

NISO Safety Observer  
March 2019; Issue 38

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Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

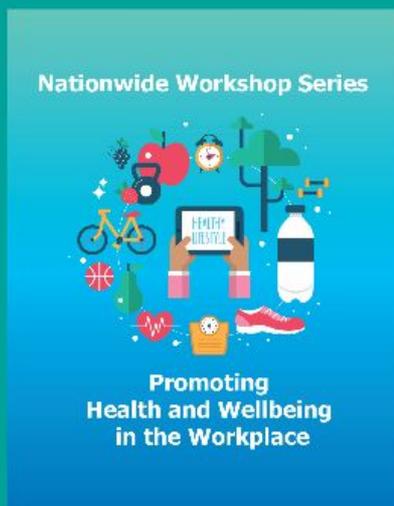
March 2019 - Issue 38

Welcome to the March 2019 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 1 February 2019 last and the next edition for NISO members is scheduled for mid April 2019. The last edition of Safety Observer was distributed on 20 December 2018.

## SUBSCRIBE TO THE NISO MAILING LIST

The NISO Observer Newsletter is being sent to **email subscribers only**. Your colleagues may have to subscribe to the NISO mailing list again to receive email communications from National Irish Safety Organisation. Please forward this newsletter on to any colleagues or friends who may need to subscribe again.

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## NISO NEWS

### Promoting Health and Wellbeing in the Workplace

Nationwide Workshop Series  
National Irish Safety Organisation, in conjunction with Healthy Ireland, is running a half day workshop on Promoting Health and Wellbeing in the Workplace throughout 2019. Book your place at a workshop [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! Find out more [HERE...](#)

### All Ireland Occupational Safety Awards 2019 - submission deadlines

Early Bird: 29 March 2019  
Standard: 3 March 2019  
Late: 14 June 2019  
Find out more [HERE...](#)

### National NISO AGM 2019

The National AGM of the National Irish Safety Organisation will take place at 12pm on 6 April in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth. All fully paid NISO members are invited to attend.

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\*Corporate members only

In this issue... Safety news... Fatalities & Accidents... In the Courts... Inquests... Research... New Publications... Safety Alerts... Statistics... Safety Apps... Training and Events...

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## **IRISH NEWS**

### **HSA Strategy Statement 2019-21 and Programme of Work 2019**

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) has published its Strategy Statement 2019-21 and Programme of Work 2019. Key elements of the 2019-21 Strategy include an increased focus on long term occupational health risks and monitoring the impact of Brexit on Irish industry.

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

### **Driving for work accounts for 1 in 3 road collisions annually**

Driving for work accounts for about one in three road collisions in Ireland every year, with people using their own vehicles and the “gig economy” contributing to these figures. Of the 915 road traffic fatalities in the State between 2008 and 2011, analysis suggests some 23 percent of them were work related. It is advised that employers need to be aware of their duty of care to keep their employees safe when driving for work.

<https://goo.gl/tXXbVc>

### **Concern over number of accidents at major construction site**

The board behind the development of a major construction project have raised concerns over the frequency of health and safety incidents on the site. A recent board meeting heard the the frequency of accidents was 0.53 per 100,000 hours on the main site and 0.79 per 100,000 hours at the satellites. Some of the health and safety incidents recorded were "high potential near miss" incidents and others were more minor.

<https://goo.gl/Jr5moc>

### **Call for inquiry into allegations of toxic chemical exposure**

The Dáil is to consider establishing a special Oireachtas inquiry into claims that Defence Forces personnel suffered serious health consequences over decades as a result of toxic chemical exposure. A number of whistleblowers have come forward in recent years with concerns that this exposure could have caused the deaths and serious illness of former staff.

<https://goo.gl/bsou5U>

### **Union calls for safety screens on buses**

The National Bus and Rail Union is calling for safety screens to be retro-fitted to an entire national bus fleet. The call comes following concern over the level of assaults on bus drivers and the high number of drivers on sick leave following the attacks.

<https://goo.gl/bBybmx>

## **UK NEWS**

### **Company director jailed for selling illegal chemicals**

A company director has been sentenced to 10 months in prison after his company ignored enforcement notices ordering it to stop selling products that contained illegal chemicals online. The company was involved in selling plant protection products and paint stripper.

<https://goo.gl/sLPzBX>

## **EUROPEAN NEWS**

### **Thirteen killed in Czech Republic mine explosion**

Eleven Polish nationals and 2 Czechs have been killed in a methane explosion at a coal mine in the Czech Republic. Another 10 miners were also injured in the explosion. The Polish president declared a national day of mourning following the tragedy.

