



The Safety Observer



Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

June 2020 - Issue 48

Welcome to the June 2020 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 June 2020 last and the next edition for NISO members is scheduled for mid July 2020. The last edition of Safety Observer was distributed on 6 April 2020.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE NISO MAILING LIST

The NISO Observer Newsletter is sent to **NISO Members** and **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.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE NISO MAILING LIST

Important Notice:

NISO's offices are closed until further notice.

You may contact us by calling 085 219 6132, email to info@niso.ie or by the [contact form](#) on our website.



NISO NEWS

All Ireland Occupational Safety Awards

The Safety Awards Presentation Ceremony has been deferred to Friday, **22 January 2021** in the Great Southern Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Early Bird Deadline: 31 July 2020

Standard Deadline: 25 September 2020

Find out more [HERE...](#)

All Ireland Occupational Safety Quiz

The Safety Quiz Finals have now been deferred until Saturday, **17 October 2020** in the Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. The remaining Regional Quiz Heats will be rescheduled in due course.

Find out more [HERE...](#)

NISO Annual General Meeting

The NISO Annual General Meeting has been deferred until **30 July 2020** [subject to change] and will be held in the NISO Training Centre, A11 Calmount Park, Ballymount, Dublin 12. The AGM start time is TBC.

Find out more [HERE...](#)

NISO Annual Health & Safety Conference & Trade Exhibition

With regret, NISO has taken the decision to cancel the Annual Conference and Trade Exhibition for 2020. We look forward to organising the conference programme again in 2021.

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In this issue... [COVID-19 news...](#) [Safety news...](#) [In the Courts...](#) [Statistics...](#) [Safety Alerts...](#) [Guidance...](#)
[Resources...](#) [Safety Commentary/Opinion...](#) [Training and Events](#)

COVID-19 NEWS

National Return to Work Safely Protocol

A national Return to Work Safely protocol has been published by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and the Department of Health. This protocol is intended to be used by employers and workers to ensure safety measures are in place and are adhered to as the economy begins to open back up following the temporary closures in place due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://bit.ly/2Te9DNS>

HSA conduct 700 inspections since 18 May

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) has said it has conducted approximately 700 workplace inspections since the start of Phase 1 of the Government's roadmap for reopening the economy on 18 May. The inspections took place across a range of industries with half of inspections taking place in the construction sector. The HSA has said that compliance with the Return to Work Safely protocol is high in general.

<https://bit.ly/3c3ltQA>

Is the HSA equipped to police the reopening workforce?

This article takes a look at the HSA's resources and budget and whether or not it has the capacity to effectively police reopening workplaces amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://bit.ly/2LYEUAH>

Health workers account for one third of total COVID-19 cases

Healthcare workers make up almost one third of the total number of COVID-19 infections in Ireland, which is one of the highest proportions in Europe. The Health Service Executive's (HSE) Chief Clinical Officer has described the higher proportion of healthcare workers in Ireland contracting the virus as "a concern" and he examines the factors that may be the cause.

<https://bit.ly/2B2ZHki>

COVID-19 cases in meat plants continues to increase

The number of meat plant employees who are testing positive for COVID-19 continues to increase with 103 new cases identified in the past week bringing the total number to 925. The continually growing number of cases is raising concerns for the welfare of meat plant employees. A total of 17 inspections of employers associated with meat processing has taken place since 17 January 2019.

<https://bit.ly/2ZFKHD1>

Child safety on farms - warning

The HSA has issued a warning to farmers to take additional safety precautions around their farms to make sure their children are safe. With ongoing school closures children are spending more time on farms and could be exposed to more risks as a result. There are lots of farm safety tips and resources available from the HSA's website hsa.ie.

<https://bit.ly/3anuqnT>

Make farms "no go areas" for children

The Farm Safety Partnership has said that yards and fields must be "no go areas" for children while farm work is going on. Following three tragic tractor-related child fatalities so far this year, the partnership is calling for a particular focus to be placed on child safety and the risks of tractors and machinery.

<https://bit.ly/36xVfWn>

Unions agree additional protections for construction workers

The Trade Union Federation (TUF) has signed a landmark agreement with the Construction Industry Federation (CIF) to ensure the safety of workers across the industry. The additional safety measures include a monitoring system, improved access to sites for union representatives, alternative work patterns and temperature testing of workers.

