

NISO Safety Observer
December 2018; Issue 37

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Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

December 2018 - Issue 37

Welcome to the December 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 7 November 2018 last and the next edition for NISO members is scheduled for mid January 2019. The last edition of Safety Observer was distributed on 30 November 2018.

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NISO NEWS

Safety Awards Workshops 2019

The NISO/NISG All Ireland Occupational Safety Awards Workshops are back for 2019! Book your place at a workshop [HERE...](#)

NISO Regional AGMs

The regional Annual General Meetings of the National Irish Safety Organisation will continue during January 2019. Find out about your regional AGM [HERE...](#)

NISO Certificate in Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Course

The 13-week NISO Certificate course will commence in 6 venues nationwide starting January and February 2019. Find out more [HERE...](#)

All Ireland Occupational Safety Quiz 2019

Quiz Season is here again and the Regional Heats will be kicking off around the country from March 2019! Enter your quiz team to be in with a chance to become the 2019 All Ireland Occupational Safety Quiz Champions!

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*Corporate members only

In this issue... Safety news... Fatalities & Accidents... In the Courts... Inquests... Statistics... Training and Events...

IRISH NEWS

Nurses are victims of 70% of hospital assaults

Over the last ten years, nurses have been victims of 70% of assaults on hospital workers, according to HSE figures. During this period, 10,744 staff members reported an assault, of which more than 7,500 of those were nurses.

<https://goo.gl/x67vzp>

Revised guidelines on managing H&S in post-primary schools issued

Revised guidance for schools on managing workplace safety, health and welfare has been published and issued to all post-primary schools in the country. The updated Guidelines on Managing Safety, Health and Welfare in Post-Primary Schools are the outcome of a joint project undertaken by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), the Department of Education and Skills (DES) and the State Claims Agency (SCA). The Guidelines aim to assist schools in fulfilling their legal obligation to manage the safety, health and welfare of staff in the school.

<https://goo.gl/R4rsWi>

Survey on Leinster House bullying and sexual harassment

A survey on the level of bullying and sexual harassment in Leinster House will be carried out next year. It will look at working conditions in the Oireachtas and is due to be conducted in the first few months of 2019. The Oireachtas Women's Caucus has welcomed the news, saying that its aim is to ensure everyone in Leinster House works in "an environment of dignity and respect".

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

Arrest made in April farm death investigation

An Garda Síochána has made an arrest as part of an investigation into a farm-related death that occurred in April of this year. The fatality occurred when a woman in her 70s was struck by an agricultural vehicle on a farm. Following the death, the scene has been preserved for an investigation which has been ongoing since.

<https://goo.gl/oxKVVD>

UK NEWS

HSE UK releases Britain's annual injury and ill health statistics

Annual statistics from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) show 1.4 million workers were suffering from work-related ill health and around 555,000 from non-fatal injuries in 2017/18. The annual statistics cover work-related ill health, workplace

injuries, working days lost, costs to Britain and enforcement action taken.

<https://goo.gl/TsAeyT>

UK workers reject Christmas party in favour of wellbeing support

According to new research, UK workers would rather that the money spent on the traditional office Christmas party was spent on wellbeing supports such as gym and sports membership, yoga classes, in-office talks on mindfulness and mental health awareness and free fruit in the office.

<https://goo.gl/iyziEN>

EUROPEAN NEWS

EU Member States give a mixed response to road safety proposals

Industry and transport ministers from the 28 EU Member States have set out their official responses to three key pieces of road safety legislation. The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) welcomed the position of the Council of the EU on new vehicle safety measures but is worried that new rules on road infrastructure safety management and revised professional driver working hour regulations will be weakened unless the European Parliament argues successfully for a stronger position in upcoming negotiations.

<https://goo.gl/wCHoZG>

GENERAL SAFETY NEWS

Counterfeit cosmetics could be harmful to health

The Health Products Regulatory Authority and the Health Service Executive have warned that counterfeit cosmetics could cost you your health. Of the 728 counterfeit and imitation cosmetics seized last year by Revenue's Customs Service, some contained arsenic and lead. Most of the products seized were eyeshadows and lip products.

<https://goo.gl/pcsoK7>

Parents warned to beware of potentially dangerous counterfeit toys

Parents have been warned to watch out for potentially dangerous counterfeit toys this Christmas. Shoppers should check that toys bear the CE mark to ensure they are safe. The major hazards with counterfeit toys include detachable parts (choking hazards), any products that fold, have hinges, wheels or are operated with electricity.

<https://goo.gl/pJGfEq>

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

Man killed in workplace accident in garage

A man has been killed in a workplace accident in a garage in Donegal. The man who was in his 70s was showing mechanics his car when the tragedy occurred. The deceased became entangled in machinery at the garage when his car surged forward and he suffered fatal injuries.

<https://goo.gl/KckU6w>

IN THE COURTS

Mother suffering post-natal depression wins unfair dismissal case

A mother suffering from post-natal depression following the birth of her second child has been awarded €8,000 after winning her unfair dismissal case against her former employer.