<https://goo.gl/GAUc5f>

### **Falling cargo kills six train passengers in Denmark**

A Danish passenger train hit falling cargo from a passing freight train as it crossed a bridge, killing six people and injuring 16 others. Authorities said the

trains were going past each other in opposite directions. Photos showed that the tarpaulin that covered the cargo was torn in pieces.

<https://goo.gl/MzVwQG>

### **Man charged following fire that killed 5 teenagers in Poland**

Polish prosecutors probing the deaths of five teenage girls in an “escape room” have said they had charged the owner of the facility with deliberately creating a fire hazard that led to the blaze. More than 200 of Poland’s 1,000+ escape rooms have been checked following the tragedy with more than 100 found to be unsafe and 13 facilities immediately shut down.

<https://goo.gl/z6NEQ7>

### **Sailors killed as ships catch fire in Black Sea**

Two commercial vessels that caught fire in the Black Sea have left at least 14 sailors dead and five missing, Russian officials have said. The blaze erupted while fuel was being pumped from one vessel to another, the Federal Agency for the Sea and River Transport said.

<https://goo.gl/iC6qT6>

### **MEPs back new vehicle safety standards in key vote**

A key committee of MEPs has given the green light for a range of new mandatory vehicle safety standards that could apply to new vehicle models within three years. The measures include new crash testing requirements, mandatory installation of driver assistance systems including Automated Emergency Braking (AEB) with pedestrian and cyclist detection, overridable Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA) and Emergency Lane Keeping, as well as a new direct vision standard for lorries and buses to enable drivers to have a better view of other road users around their vehicle.

<https://goo.gl/SNRBMp>

### **Provisional deal on new EU road safety legislation**

Minimum road infrastructure safety standards will be extended to national roads across the EU following a provisional deal on new legislation. A revised version of the current rules would extend road safety measures to all motorways, primary roads and non-urban roads that receive EU funding. According to research for the European Commission, the proposed measures could save 3,200 lives and prevent more than 20,000 serious injuries over the period 2020-2030.

<https://goo.gl/mPSzmR>

## **WORLD NEWS**

### **Employees arrested following Brazil dam collapse which killed 166**

Eight employees of a mining company have been arrested following the collapse of a dam in Brazil. At least 166 people were killed and almost 200 are still missing following the disaster. The state prosecutors have accused the arrested employees, who were responsible for the security and stability of the dam, of covering up weakness in the structure.

<https://goo.gl/NbDUzw>

### **At least 30 killed in Afghanistan gold mine collapse**

At least 30 people have been killed and another seven injured after a gold mine collapsed in northeastern Afghanistan. It is not clear why the mine shaft collapsed but it's believed the miners were not professionals.

<https://goo.gl/c4hjov>

## **FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS**

### **Pensioner killed in Co. Cork farm accident**

A man in his 70s has died following a farm accident in Co. Cork. The man was erecting fencing at the time of the accident. The Air Corps helicopter and emergency services attended the scene. The HSA and An Garda Síochána are due to carry out an investigation into the incident.

<https://goo.gl/R22ofi>

### **Man killed in Co. Mayo farm accident**

A man in his 50s has been killed in a farm accident in Co. Mayo. The man was killed when part of a shed that he was demolishing fell on him. An Garda Síochána and the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) have launched separate investigations into the circumstances of the tragedy.

<https://goo.gl/r33bo9>

### **Man dies following accident at timber mill**

A man in his 50s has died in a workplace accident in a timber mill in Co. Cork. The man was apparently struck or crushed by machinery at the timber processing plant. The HSA and an Garda Síochána are investigating the

fatality.

<https://goo.gl/c72CpX>

### **Man killed in Co. Kildare quarry accident**

A man in his 40s has died after a workplace accident at a quarry in Co. Kildare. An Garda Síochána and emergency services attended the scene and the HSA has begun an investigation into the incident.

<https://goo.gl/crMSqK>

### **Elderly man dies in Co. Clare farm accident**

An elderly man has died in hospital following an accident on a farm in Co. Clare. It is believed the deceased was not a farmer but was helping a neighbour load cattle onto a trailer when the tragedy occurred. The HSA has launched an investigation into the incident.

<https://goo.gl/Y1zfqq>

### **Father of five killed while clearing trees**

A young father of five has been killed after part of a tree hit him while he was clearing away forestry in Co. Donegal. A post mortem was carried out on his remains over the weekend and a full investigation into the incident has been carried out.

