



The Safety Observer



Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

April 2018 - Issue 33

Welcome to the April 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 29 February 2018.

NISO NEWS

National NISO AGM

The National Annual General Meeting of the National Irish Safety Organisation 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.

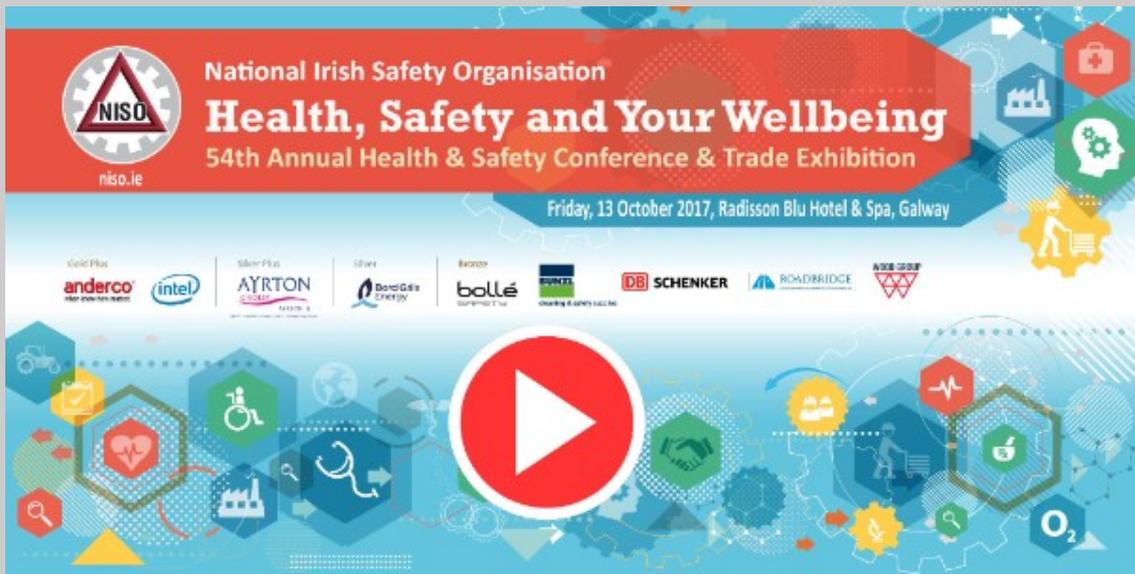
Standard deadline: 4 May.

Find out more [here](#).

All Ireland Safety Quiz - Finals

The NISO/NISG All Ireland Occupational Safety Quiz Finals will be taking place on 14 April 2018 in the Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.

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

Irish businesses achieve ISO 45001 certification

The new global standard ISO 45001 for Occupational Health and Safety sets the minimum standard of practice to protect employees worldwide. More than 50 Irish companies will be among the first organisations in the world to achieve certification to the major new global health and safety standard.

<https://goo.gl/Dsrq8d>

Chemical risk to workers in nail bars

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) has said that the findings of inspections that it had carried out in the nail bar industry indicated a poor understanding of the chemical health and safety risks. Health risks to workers in nail bars include dermatitis, headaches, nausea, asthma and cancer.

<https://goo.gl/s6QAhH>

Workplace sexual harassment claims on the rise

A top employment lawyer has described sexual harassment in Irish workplaces as “endemic”. The lawyer noted a significant increase in the number of women coming forward to make sexual harassment claims in recent months, which he credited to the recent sexual harassment revelations in Hollywood.

<https://goo.gl/yGkB4e>

First workplace in Ireland to get gold medal for workspace wellbeing

An engineering consultancy firm has become the first in Ireland, and ninth in Europe, to receive the WELL Certification by the International WELL Building Institute. The offices, which accommodate 170 staff, were designed around the seven categories of building performance; air, water, nourishment, light, fitness, comfort and mind. Furthermore, the firm has reported a 25pc improvement in performance since the design changes were introduced.

<https://goo.gl/YMn3AD>

UK NEWS

Property tycoon jailed over fatal trench collapse

The owner of a property portfolio in the southwest of England has been jailed over the death of a worker who was crushed when an unsupported trench collapsed on his head. The accused was sentenced to two and a half years in prison for gross negligence manslaughter and breach of safety and health regulations. He was also

ordered to pay £15k costs.

<https://goo.gl/kiZxjq>

Fast food chain fined almost £1m over burns

A fast food retailer has been ordered to pay a £950k fine plus costs of £18,700 after two workers sustained burn injuries at separate branches in England. Both incidents involved burns sustained from hot gravy.

