

NISO Safety Observer
November 2020; Issue 52

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The Safety Observer



Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

November 2020 - Issue 52

Welcome to the November 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 3 November 2020 last and the next edition for NISO members is scheduled for late January 2021. The last edition of Safety Observer was distributed on 28 September 2020.

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HEALTH & SAFETY TRAINING

NISO CERTIFICATE IN SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE AT WORK



UPCOMING WEBINARS

NISO NEWS

NISO Health & Safety Training

Most of NISO's health and safety training is now taking place online. Compulsory courses are continuing in the classroom. Upcoming training includes Mobile Workers Assessor Training, Safety Representation and Manual Handling. View upcoming courses and book online [HERE...](#)

NISO Certificate in Safety, Health and Welfare at Work

NISO's flagship 13-week introduction to health and safety course, commencing spring 2021.

Further information [HERE...](#)

Upcoming Safety Webinars

NISO is facilitating and promoting a number of free safety, health and wellbeing webinars coming up in November and December. The webinars cover a wide range of topics over various sectors, worth a look!

View upcoming webinars [HERE...](#)

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COVID-19 NEWS

Further calls to recognise COVID-19 as workplace injury

In recent months the Irish Nurses and Midwives Union (INMO) and the Association of Secondary Teachers in Ireland (ASTI) have made further calls for existing legislation to be updated to make COVID-19 notifiable as a workplace injury. Healthcare workers account for over one-fifth of all cases in Ireland to date.

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

HSA investigating deaths of healthcare workers

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) is investigating the deaths of healthcare workers who are believed to have contracted the virus while at work. