidents and dangerous occurrences in the workplace has increased since new reporting regulations came into effect in November 2016. Non fatal accidents rose from 7,357 in the previous 12 months to 7,528 in the year to last November 2017, while the number of reported dangerous occurrences jumped from 209 to 292.

<https://goo.gl/X3Yi7Y>

Asian workers more likely to experience work violence

Employees of Asian descent are seven times more likely to experience violence at work in Ireland than white colleagues, a new survey on workplace behaviour has found. The study also found public sector staff are five times more likely to

experience violence than those working in other sectors.

<https://goo.gl/29Pciz>

National survey to examine sexual harassment in the workplace

A new national survey on the prevalence of sexual abuse and violence in Ireland will also examine sexual harassment in the workplace. In a previous report from 2002, sexual harassment was only included as a small subsection of the survey. This new review will include an entire module on sexual harassment in the workplace and look at whether Ireland has adequate protections in place to protect employees.

<https://goo.gl/vrK4yx>

Bullying and unsafe work practices in Irish film industry

Trade union GMB has stated that reform of the film industry funding model is needed to protect workers and eradicate abuse. They have stated that bullying, harassment, mistreatment of workers, health and safety breaches and unsafe working practices are widespread within the industry.

<https://goo.gl/UueZiE>

Review of Codes of Practice on Bullying in the Workplace

Pat Breen T.D. has announced that he has asked the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) and the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) to undertake a review of their Codes of Practice on Bullying in the Workplace. The WRC Code dates from 2002 and the HSA Code has been in place since 2007. The Minister's initiative comes about as a result of evolving case law in this area that has brought these issues to the fore.

<https://goo.gl/TNr5EQ>

Farm safety checks fall by a third

The number of health and safety inspections on farms has fallen by more than a third in just two years despite a worrying rise in farm deaths. Figures from the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) show 1,949 visits were conducted by inspectors in 2017, of which the vast majority were on farms. That compares to 2,308 farm visits in 2016 and 3,056 in 2015.

<https://goo.gl/QSByUx>

Target of 2,000 farm inspections set for 2018

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) will inspect 2,000 farms as its initial

target over the course of 2018 but could surpass this through the acquisition of extra inspectors.

<https://goo.gl/mqozDV>

Gardaí “being failed” over their mental health

Frontline gardaí are calling for an independent survey of stress levels, claiming management is “failing” staff in relation to mental health. The call was made as investigations continue into the sudden death of a senior detective in north Dublin.

<https://goo.gl/1SK96L>

Ministers’ drivers “sleep deprived and overworked”

A trade union has recently reported claims that ministerial drivers are sleep deprived and fatigued due to lack of rest periods. The union has submitted a claim for an “employment control framework” to bring about standardisation of pay and working conditions for all drivers.

<https://goo.gl/bQ6Z6a>

Medics worried at lack of farmer safety training

Medics at a Cork hospital have raised concerns about the lack of mandatory safety training for farmers. The medics at the hospital’s emergency department raised their concerns after revealing that 54 patients were admitted after major trauma caused by a farm accident between 2009 and 2013.

<https://goo.gl/qm5Sok>

October construction safety campaign

In October 2017 the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) carried out a construction safety campaign in conjunction with the Construction Safety Partnership Advisory Committee (CSPAC). During the campaign 362 inspections took place with particular focus on smaller contractors’ work including one-off housing projects. Read the report following the campaign.

<https://goo.gl/bvLpRU>

UK NEWS

UK construction firm fined £1.8m following fatality

A large UK construction firm has been fined £1.8m after a worker was fatally struck while working on roadworks. The subcontractor company which was

carrying out the work was also fined £75k following the fatality.

<https://goo.gl/xsDX2i>

UK steel company fine £1.4m following fatality

A UK steel company has been fined £1.4 million for the death of a 26 year old maintenance electrician, who was crushed after an overhead crane trapped him in the cage he was working in. This is the fifth time this particular company has been convicted for safety failings in the past four years.

<https://goo.gl/tQVXkG>

Over 50,000 people sign workplace harassment petition following scandal

More than 50,000 people have signed a petition set up in the wake of the Presidents Club scandal in England calling for more protection from sexual harassment in the workplace. The petition calls for the reinstatement of Section 40 of the Equality Act, which made employers liable for an employee being harassed by a third party - such as a customer - if the employer did not take reasonable steps to prevent it. The section was repealed in 2013.

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

300 workers walk off construction site over H&S fears

Nearly 300 construction workers have walked off the site of a new £200m power station being built in the UK. The latest walk-out at the site is believed to have been triggered by concerns over health and safety as well as the standard of facilities for contractors.