<https://bit.ly/2ZCPbu5>

Approximately 12 gardaí contracted COVID-19

It is estimated that about a dozen rank and file gardaí have been infected with COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic which is far less than was expected by senior management. More than 300 gardaí have been referred for testing to date and have had to self-isolate including large numbers in Dublin, Westmeath, Meath and Cork.

<https://bit.ly/3fJtbUb>

Gardaí report 64 spitting and coughing attacks

A total of 64 coughing and spitting attacks against members of An Garda Síochána has been recorded between 8 April and 9 May 2020. Gardaí needed to use anti-spit guards 47 times during interactions with the public during this time. Overall An Garda Síochána report a high level of compliance with the COVID-19 restrictions and have used their enforcement powers 192 times since they came into force which represents a tiny fraction of their overall dealings with the public.

<https://bit.ly/2zvXs8j>

Road safety appeal during silage season

The Irish Farmers' Association (IFA) and the Road Safety Authority (RSA) have issued a joint appeal to stress the importance of road safety this silage season in light of the increased numbers of pedestrians and cyclists on the road due to COVID-19. The IFA president said they were issuing a special appeal for safety this year and have asked that anyone driving farm machinery to slow down and to remember that around every corner a neighbouring family or a friend might be out for a walk, jog or a cycle.

<https://bit.ly/2zCk14l>

Derogation of EU driving rules extended

The RSA and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport have agreed a further extension of the temporary derogation from certain provisions of the EU driving and resting time rules which apply from 17 April to 31 May 2020. The derogation will apply to all operators and drivers subject to the EU driver's hours and tachograph rules engaged in the carriage of all goods (including oil supplies etc.) and will continue to be reviewed by the RSA during this time.

<https://bit.ly/3g9BMQi>

Gardaí to be issued with face masks

Members of an Garda Síochána will be allowed to wear face masks during any of their interactions with the public, including at checkpoints and on foot patrol, for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Originally, Gardaí had been instructed to wear face masks in enclosed settings only but further clarity from senior Garda management confirmed that masks can be worn in any situation where social distancing cannot be achieved.

<https://bit.ly/3c4yPNm>

Preventing Legionellosis during COVID-19 pandemic

The HSA has issued advice for employers or those in control of places of work to highlight the requirement to continue managing Legionella bacteria controls to avoid the potential for illnesses caused by the bacteria including Legionnaires' disease. As many businesses have had to close at short notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic there is a potential for water to stagnate and for lack of water temperature control, both of which may provide the right conditions for Legionella bacteria to grow. It is important that water systems are risk assessed prior to businesses reopening.

<https://bit.ly/3eluUOI>

IRISH NEWS

Workplace bullying costs economy €239m per year

New research carried out by NUI Galway has found that 1.7 million days are lost due to workplace bullying at a cost to the Irish economy of €239 million per year. The study also found that bullying is more prevalent in the public sector but that it has a larger effect on absences in the private sector. The study includes recommendations on how to tackle the problem of bullying in Irish workplaces.

<https://bit.ly/2X8HYjX>

Irish Water staff report 21 instances of assault since 2017

Twenty-one instances of assault or abuse have been reported by Irish Water staff or contractors over a three year period since 2017. These incidents include threats with a machete, speeding cars veering towards workers, intimidation in the early hours and rocks being thrown.

<https://bit.ly/3bAICeZ>

Defence Forces to invest in random drug testing

The Defence Forces is to spend €130k on random drug testing of its members and this will involve testing through hair samples from defence force members for the first time. The Defence Forces has entered a deal with a UK-based company to carry out the work over the next two years. An average of 12 members of the army, navy, and air corps tested positive for illegal drugs each year between 2012 and 2016.

<https://bit.ly/2X7JS31>

Drivers warned about overhead wires during silage season

ESB Networks is reminding farmers and silage contractors of the serious risks associated with working near electricity wires and said they have responded to several safety incidents involving the electricity network in recent weeks. The minimum safe distance is 3m, horizontally and vertically and they advise to allow more space for high voltage lines.

<https://bit.ly/2LH43zm>

Irish company commended at EU-OSHA Awards

An Irish construction company has been commended in the EU-OSHA Good Practice Awards 2018-19 for identifying and implementing measures to eliminate risks to construction workers from Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) dust. The method implemented improved the work environment considerably, increased productivity by 35%, is sustainable and fully transferable to other similar organisations in the construction sector in any country.

<https://bit.ly/2LzXYVE>

Concerns over dangerous farming videos

Recent videos of dangerous farming “pranks” to emerge on social media platforms such as TikTok have prompted an angry and concerned response from industry stakeholders. The HSA has stated it will not hesitate to take “robust action” where the individual and employers involved can be identified.

<https://bit.ly/2X5SCI2>

UK NEWS

Rail employee dies from COVID-19 following spit attack

A railway ticket office worker has died after being spat at while on duty by a member of the public who said he had COVID-19. The deceased and a

colleague both fell ill with the virus within days of the coughing and spitting attack. British Transport Police are searching for the suspect.

<https://bit.ly/3e1ZFqX>

HSE receives over 4,500 COVID-19 workplace concerns

The UK's Health and Safety Executive (HSE) received more than 4,500 workplace concerns relating to COVID-19 since March 2020. The HSE has said it is now working through the reports received between 9 March and 3 May with a "range of actions" and that employers who fail to comply with Government guidelines to control public health risks could face enforcement action.

<https://bit.ly/2ZxVQpJ>

Key points in UK's "COVID-19 Secure" workplace guidance

The British government has outlined its strategy for making workplaces in the UK, including offices, construction sites and factories, "COVID-19 secure". The strategy includes eight guides which cover a range of different types of work.

<https://bit.ly/36eM2SC>

HSENI releases COVID-19 complaint statistics

The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) has released statistics on COVID-19 related complaints received between 16 March and 4 May. The total number of complaints received during this period that related to any one individual organisation was 481. On-site visits and inspections resumed on 4 May and, to begin with, the target of these visits is premises where there have been repeated complaints.

<https://bit.ly/3cR1eI7>

EUROPEAN NEWS

Healthy Workplaces Lighten the Load Campaign 2020-22

Material for the upcoming EU-OSHA Healthy Workplaces Lighten the Load campaign is now available online. The new campaign is due to be launched in October 2020 to coincide with European Week for Safety and Health and Work. The focus of the 2020-22 Healthy Workplaces campaign is on effectively managing musculoskeletal disorders.

<https://bit.ly/3etfrv5>

Call for action on good vehicle safety

According to a new report by the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC), a quarter of road deaths in the European Union are the consequence of a collision involving a goods vehicle. ETSC is particularly concerned about the risks involving HGVs. The data show that on a per-km basis, many more people die in collisions involving HGVs than die in collisions involving only non-goods vehicles. ETSC has recommended a range of measures to increase safety in goods transport.

<https://bit.ly/3eg4iO8>

EU guidance for a safe return to the workplace

The EU-OSHA has issued guidance on a safe return to work during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance, entitled *COVID-19: Back to the workplace - Adapting workplaces and protecting workers* covers a number of key areas including updating risk assessments, how to involve workers, taking care of workers who have been ill, sector-specific guidance related to COVID-19 and more.

<https://bit.ly/36f3yq1>

EU-OSHA launches new OSH barometer

The EU-OSHA has launched a new occupational safety and health (OSH) barometer which is the first visualisation tool with up-to-date information on the status of and trends in OSH in European countries. The tool enables users to explore and compare EU and individual country data on a wide range of topics across the following four heading: generic information; steering of OSH; OSH outcomes and OSH infrastructure.

<https://bit.ly/3cPr535>

Grim working conditions in German slaughterhouses exposed

Working conditions for migrants in German slaughterhouses are under the spotlight after more than 200 workers tested positive for COVID-19 at one factory in the west of the country. Outbreaks have been identified in at least two other plants in the country with the outbreaks drawing attention to the industry's difficult working conditions.

<https://bit.ly/2XhixeG>

US NEWS

Eleven Firefighters injured battling blaze in LA

Two hundred and thirty emergency responders battled a blaze in Los Angeles injuring eleven firefighters, three critically. A fire in a commercial smoke and vaping shop sparked a major explosion and then spread to nearby structures.

<https://bit.ly/2yiocZC>

WORLD NEWS

Global fast food chain hit with sexual harassment complaint at OECD

An international group of labour unions has said it has filed a complaint against a global fast food giant for what it called systematic sexual harassment at its restaurants around the world. The complaint is the first of its kind to target a multinational company.

<https://yhoo.it/2Tp5Ld9>

Dozens killed in South Korea construction site fire

A fire at a construction site in South Korea has killed at least 38 people and injured another ten, fire authorities have reported. The fire broke out when workers were building a warehouse in the city of Icheon. It has been reported that a “rapid combustion” occurred while workers were working on the underground level of the warehouse. A total of 410 people were mobilised to respond to the incident.

<https://bit.ly/36e0NFo>

Fourteen workers killed in India after falling asleep on train track

A train in India killed 14 migrant workers who had fallen asleep on the track while heading back to their home village after losing their jobs in a COVID-19 lockdown. Tens of thousands of people have been walking home from India’s big cities after being laid off because of lockdowns to control the spread of the virus. An investigation into the incident is underway.

<https://bit.ly/2zSrX8z>

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

Child dies after being struck by tractor in Donegal

A ten-year-old girl has been killed after being struck by a tractor on a farm in Co. Donegal. An Garda Síochána attended the scene and the HSA has also been notified.

<https://bit.ly/2XlbgdW>

Teenage boy dies in Co. Clare farm accident

A 14-year-old boy has died following an accident on a farm in Co. Clare. The accident happened when the tractor that the boy was travelling in rolled off the edge of a hillside track and overturned onto the next level below. The boy was pronounced dead at the scene. An Garda Síochána, Clare County Fire and Rescue Service and the National Ambulance Service all attended the scene. The HSA has been notified of the fatality.

<https://bit.ly/2WRLrTT>

Teenager killed in Co. Meath farm accident

An 18-year-old male has died following an accident on a farm in Co. Meath. It is understood the deceased was carrying out works to a vehicle when he sustained serious injuries. He was treated at the scene by emergency services but died a short time later. The scene has been examined by An Garda Síochána and the HSA.

<https://bit.ly/2LMMk9>

Man dies in mower accident at Co. Laois golf course

A man in his 60s has died following an accident involving a ride-on lawnmower on a golf course in Co. Laois. It is understood that the man lost control of the mower. He was rushed to hospital where he later died from his injuries. An Garda Síochána and the HSA have launched separate investigations into the tragedy.

<https://bit.ly/2LMMk9Y>

Farmer dies after bull attack in Co. Cork

A man in his 70s has died following a farm accident involving a bull on his farm in Co. Cork. The man suffered fatal head injuries when he was attacked and knocked over by the bull at his dairy farm. Paramedics were called to the scene and he was taken to hospital by ambulance where he later died. An Garda Síochána and the HSA have launched separate investigations into the fatality.

<https://bit.ly/2TIYR2B>

Man dies following fall from ladder in Co. Donegal

A man in his 50s has died after he fell from a ladder in Co. Donegal. It is understood the man was working for a company and carrying out emergency work at a house at the time of the accident. An Garda Síochána and the HSA

have launched separate investigations into the incident.

<https://bit.ly/2LODnge>

Two healthcare workers die from COVID-19 at same hospital

Two healthcare staff working in the same Kilkenny hospital died from COVID-19 within a 24-hour period. They were both middle-aged and were working up until becoming ill.

<https://bit.ly/3cSzqTB>

Investigations ongoing after man dies at meat processing plant

Investigations are ongoing into the death of a man in a suspected workplace accident at a meat processing plant in Co. Kildare. It is understood the deceased man suffered severe trauma to the head and was pronounced dead at the scene. An Garda Síochána and the HSA have launched separate investigations into the fatality.

<https://bit.ly/2ZpWDss>

Farmer airlifted off upland following quad accident

A farmer who fell from his quad bike and injured his leg in the Comeragh Mountains area of Co. Waterford was airlifted by a local mountain rescue service. The farmer was treated at the scene before he was brought to Waterford Airport by helicopter and then transferred to hospital.

<https://bit.ly/36glyiA>

Man airlifted to hospital after Co. Mayo farm accident

A man was airlifted to hospital with non life threatening injuries following an incident in which a tractor overturned on his farm. It is understood that neither An Garda Síochána or the HSA is investigating the incident.

<https://bit.ly/3cSY9qT>

Long range rescue mission off Cork coast

The Irish Coast Guard successfully completed a long range rescue operation off the south west coast to bring a sick seaman from a Norwegian naval ship to hospital in Cork. The Norwegian navy frigate was located some 300km off the Cork coast.