<https://goo.gl/Xpvf2n>

INQUESTS

Man crushed by bull died from head injuries, inquest hears

A man who died after being crushed by a bull on a Co. Offaly farm died due to head injuries, an inquest has heard. An adjournment of the inquest was requested by a garda inspector investigating the case stating that “matters are not yet finalised”. The HSA is yet to decide whether or not the file will be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

<https://goo.gl/NyJcuc>

Report into the death of volunteer raises safety concerns

A report into the death of a rescue volunteer two years ago has raised concerns about safety aspects of the rescue operation. The volunteer died when the boat she was in capsized while out searching for a missing man in September 2016. The Marine Casualty Investigation Board (MCIB), which published its report into the incident, found that the rigid inflatable boat (RIB) in question was “not licensed or certified in accordance with the statutory requirements for the activities in which it was engaged”.

The report maintains its finding from an earlier draft report that the rescue

operation does not have an effective safety management system in place. The report recommends that the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport reviews and clearly documents the criteria for tasking and launching rescue boats.
<https://goo.gl/WyNFzD>

No charges will be brought over death at ferry terminal

No charge will be brought in relation to the death of a shipping company employee who died in a workplace accident, an inquest has heard. The employee was killed after he was stuck by a trailer while loading freight onto a ferry vessel. The inquest was adjourned for a full hearing to take place in April 2019.

<https://goo.gl/hjgQgj>

Inquest hears man who took his own life had suffered workplace bullying

A coroner is to write to one of Ireland's biggest construction supply firms after the wife of a man who took his own life said he had suffered relentless bullying at work. The coroner adjourned the inquest so that he can write to the deceased's employer to ascertain their anti-bullying policy. The inquest will resume next year when the coroner hopes to have further information available.

<https://goo.gl/ev1onc>

Expert report on ambulance fire death not available to coroner, inquest hears

An expert report on the circumstances surrounding the death of a man who died following a fire in a ambulance at a General Hospital in 2016 has been sought by, but not yet been made available to, the Kildare Coroner, an adjourned inquest heard earlier this month. The man died when he was being brought to the hospital by ambulance and a fire broke out in the vehicle at the entrance to the Emergency Department. Two paramedics were also injured in the incident. The inquest has been adjourned until March 2019.

<https://goo.gl/QjehYp>

GUIDANCE

Psychosocial risks, stress and musculoskeletal disorders - a practical guide

The EU-OSHA has published a practical guide to help micro and small businesses manage psychosocial risks, stress and musculoskeletal disorders. It sets out a five-step process for improving the work environment with lots of useful tips, easy-to-use techniques and straightforward advice.

<https://goo.gl/Me5ZY1>

RESEARCH REPORTS

Detecting work-related diseases using alert and sentinel systems: new research

A new report entitled “Alert and sentinel approaches for the identification of work-related diseases in the EU” shows how these systems operate to identify emerging health problems at work, initiate early health interventions and prevention, and support evidence-based policy-making. This project demonstrates how useful alert and sentinel systems are to complement the instruments already used to monitor known occupational diseases as they help detect new work-related diseases.

<https://goo.gl/iZMzhe>

Safety risks posed by tomorrow’s work technology needs response today

Raised levels of stress, increased ergonomic risks and cyber security issues have been identified as the likely outcomes of using more digital technology in the workplace, according to a report published by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA). Technologies due to become more widespread at work include 3D printing, autonomous vehicles (including drones), virtual reality and augmented reality.

<https://goo.gl/MaJJMF>

SAFETY BLOGS/OPINIONS

Top 9 most dangerous common building materials

The health risks associated with the 9 most hazardous materials on this list range from irritants, to potentially toxic or carcinogenic after years of exposure, to toxic – even deadly – in the short run. These materials can be absorbed through the skin, inhaled or ingested.

<https://goo.gl/An1dTu>

STATISTICS

Thirty-eight people have been killed in workplace accidents since 1 January 2018 - Correct at 19 December 2018

<https://goo.gl/MNyzQt>

SAFETY TIDBITS

The Twelves Myths of Christmas

The HSE UK has published the top twelve festive health and safety myths, where health and safety has been incorrectly used as an excuse to put a ban on harmless festive fun.

<https://goo.gl/C5S88Z>

SAFETY IN VIDEOS

Near misses at Dutch level crossing

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

MCIB REPORTS

Report of the investigation into an incident involving “MV Epsilon” has been published by the Marine Casualty Investigation Board.

<https://goo.gl/sQTTD2>

Report into the fatal incident involving the Kilkee Irish Coast Guard Rigid Inflatable Boat at Kilkee, Co. Clare, has been published by the Marine Casualty Investigations Board.