<https://goo.gl/Xd4tNy>

### **Body found in Co. Roscommon river**

An Garda Síochána is investigating the discovery of the body of a man in a river in Co. Roscommon. It is understood the man is a local farmer in his 50s who had been reported missing a few days earlier. It is believed he may have slipped into the river and foul play is not suspected.

<https://goo.gl/tXS6zZ>

### **Man dies in Co. Galway farm accident**

A man in his 60s has died following an accident on his farm in Co. Galway. The man was injured by an animal and subsequently passed away due to the injuries. An Garda Síochána and the HSA are investigating the fatality.

<https://goo.gl/Nsoo39>

### **Two injured crew members airlifted from trawler**

Two injured crew members have been airlifted to hospital from a fishing vessel

off the west coast. It is believed both sustained head injuries. The alarm was raised by the vessel's crew who contacted the Irish Coast Guard.

<https://goo.gl/meGZYx>

### **Council worker injured in Co. Offaly accident**

A man has been taken to hospital with head injuries after an accident at a council car park in Co. Offaly. The council worker was among a group of staff working on a damaged street light when the pole collapsed. The HSA and An Garda Síochána have been informed of the incident.

<https://goo.gl/TyEgtG>

## **IN THE COURTS**

### **Construction firm face trial following scaffolding fatality**

A construction firm is facing charges under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act in connection with the death of an employee who died while working on scaffolding on a site in Dublin. It is alleged that the director of the firm failed to ensure workers were not exposed to risks to their health, safety and welfare. It is also alleged that the scaffolding was erected by employees who did not possess valid scaffolding registration cards. The Director of Public Prosecutions has directed that the director and his firm are to face trial on indictment which means the case will go before a judge and jury in the circuit court.

<https://goo.gl/eZQ2Rv>

### **Concrete firm fine €500k following fatality**

A Co. Mayo firm has been fined €500,000 by a Circuit Court Judge for breaches of health and safety arising from the death of a young employee who fell into a stone crusher almost four years ago. The deceased was killed instantly when he fell an estimated 17 feet into a stone crusher at the Co. Mayo quarry. His employer pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to breaches of health and safety. The court heard that since the tragedy the firm had invested approximately €500,000 in remedial works to ensure that similar tragedies are not repeated.

<https://goo.gl/vErxYn>

### **No prosecution in Co. Kerry jarvey fatality**

The Director of Public Prosecutions has directed that there is to be no prosecution arising from a tragic accident in which an American couple were

killed during a jarvey trip in Co. Kerry. The tragedy occurred when the horse pulling the jarvey suddenly left the road and plunged several metres down a rocky ravine. The HSA has concluded an investigation into the accident and it will not be bringing any charges.

<https://goo.gl/qPw5LR>

## **INQUESTS**

### **Fisherman missing for 24 years drowned, inquest rules**

The family of a fisherman who has been missing for 24 years can finally apply for a death certificate as an inquest ruled that he died by drowning. The deceased was 20 years of age when we set off to bring in shrimp pots off the Co. Cork coast in January 1995. Another fisherman, who was one of the last people to see the deceased alive on the day that he went missing, gave evidence at the inquest. He recalled how he had seen the deceased's boat overturned in the water and that rescue efforts to lift the boat from the water failed. The coroner said that there was ample evidence to conclude that he died by drowning and that it was an accident.

<https://goo.gl/Fbej6R>

## **SAFETY ALERTS**

### **Electrical Hazards in Restaurants and Kitchens**

Following a fatal electrocution, the HSA has issued a safety alert on the inherent dangers associated with electricity in a restaurant kitchen. In particular, the HSA is drawing attention to employers and managers of the dangers associated with older electrical installations and installations in harsh environments as may be found in restaurant kitchens.

<https://goo.gl/CW3fft>

### **HSE UK issue Mild Steel Welding Fume alert**

New scientific research that has found that exposure to all welding fume, including mild steel welding fume, can cause lung cancer. The Health and Safety Executive UK (HSE) is strengthening enforcement expectations for all welding fume, including mild steel welding, because general ventilation does not achieve the necessary control.

<https://goo.gl/tegF2R>

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Build in Safety - An Advisory Booklet for Farmers**

A comprehensive guide to safe building on farms from Teagasc in association with the HSA and and FBD Insurance.

<https://goo.gl/kxdxK4>

### **Code of Practice for Access and Working Scaffolds**

New Code of Practice from the HSA. The aim of this Code of Practice is to provide practical guidance to scaffold erectors, contractors and users of scaffolding on the requirements and prohibitions set out in the relevant statutory provisions.