<https://bit.ly/36kV9BI>

IN THE COURTS

Forklift driver awarded €84k following dismissal

A paint supply company has been ordered to pay a female forklift operator €84,759 in compensation after she was unfairly dismissed for raising health and safety concerns. The woman had worked for her employer for 31 years and had an unblemished record during this time but was dismissed shortly after she raised concerns over the use of a certain chemical in the cleaning water supply at her workplace. The Workplace Relations Commission adjudication officer in the case found that the forklift operator was penalised under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 and awarded €82,351 for the penalisation dismissal. She also found that the worker had been unfairly dismissed and awarded a further €2,228 for breach of contract.

<https://bit.ly/36iL4ot>

Healthcare worker has sexual harassment case dismissed

A senior healthcare worker, who was sexually harassed by an elderly resident at the nursing home where she worked, has had her sexual harassment case against her employer dismissed. While the Workplace Relations Commission officer found that the woman was sexually harassed by the resident, she found that the care home operator put in place appropriate measures and had taken reasonably practicable steps to prevent such harassment and sexual harassment occurring in the workplace.

<https://bit.ly/2zo2fc5>

Getaway driver who dragged garda 40 metres is jailed

A getaway driver who dragged a garda along in his vehicle for 40 metres while he was trying to escape has been jailed for 20 months. In his victim impact statement the garda said that he required six stitches to his upper lip from the blows he received from the gang and he was bruised all over his body as a result of being dragged along the ground.

<https://bit.ly/2XjlawN>

Man arrested in connection with 2016 workplace fatality

A man in his 70s has been arrested and charged in connection with a workplace accident which led to the death of a man in Co. Tipperary in 2016. The 23-year-old died when a work vehicle overturned at a stud farm, also seriously injuring a 25-year-old man. The arrest followed investigations carried out by An Garda Síochána and the HSA into the incident. The man is due to

appear in court in June.

<https://bit.ly/3e13HQg>

STATISTICS

Twenty-four people have been killed in workplace accidents since 1 January 2020 - Correct at 22 May 2020. Source: www.hsa.ie

<http://bit.ly/2U9LQRV>

SAFETY ALERTS

Vehicle Scissor Lifts

The HSA has issued this safety alert to warn owners and examiners of vehicle service lifts (scissor type) of the potential for hairline cracks. It follows the detection of hairline cracks in vehicle scissor lifts, type “Duo” manufactured by Maha, revealed during thorough examination of the lifts. Any person working underneath a raised vehicle lift is at serious risk of crush injuries if the lift fails.

<https://bit.ly/3c76rdC>

Air suspension systems on vehicles

The UK’s Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has issued this safety alert following its investigation of several incidents involving air suspension systems on vehicles. The target audience for this alert is those carrying out or responsible for work on vehicles with air suspension systems. The two main issues are collapse of inadequately supported vehicles and unintended rupture or release of components from the air suspension system. The safety alert goes into detail of actions that should be taken to ensure safety and prevent future incidents.

<https://bit.ly/2yBRt1A>

PUBLICATIONS

Return to Work Safely Protocol

A national Return to Work Safely Protocol was published by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and the Department of Health on 9 May 2020. This protocol is intended to be used by employers and workers to ensure safety measures are in place and are adhered to as the economy opens back up following the temporary closures in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://bit.ly/36oGQf5>

COVID-19 Templates and Checklists

Checklists and templates have been prepared by the HSA to help employers, business owners and managers to get their business up and running again and to inform workers about what they need to do to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. They have been drafted based on the Government's Return to Work Safely Protocol and should be read in conjunction with the Protocol.

<https://bit.ly/36dntph>

Guidelines to the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Quarry) Regulations 2008

These guidelines on the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Quarries) Regulations 2008 were developed by the HSA with the assistance and advice of a working group on quarrying safety and were revised in 2020 to take account of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Quarries) (Amendment) Regulations of 2013 and the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Quarries) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 and to reflect current best practice.

<https://bit.ly/2zlfZo5>

Construction Sector C-19 Pandemic SOP

The Construction Industry Federation (CIF) has published Construction Sector C-19 Pandemic Standard Operating Procedures which serves as a guide for the management of COVID-19 on a construction site for the duration of the pandemic. This guidance is intended for use by construction organisations to prepare to operate in the construction industry when the current restrictions are relaxed. This guidance in this document is further supported by a compulsory online induction module which must be undertaken by all employees returning to work.