<https://goo.gl/z99XG8>

Fast food chain fined £200k after employee hit by motorist

A fast food chain has been fined £200 after a teenage employee was hit by an angry motorist. The teenage employee had been asked to direct traffic at the restaurant's drive-through and car park entrances but had been given no training in directing traffic. The court heard that two other employees had been injured directing traffic at the branch.

<https://goo.gl/xecZuF>

EUROPEAN NEWS

Ensuring safety and health of women at work

When it comes to the occupational safety and health (OSH) of women in the workplace, trends identified by EU-OSHA show risks and their implications for OSH management, as well as good practices to overcome them.

<https://goo.gl/sf5ky3>

WORLD NEWS

ISO 45001 Health and Safety Management Standard

The first internationally developed standard for health and safety management systems, ISO 45001, was launched worldwide on 12 March. The new standard reflects current safety management trends and techniques and will eventually replace up to 24 national safety standards around the world, including OHSAS 18001.

<https://goo.gl/S1rsvQ>

6th Global Healthy Workplace Awards open for applications

Initiated by the Global Centre for Healthy Workplaces, the GHWAwards enable employers to benchmark their programs to the global standard. All employer

organisation (profit, non profit, local and international) are encouraged to apply.

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

GENERAL SAFETY NEWS

Cleaning products found to be as harmful to lungs as smoking

A new study has found that regular use of cleaning sprays has an impact on lung health comparable with smoking 20 cigarettes a day. The research followed more than 6,000 people over a 20 year period and found women in particular suffered significant health problems after long-term use of these products.

<https://goo.gl/h3N9bX>

Cheap jewellery found to contain potentially toxic materials

Findings from a European-wide project coordinated by the European Chemicals Agency has found that a significant percentage of cheap jewellery on sale in Ireland contains excessively high levels of lead, nickel, and other potentially toxic materials. All non-compliant products were removed from the market.

<https://goo.gl/9fq1NF>

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

Man in his 40s dies in Co. Cork workplace accident

A man in his 40s has died in a workplace accident in a whiskey maturation warehouse in Co. Cork. It is believed the deceased sustained crush-like injuries in the accident. The gardaí and the Health and Safety Authority are investigating the fatality.

<https://goo.gl/YJq5zt>

Man dies after falling from roof at Monaghan hotel

A man in his 50s has died after falling from a hotel roof in Co. Monaghan. The Gardaí and the Health and Safety Authority are investigating the accident.

<https://goo.gl/nHGxhw>

Man in his 90s dies in Kilkenny farm accident

A man in his 90s died following injuries he sustained when he was attacked by a cow on a farm in Co. Kilkenny. The Health and Safety Authority is investigating the incident.

<https://goo.gl/1mNCm4>

Construction worker rescued in Limerick city

A man in his mid-30s who was working on scaffolding in Limerick city when he needed urgent medical attention. The worker was winched by a crane from the third floor of an office block development after he suffered a back injury. A multi-agency emergency services response was involved in the incident including firefighters, gardaí and paramedics.

<https://goo.gl/nP4zFS>

Irishman survives 20ft fall in workplace accident in Canada

An Irishman working in Canada has had a "miracle escape" after falling 20 feet in a workplace accident. The 22-year-old had been testing machinery on a construction site in Toronto on Tuesday when the cable supporting his metal cage snapped and fell more than 20 feet from the air.

<https://goo.gl/2H3K6w>

IN THE COURTS

NI construction company fined €25k following workplace fatality

A Co. Down-based construction contracting company has pleaded guilty to health and safety breaches which resulted in the death of an amateur photographer on Dublin a construction site in Dublin in 2014. The deceased was killed in a crushing accident at the site.

<https://goo.gl/vDPVJo>

Construction company fined €25k after man killed by falling wall

A construction company has been fined €25,000 after a block wall fell on a man killing him in his garden. Cork Circuit Criminal Court was told that construction work was being carried out to extend storage areas at the rear of a restaurant in Bandon, when a boundary wall fell on a pensioner in his garden.

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

Co. Down company fined £8k after digger bucket left on train tracks

A company has been fined £8,000 after a digger bucket they left on railway tracks was hit by a train. They were found to have breached health and safety regulations over the incident on the Belfast to Dublin railway line in February 2016.

<https://goo.gl/dmjcWo>

No prosecutions planned following death of fisherman

The DPP has directed no prosecution in the case of a fisherman who died after the fishing vessel he was working on capsized off the Dublin coast. At Dublin Coroner's Court the Health and Safety Authority and Gardaí said their investigations had concluded and the DPP directed no prosecution into the incident that claimed the young man's life.