<https://goo.gl/5a2Eci>

Lab staff exposed to potentially lethal diseases

Safety breaches at UK labs that handle harmful bacteria, viruses and fungi have spread infections to staff and exposed others to potentially lethal diseases, a UK newspaper has learned. Between June 2015 and July 2017, formal investigations were held into more than 40 mishaps at specialist laboratories. Breaches investigated involve dengue virus, anthrax and other deadly pathogens.

<https://goo.gl/Ph6abw>

Charity reveals that one UK farmer a week takes their own life

At least one farmer in the UK takes their own life every week, according to shocking figures which have come to light as part of a rural mental health

campaign urging farmers to take better care of their mental health. The charity claims levels of depression in the industry are increasing and highlights that suicide rates in agriculture are among the highest of any occupational group.

<https://goo.gl/dKVafc>

EUROPEAN NEWS

Healthy Workplaces Manage Dangerous Substances Campaign

As the Healthy Workplaces for All Ages campaign draws to a close, the EU-OSHA takes a first look at the next two-year campaign which will be officially launched in April 2018. The Healthy Workplaces Manage Dangerous Substances Campaign will build on the achievements and lessons learnt during the current campaign, as EU-OSHA continues to strive to ensure healthy workplaces for all.

<https://goo.gl/QwMAjN>

New strategy promotes substitution with safety chemicals in the EU

The European Chemicals Agency's (ECHA) substitution strategy aims to promote the replacement of harmful chemicals by the adoption of alternatives and technologies. It highlights networking, capacity building, and improving access to data, funding and technical support for key areas for action.

<https://goo.gl/Wx5hGW>

New analysis highlights disparity in H&S management

A new report analysing findings of the second European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER-2) takes a broad view of European occupational safety and health (OSH) practice. The report highlights that, although traditional occupational safety risks are largely well addressed across Europe, health and psychosocial risks are not as well managed.

<https://goo.gl/T5QPwF>

GENERAL SAFETY NEWS

Dublin taxi driver's getting mental health training

In a new campaign called Drivers of Change, mental health charity Aware are training some of Dublin's taxi drivers so that they're better equipped to notice and deal with vulnerable passengers.

<https://goo.gl/DPCks9>

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

Teenager dies after falling from tractor on Tipperary farm

A teenager has died after falling from a tractor on a farm in Co. Tipperary. The Health and Safety Authority is investigating the fatality.

<https://goo.gl/jwUs9h>

Body of worker recovered in Donegal river

Divers have recovered the body of a man close to a Donegal river following an incident in which a worker fell into the river from a bridge. The man was working on the upgrade of the bridge when he fell into the water.

<https://goo.gl/YcbrFz>

Man dies following accident at Dublin Port

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) is investigating the death of a crewman at Dublin Port. It is understood that the incident happened while the man was disembarking a vessel. It is believed he may have fallen and struck his head off the pier and fallen into the water.

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

Man dies in accident on Tipperary farm

A man has died in an accident on a farm in Co. Tipperary. It is believed the man was loading bales prior to the accident occurring, however, no confirmation has been given, as yet, that this is a work-related incident. Health and Safety Authority inspectors are working to rule out the possibility of natural causes.

<https://goo.gl/qkdYPb>

Man dies following accident on Co. Meath farm

A man has died following an incident on a potato farm in Co. Meath. It is understood that the man was struck by machinery. The Health and Safety Authority is investigating the incident.

<https://goo.gl/VNXLc7>

Man killed in accident at meat processing factory

A man in his early 20s has been killed following an accident at a meat processing factory in Kildare. It has not yet emerged how the tragic accident happened.

<https://goo.gl/qCmj4Q>

Undocumented fisherman's injuries under investigation

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) is investigating an incident in which an undocumented Filipino fisherman lost most of a finger and broke another at sea. The incident occurred when a heavy metal door at the stern slammed on the worker's right hand, severing the index finger and breaking another.

<https://goo.gl/sqJG2u>

IN THE COURTS

Gardener awarded €100k following fall

A Dublin-based gardener has been awarded €100,500 for a serious wrist injury he received after falling from a step ladder. The gardener's employer was found liable for the award as they had failed to provide a safe system of work for the injured party.

<https://goo.gl/P63kkt>

Farmer injured by bullock awarded €21k

A farmer who suffered facial injuries when a bullock kicked a gate in a mart has been awarded €21,000 in damages. The incident happened when the plaintiff was unclamping the chain of the gate where the bullocks were held while collecting two bullocks from the mart.

<https://goo.gl/p8Xuu3>

Car testing inspector awarded €65k following workplace accident

A car testing centre inspector who was rear ended while carrying out an inspection of a vehicle has been awarded €65,000 by the High Court for injuries he suffered in the accident. The judge remarked that the plaintiff had suffered "appreciable distress" in relation to his family and work life as a result of the injuries.