<https://bit.ly/2ZEFfAk>

RESEARCH/STUDIES

Exposure to biological agents in the workplace

The EU-OSHA has released five discussion papers which identify sectors in which workers are at high risk of exposure to biological agents which includes: animal-related occupations; waste management and wastewater treatment;

arable farming; jobs involving travel and contact with travellers; and healthcare. The papers present the findings of a research project carried out to tackle the knowledge gap on biological agents in the workplace and the related health effects.

<https://bit.ly/36kyZPx>

Why are work-related MSDs still so prevalent?

Work-related MSDs: why are they still so prevalent and what can be done to protect workers and businesses? EU-OSHA's latest research explores why musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) remain a major occupational safety and health concern in Europe's workplaces — despite intensive legislative efforts to prevent them.

<https://bit.ly/3gqBtR7>

Prevention policy and practice: approaches to tackling work-related MSDs

New report from EU-OSHA which looks into what really works when it comes to tackling work-related Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). The report identifies 25 various initiatives from awareness-raising campaigns to inspections and legislation - used in 14 countries, highlighting what can be done to prevent MSDs, particularly in SMEs.

<https://bit.ly/2ASUqvy>

New publication on protecting apple growers from pesticides

New research from the IRSST entitled *Preventing Skin Exposure to Pesticides Among Apple Growers and Factors Influencing Use of Protective Clothing*. International research has shown that the skin is the main route of exposure to the pesticides used in agriculture. The purpose of the study was to describe exposure situations during the main activities involved in using pesticides and to link them to apple growers' perceptions of risk, use of protective clothing and prevention practices.

<https://bit.ly/2TJFuGE>

Supply chains and their present and future implications for OSH

Discussion paper published by the EU-OSHA. The supply chain, and its new forms, present major challenges for the governance and regulation of workers' occupational safety and health (OSH), both currently and in terms of the future of work. Drawing on recent research findings, this article explores both the challenges and opportunities for OSH presented by the role of the supply chain

now and in the future.

<https://bit.ly/3bVaIAS>

GUIDANCE

H&S guidance for van drivers during pandemic

Delivery drivers and tradespeople listed as “key workers” are being urged to look after their own health and safety behind the wheel during the COVID-19 crisis. According to recent research, an average of 70% of van drivers are forced off work due to back pain each year. Poor seat adjustment has been identified as the possible cause for triggering back issues. The researchers have compiled their top ten tips for avoiding back pain for drivers.

<https://bit.ly/3clupx4>

HSE advice on performing CPR during the COVID-19 outbreak

The HSE has issued updated guidelines on how to safely administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. In brief, the advice recommends the use of a defibrillator and advises against mouth to mouth.

<https://bit.ly/3fJtbUb>

A safe and healthy return to work during the COVID-19 pandemic

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has issued guidance for a safe and healthy return to work during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Guidance Note emphasises a human centred approach to return to work policies. The Guidance Note is accompanied by a 10-point, Practical Guidance action checklist for employers, workers and their representatives. This tool is intended to complement and not replace national occupational safety and health regulations and guidance, to help establish the practical details of a safe return to work.

<https://bit.ly/2ZzUc6F>

Surveillance of COVID-19 at long-term care facilities in the EU/EEA

The high COVID-19 morbidity and mortality observed among residents in long-term care facilities (LTCF) in EU/EEA countries poses a major challenge for disease prevention and control in such settings. This document provides guidance for EU/EEA Member States planning to implement monitoring systems at LTCFs and describes the surveillance objectives.

<https://bit.ly/36m5RHL>

RESOURCES

Practical tools and guidance on musculoskeletal disorders (MSD)

Easy to use database from EU-OSHA containing a variety of practical tools and guidance materials developed at EU and national levels to help workplaces assess and manage MSD risks.

<https://bit.ly/2XsHuE7>

Promoting moving and exercise at work

EU-OSHA has compiled an OSHwiki article, *Promoting moving and exercise at work to avoid prolonged standing and sitting*, which has tips for a healthier lifestyle and healthier behaviour at work which may be useful for people who are working from home due to COVID-19. Prolonged sitting and prolonged standing are related to various health risks which can easily affect people who telework and to reduce the risks we need to adopt healthy working routines.

<https://bit.ly/2XvK5gu>

SAFETY COMMENTARY/OPINION

Deluge of back-to-work disputes predicted

An employment expert has warned that a deluge of back-to-work disputes could be on its way which could put pressure on structures like the Workplace Relations Commission. The employment law solicitor foresees that many people will not feel comfortable returning to work in the midst of a pandemic which, he says, could result in an avalanche of workplace disputes.