<https://goo.gl/DiaWfY>

## **RESEARCH**

### **New study reveals most dangerous substances and sectors in EU**

The study, commissioned by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), used new methods to identify the dangerous substances and sectors that pose the greatest risk to workers in the EU. The EU-OSHA has looked at the main findings and offers suggestions as to how organisations can protect workers.

<https://goo.gl/EZGGNx>

## **STATISTICS**

Three people have been killed in workplace accidents since 1 January 2019 - Correct at 15 February 2019.

Source: [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)

<https://goo.gl/MT7fec>

## **SAFETY APPS**

### **Vision Zero app for zero accidents and healthy work**

The new Vision Zero app has been launch from the Vision Zero global campaign run by the International Social Security Association (ISSA). The app promotes ISSA's "7 golden rules for zero accidents and healthy work". It is free and available in Android and iOS formats.

<https://goo.gl/cHYQCj>

## MCIB REPORTS

Marine Casualty Investigation Board Annual Report 2017

<https://goo.gl/h7Kbnv>

Report of the investigation into a fatal incident at Malin Beg Head, Co. Donegal, by the Marine Casualty Investigation Board.

<https://goo.gl/prnV5E>

## 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); 14 March [Book now](#)

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

[VDU/DSE Assessor Training](#), NISO Certificate (1 day); 26 March [Book now](#)

[Safety Representation](#), NISO Certificate (2 day); 8-9 April [Book now](#)

[Manual Handling Instruction](#) QQI L6 (5 day); 7-9 & 13-14 May [Book now](#)

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

[Health and Safety Representation](#), QQI L5 (4 day); 24-27 June [Book now](#)

[Intro to H&S for the Non Safety Specialist](#), NISO Certificate, (2 day); 31 July - 1 August [Book now](#)

### Safe Pass Training

**Dublin:** 8, 13, 15 March; NISO Training Centre, Ballymount, Dublin 12 [Book now](#)

Further dates and venues TBC

### Promoting Health and Wellbeing in the Workplace

**National Workshop Series in conjunction with Healthy Ireland** [Learn More](#)

**Dublin:** 28 March 2019; NISO Training Centre, A11 Calmount Park, Ballymount, Dublin 12 [BOOK NOW](#)

**Cork:** 03 April 2019; Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Little Island, Cork [BOOK NOW](#)

**Galway:** 24 April 2019; Oranmore Lodge Hotel, Oranmore, Co. Galway [BOOK NOW](#)

**Athlone:** 09 May 2019; Radisson Blu Hotel, Northgate St., Athlone, Co. Westmeath [BOOK NOW](#)

**Limerick:** 23 May 2019; Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Ennis Road, Limerick [BOOK NOW](#)

**Waterford:** 06 June 2019; Viking Hotel Waterford, Cork Road, Waterford [BOOK NOW](#)

**Dundalk:** 20 June 2019; Crown Plaza Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth [BOOK NOW](#)

**Sligo:** 26 June 2019; Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Ballinac, Sligo [BOOK NOW](#)

### Regional Courses

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

(13 wks/2 hrs p/wk)

[Waterford: Waterford IT](#); Commencing 12 March 2019 [Book now](#)

[Dublin: NISO Training Centre](#), Dublin 12; September 2019

[Limerick: Limerick IT, Moylish Campus](#); September 2019

[Mayo: Castlebar](#); September 2019

[Westmeath: Athlone IT](#); September 2019

[Kerry: Tralee IT](#); September 2019

### All Ireland Occupational Safety Quiz - Regional Heats

[Learn More](#)

**NISO West;** 5 February; 20.00hrs; Oranmore Lodge Hotel, Co. Galway [PREVIOUSLY HELD]

**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](mailto: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; Maldrone Hotel Wexford, Barntown, Co. Wexford [BOOK NOW](#)

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

**All Ireland Occupational Safety Quiz Finals**

6 April 2019; 15.00hrs; Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth

**All Ireland Safety Awards - Awards Workshop**

Northern Ireland: 13 March 2019; McAleer & Rushe, 17-19 Dungannon Rd, Cookstown, BT80 8TL

[BOOK NOW](#)

**National Events:**

National NISO Annual General Meeting; Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth; 6 April 2019

[55th Annual NISO Conference](#), The Galmont Hotel & Spa, Galway; 11 October 2019

[Trade Exhibition of H&S Productions and Services](#), The Galmont Hotel & Spa, Galway; 11 October 2019

[NISO/NISO All Ireland Safety Awards](#), The Galmont Hotel & Spa, Galway; 11 October 2019