<https://goo.gl/UgxQgJ>

TRAINING AND EVENTS

Training scheduled at 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); 17 January [Book now](#)

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

[Health and Safety Representation](#), QQI L5 (4 day); 28-31 January [Book now](#)

[VDU/DSE Assessor Training](#), NISO Certificate (1 day); 29 January [Book now](#)

[Safety Representation](#), NISO Certificate (2 day); 11-12 February [Book now](#)

[Manual Handling Instruction](#), QQI L6 (5 day); 18, 19, 20 and 24, 25 February [Book now](#)

[Introduction to H&S for the non Safety Specialist](#), NISO Certificate (2 day); 27-28 February [Book now](#)

Safe Pass training recommencing January 2019

Regional Courses

[NISO Certificate in Health, Safety and Welfare at Work](#), (13 wks/2 hrs p/wk)

[Limerick: Limerick IT, Moylish Campus](#); Commencing 29 January 2019 [Book now](#)

[Westmeath: Athlone IT](#); Commencing 4 February 2019 [Book now](#)

[Mayo: GMIT Castlebar Campus](#); Commencing 12 February 2019 [Book now](#)

[Dublin: NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12](#); Commencing 19 February 2019 [Book now](#)

[Waterford: Waterford IT](#); Commencing 19 February 2019 [Book now](#)

[Kerry: Tralee IT](#); Commencing spring 2019 (Date TBC)

NISO Regional Annual General Meetings (AGM)

[NISO North West Region](#) [covering counties Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo]

3 December 2018; 19:30hrs; Mill Park Hotel, Donegal Town [ALREADY HELD]

[NISO Western Region](#) [covering counties Galway, Mayo, Roscommon]

3 December 2018; 19:00hrs; Oranmore Lodge Hotel, Oranmore, Co. Galway [ALREADY HELD]

[NISO North East Region](#) [covering counties Cavan, Louth, Meath, Monaghan]

14 January 2019; Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth

[NISO South Eastern Region](#) [covering counties Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary South, Waterford, Wexford]

15 January 2019; 19:00hrs; The Viking Hotel Waterford, Co. Waterford

[NISO Mid West Region](#) [covering counties Clare, Limerick, Tipperary North]

17 January 2019; 20:00hrs; Greenhills Hotel, Ennis Rd, Limerick

[NISO Midland Region](#) [Covering counties Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath]

23 January 2019; 19:30hrs; Creggan Court Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

[NISO Eastern Region](#) [covering counties Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow]

24 January 2019; 17:00hrs; NISO Training Centre, Ballymount, Dublin 12.

National NISO Annual General Meeting: April 2019

(Date and Venue TBC)

Safety Awards Workshops

Dublin/Gormanston; 14 January; 15.30hrs-17.00hrs

CityNorth Hotel, Exit 7 off M1, Gormanston, Co Meath [BOOK NOW](#)

Waterford; 15 January; 15.30hrs-17.00hrs

Viking Hotel Waterford, Cork Road, Waterford [BOOK NOW](#)

Limerick; 17 January; 15.30hrs-17.00hrs

Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa Ennis Road, Limerick [BOOK NOW](#)

Athlone; 23 January; 15.30hrs-17.00hrs.

Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Athlone, Co. Westmeath [BOOK NOW](#)

Galway; 31 January; 14.30hrs-16.00hrs.

Oranmore Lodge Hotel, Oranmore, Co Galway [BOOK NOW](#)

Sligo; 5 February; 14.30hrs-16.00hrs

Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Sligo [BOOK NOW](#)

Cork; 7 February; 15.30hrs-17.00hrs.

Radisson Blu Hotel, Little Island, Cork [BOOK NOW](#)

Northern Ireland; Contact NISG – info@nisg.org.uk

All Ireland Occupational Safety Quiz - Regional Heats [Learn More](#)

NISO West; 5 February; 20.00hrs; Oranmore Lodge Hotel, Co. Galway [BOOK NOW](#)

NISO Midland; 13 March; 20.00hrs; Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly [BOOK NOW](#)

NISG Northern Ireland; 1 March 2019; 19.00hrs, Wellington Park Hotel, 21 Malone Road, Belfast; Contact

NISG: info@nisg.org.uk

NISO East; 14 March; 19.00hrs; The Gresham Hotel, Dublin 1 [BOOK NOW](#)

NISO North East; 14 March; 20.00hrs; The Errigal Hotel, Cootehill, Co. Cavan [BOOK NOW](#)

NISO North West; 14 March; 20.00hrs; The Clayton Hotel, Clarion Road, Co. Sligo [BOOK NOW](#)

NISO Mid West; 21 March; 20.00hrs; Greenhills Hotel, Ennis Rd, Limerick [BOOK NOW](#)

NISO South Eastern; 26 March; 20.00hrs; Viking Hotel Waterford, Co. Waterford [BOOK NOW](#)

NISO South; 28 March; 20.00hrs; Radisson Blu Hotel, Little Island, Co. Cork [BOOK NOW](#)

All Ireland Occupational Safety Quiz Finals: April 2019

(Date and Venue TBC)