<https://bit.ly/2ZkPk5z>

How to help nurses deal with COVID-19 challenges

Opinion article by a Nursing Skills Teacher in Dublin City University which takes a look at the physical, emotional and psychological risks to nurses and health care staff during and after the COVID-19 crisis. Featuring links to radio interviews and other articles on this topic.

<https://bit.ly/3gnpqEg>

Why has the meat industry been hit so hard by COVID-19

This article takes a look at the reasons for the high number of COVID-19

clusters that have afflicted meat processing plants worldwide.

<https://bit.ly/2ZDy7nO>

LEGISLATION UPDATE

SI No 102 of 2020 Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) (Amendment) Regulations 2020

These Regulations amend the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013 (SI No 291 of 2013) (as previously amended by Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 (SI No 129 of 2019)) to extend the validity of safety awareness registration cards which cannot be renewed as a result of the COVID-19 emergency.

<https://bit.ly/2ZDC6B2>

SI No 147 of 2020 Dangerous Substances Act 1972 (Part IV) Declaration Order 2020

The purpose of this Order is to declare flammable liquids to be a dangerous substance for the purpose of Part IV of the Dangerous Substances Act 1972.

<https://bit.ly/2XnKUlc>

SAFETY IN PICTURES

Silage trailer overturns on bridge

Tractor driver has a narrow escape following an incident in which a silage trailer is left teetering over a bridge.

<https://bit.ly/36CJcao>

Tractor stopped with unsecured load

Tractor drivers hauling bales of have been urged to always ensure that their loads are tightly secured after a driver hauling an unsecured load of silage bales was stopped by An Garda Síochána.

<https://bit.ly/2LYoulj>

MCIB REPORTS

Report into a fatal incident at Killybegs Harbour, Co. Donegal, by the Marine Casualty Investigation Board.

<https://bit.ly/2zz6rps>

Report into a fatal incident involving an MFV at Rosslare Europort by the Marine Casualty Investigation Board.

<https://bit.ly/3cYQpDU>

TRAINING AND EVENTS

Training scheduled at NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12

Upcoming dates for all courses will be confirmed in due course.

[First Aid Response](#), PHECC Certificate (3 day)

[First Aid Response - Refresher](#), PHECC Certificate (2 day)

[Manual Handling Basic](#), NISO Certificate (half day)

[Manual Handling Instruction](#) QQI L6 (5 day)

[Mobile Working Assessor Course](#), NISO Certificate (1 day)

[Safety Representation](#), NISO Certificate (2 day)

[Safe Pass](#), SOLAS (1 day)

[VDU/DSE Assessor Training](#), NISO Certificate (1 day)

Working at Height and Scaffolding COP - Seminar

Galway and Dublin dates/venues to be rescheduled in due course

Promoting Health and Wellbeing in the Workplace - Workshop

Dundalk, Limerick, Dublin, Cork and Athlone dates/venues to be rescheduled in due course

All Ireland Occupational Safety Quiz - Regional Heats

[Western](#) 13 February 2020; Oranmore Lodge Hotel, Oranmore, Co. Galway
[Already Held]

[Southern](#) 3 March 2020; Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Little Island, Cork [Already Held]

[North East](#) 5 March 2020; The Errigal Hotel, Cootehill, Co. Cavan [Already Held]

[NISG Northern Ireland](#) 6 March 2020; Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast; Contact info@nisg.org.uk [Already Held]

Regional Quizzes to be rescheduled in due course

Midland Region [covering counties Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath]

North West Region [covering counties Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo]

Eastern Region [covering counties Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow]

South Eastern Region [covering counties Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary South, Waterford, Wexford]

Mid West Region [covering counties Clare, Limerick, Tipperary North]

National Events

[NISO Annual General Meeting](#), NISO Training Centre, Ballymount, Dublin 12; 30 July 2020 [subject to change]

[NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Quiz Finals](#), Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly; 17 October 2020

[NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Awards](#), Great Southern Killarney; 22 January 2021

[NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Awards](#) Early Bird Deadline: 31 July 2020

[NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Awards](#) Standard Deadline: 25 September 2020

[57th Annual NISO Conference](#), Cancelled for 2020

[Trade Exhibition of H&S Products and Services](#), Cancelled for 2020



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