<https://goo.gl/jJSDLZ>

Kildare bus companies fined €11k for safety breaches

A Kildare bus company has been investigated for breaches of tachograph and drivers' hours regulations. The company plead guilty to six charges of failing to produce and handover records, failing to make regular checks and failing to organise drivers' work to ensure compliance with the regulations, failing to download vehicle units and failing to ensure tachograph equipment was functioning correctly.

<https://goo.gl/mVCQM4>

INQUESTS

Man died from heart complications after forklift accident

A man who survived a leg amputation following a crush injury in a forklift accident later died of heart complications linked to the incident, an inquest has heard. The man survived a traumatic crush injury after the hydraulics failed on a forklift he was working on. He suffered severe cuts to the top and side of his left foot. A post-mortem examination gave the cause of death as acute cardiac insufficiency secondary to coronary artery disease as a consequence of left knee amputation following a traumatic injury to the left foot.

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

PUBLICATIONS

Management of OSH in European Workplaces - ESENER-2

The report from EU-OSHA describes how management commitment to and worker representation in OSH management can significantly increase the likelihood of a company implementing good practice. It also highlights the need to assist micro and small enterprises (MSEs) with OSH, in line with the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 and the European Pillar of Social Rights.

<https://goo.gl/QWfyRE>

Info Sheet: Substitution of dangerous substances in the workplace

This info sheet outlines a range of fundamental principles, practical hints, best practices, risk assessment tools and methods, and useful links to guide you through the stepwise process of substitution of dangerous substances in the workplace.

<https://goo.gl/KLGr5W>

Info sheet: Legislative framework on dangerous substance in workplaces

This info sheet provides an overview of the legislative framework on dangerous substances in workplaces in the European Union.

<https://goo.gl/ikUS7G>

infoIRSST News About Research February 2017 Edition

- Pesticides and PPE
- Research on Prevention against Occupational Cancer

<https://goo.gl/icZGpD>

RESOURCES

New website to inform consumers on chemicals

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has launched a new website called “Chemicals in our life” to raise awareness among consumers of the benefits and risks of chemicals in everyday life. The website provides information on the use of chemicals and how the EU legislation on chemicals protects citizens.

<https://goo.gl/LqxQM7>

SAFETY BLOGS/OPINION

Why is the ill treatment of workers so common?

Research commissioned by the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH), entitled the Irish Workplace Behaviour Survey, has found that 43pc of employees have experienced ill treatment at work.

<https://goo.gl/qJNARr>

Now is the time to stop bullying in the workplace

The current raising of awareness around sexual misconduct is long overdue and challenges behaviours that should never have been tolerated within organisations. This gives us all the opportunity to address low level issues before they escalate.

<https://goo.gl/gGefXY>

For and against: e-cigarettes at work

Detailed article on e-cigarette use, health effects and the workplace.

<https://goo.gl/VXNG3t>

How to manage workplace stress

Practical advice on managing stress in the workplace.

<https://goo.gl/x3Nm75>

STATISTICS

Nine people have been killed in workplace accidents since 1 January 2018 - Correct at 20 March 2018.

<https://goo.gl/XnWMJf>

SAFETY TIDBITS

Voodoo dolls of bosses improve staff morale, study finds

A study of 229 workers in the US and Canada found that allowing disgruntled staff to stab voodoo dolls of their boss could help them feel less resentful and improve the quality of their work.

<https://goo.gl/GQvVtj>

TRAINING AND EVENTS

NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12

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

[Manual Handling Basic](#), NISO Certificate (half day); 12 & 26 April [Book now](#)

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

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

[Intro to H&S for the Non Safety Specialist](#), NISO Certificate, (2 day); 1-2 May [Book now](#)

[VDU/DSE Assessor Training](#), NISO Certificate (1 day); 8 May [Book now](#)

[Manual Handling Instruction](#), QQI L6 (5 day); 8, 9, 10 & 14, 15 May [Book now](#)

[IOSH Working Safely](#), IOSH Certificate (1 day); 15 May

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

Safe Pass Training

[Kilkenny](#): 4 April; [Book now](#)

[Dublin](#): 6, 13, 20 & 27 April; [Book now](#)

[Clonmel](#): 11 April; [Book now](#)

[Cork](#): 18 April; [Book now](#)

Regional Quiz Dates

[Waterford](#), 4 April; [Book Now](#)

Workplace Safety Training (Subsidised Fee - €20)

More dates to be announced

Temporary Traffic Management in Ireland

National Seminar Series

[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 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