<https://goo.gl/BZrQsZ>

INQUESTS

Farmer died from multi-organ failure, inquest hears

A farmer who suffered crush injuries after he was attacked by a cow on a farm died of multi-organ failure, an inquest has heard. The health and safety

inspector in the case conducted a full investigation into the incident and concluded that no further action or prosecutions were recommended. The coroner returned a verdict of death by misadventure.

<https://goo.gl/NkV6v2>

PUBLICATIONS

HSA Programme of Work 2018

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) has published its Programme of Work 2018. This programme of work, the third prepared under the HSA's Strategy 2016 - 2018, has been developed to contribute to its long-term vision of healthy, safe and productive lives.

<https://goo.gl/jaU8Kh>

Nail Bars Info Sheet

Using nail products and other products several times every day can pose a risk to your health. This information leaflet has been developed to provide practical advice to those working in the nail industry.

<https://goo.gl/g41kNW>

Reducing the Risk of Back Injuries on the Farm

Work activities on the farm by their nature involve physical manual work, which is a healthy thing. However, farmers should be aware that some aspects of this physical work involve a risk of musculoskeletal injury, particularly back injury.

<https://goo.gl/H8Jo2W>

Requirements for Construction Site Welfare Facilities

Updated guidance from the Health and Safety Authority on requirements for construction site welfare facilities in order to comply with current legislation, in particular the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013 Part 14 Construction Site Welfare Facilities.

<https://goo.gl/xgmkFA>

Choosing Slip-resistant Footwear - Information Sheet

Every working day in Ireland six people are hurt in work-related Slips, Trips and Falls (STF). STF are the second greatest single cause of workplace injuries. Slips account for almost half of all STF. In almost 6,000 workplace visits, HSA Inspectors found that 70% needed slip-resistant footwear. This information

sheet will help you choose the most suitable slip-resistant footwear.

<https://goo.gl/7ryLf4>

RESEARCH

Report calls for end to workplace taboos around woman's health

A new report has called for an end to workplace taboos around women's reproductive and gynaecological health conditions. The report by the Work Foundation on women's reproductive and gynaecological health and work warns under-recognised health conditions are holding back women's productivity and could be damaging their career and earning potential.

<https://goo.gl/Emj4Gm>

Nanotechnologies in building materials "could cause health risk"

Recent IOSH-funded research has found that cutting, drilling, sanding and crushing products containing nanoparticles could be a risk to workers. Nanotechnology is used to make stronger and more compressive concrete to reduce the need for steel reinforcements, improve wear resistance and cement consumption. Nanotechnologies are also used to improve the performance of windows and insulation materials.

<https://goo.gl/6XMbbr>

What makes us happy at work?

An interesting and detailed article on the different workplace wellbeing initiatives and perks that have been introduced to help keep employers engaged, happy and well, and what actually makes employees happy at work. The research shows that things like free membership of gyms and art museums might get employees in the door, what keeps them there are much less glitzy perks: good health insurance, adequate time off, decent pension and retirement planning, dental benefits and parental leave.

<https://goo.gl/aqteoi>

InfoIRSST: New About Research January 2018

In this edition:

- Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedics - Understand and Preventing Risks
- Better protection against falls from heights

- How to evaluate return-to-work obstacles and self efficacy scale

<https://goo.gl/mfweCk>

GUIDANCE

Chemical safety in the hospitality sector

Chemicals in the hospitality sector present many hazards such as burns, skin irritation and respiratory harm. To minimise these risks proper training, risk assessment and chemical storage need to be undertaken. Here are some top tips on how to handle chemicals safely.

<https://goo.gl/NEHmCo>

Risk assessing general workplace dusts

Airborne dusts are of particular concern as they are associated with widespread occupational lung diseases. Here is some guidance on general workplace dusts, assessment of the risks and control of exposure.

<https://goo.gl/oQE5LS>

Tractor safety - 12 essential checks

The vast majority of serious tractor accidents are caused because of inexperienced operators, speed, lack of concentration, gradient, unguarded parts and the poor mechanical condition of the tractor. Here are 12 essential tractor safety checks to help stay safe and reduce accidents involving tractors.

<https://goo.gl/Jdq5z8>

Workplace bullying - know the legalities

Legally all employers are obliged to prevent harassment or bullying at work. A co-worker, your boss or a superior, a client, a customer or any business contact can bully you. Here is some advice on how to deal with bullying in the workplace.

<https://goo.gl/6ZoERt>

Eight unusual places you might find asbestos

As a naturally occurring material, the history of asbestos in tools and products stretches back thousands of years. Knowing some of its stranger uses - and its ubiquity - could help you identify where asbestos may be present and act accordingly.

<https://goo.gl/6yyLqF>

RESOURCES

IOSH workplace toolkit to tackle harassment

IOSH has published new guidance, case studies and a toolkit to help organisations tackle ill-treatment in the workplace, including bullying, harassment, disrespect and “unreasonable management”.

<https://goo.gl/Pp8Mkc>

SAFETY TIPS

Tips to steer clear of the top ten safety violations

Every year, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in the United States releases the top ten most frequently violated safety standards on the job. Here’s their countdown of the worst offences, and what you can do to be sure you don’t commit a safety sin.

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

Managing stress for employees improves work ethic & happiness

Employee stress levels can be a huge drain on overall productivity and efficiency levels for businesses. Here are some practical steps management can take to combat employee stress levels and improve working conditions and productivity.

<https://goo.gl/vajmzX>

Recommended exercises to do at your desk

There are several potential adverse effects on health from having a seated job and there is plenty of media buzz around the risks of sitting too much. Here are some simple exercises you can do that can keep these health conditions at bay.

<https://goo.gl/wf4FZr>

Eight ways to build and nurture a strong H&S culture

Promoting and nurturing a strong H&S culture isn’t rocket science, but as with everything else, it requires time and resources.

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

SAFETY BLOGS/OPINION

Sexual harassment takes centre stage in the workplace

Recent controversies in Hollywood and Westminster have shone the spotlight on the issue of sexual harassment in the workplace. These events should act as a wake-up call for employers about the need to ensure a culture of respect in the workplace and a zero-tolerance policy on harassment, sexual harassment and bullying of any kind.

<https://goo.gl/TjujxT>

Common factors in forklift truck accidents

If you own a company or you're in charge of the health and safety arrangements, then you need to be fully aware of any potential hazards. In the workplace, there will always be hazards, and the trick remains successfully managing these to ensure staff are as safe as possible.

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

People bullied in work more likely to leave than the bully

Bullying and harassment have come centre stage in the last six to twelve months workplaces need to become proactive, not reactive, to successfully manage these issues. The persons targeted by bullies are usually high performing and a threat to the bully. A new anti-bullying campaign is aiming to change the mindset surrounding bullying and to involve all workers in dealing with bullying and harassment from within an organisation.

<https://goo.gl/8v4DXj>

H&S - it's about the bottom line, not just bad backs

Good health and safety practices don't just protect employees, they also create an environment which cultivates economic success. Health and safety and wellness should be top priority for HR personnel, as illnesses and injuries, particularly those that are work related, lead to financial burdens for both employer and employee.

<https://goo.gl/Hp59Cp>

Changing the atmosphere around safety conversations

Safety is in everyone's best interests, yet conversations around safety often seem to fall on deaf ears. Perhaps it's the approach, and not the message, that needs to change. Here's some guidance on effectively discussing safety issues.

<https://goo.gl/n8n2Jo>

STATISTICS

Seven people have been killed in workplace accidents since 1 January 2018 - Correct at 21 February 2018.

<https://goo.gl/jZugX9>

SAFETY IN VIDEOS

Driver assistance systems

The European Parliament wants to reduce the death toll on roads by making driver assistance systems a must in every new vehicle in the EU

<https://goo.gl/hzvEVP>

Silicosis and hand-arm vibration syndrome - one man's story

Part of a series of videos highlighting the twin issues of silicosis and hand-arm vibration syndrome.

<https://goo.gl/e52J5o>

SAFETY IN PICTURES

Tractor carrying bales strikes bridge

<https://goo.gl/AdxDWD>

Scaffolder risked death working at 60ft without safety equipment

<https://goo.gl/bELh2L>

TRAINING AND EVENTS

NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12

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

[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](#)

[Risk Assessment](#), QQI L5 (4 day); 12-15 March [Book now](#)

[Safety Representation](#), NISO Certificate (2 day); 9-10 April [Book now](#)

[Manual Handling Basic](#), NISO Certificate (half day); 15 & 29 March [Book now](#)

[IOSH Managing Safely](#), IOSH Certificate (4 day); 23-26 March [Book now](#)

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

Safe Pass Training

[Kilkenny](#): 4 March [Book now](#)
[Dublin](#): 9, 16 & 23 March [Book now](#)
[Clonmel](#): 14 March; [Book now](#)
[Cork](#): 21 March [Book now](#)

Regional Quiz Dates

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

[Limerick](#): 27 March 2018 [Book Now](#)
[Dublin](#): 28 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)
Commencing autumn 2018
Commencing autumn 2018
Dublin 12; Commencing autumn 2018
[Limerick: Limerick IT, Moylish Campus](#); Commencing autumn 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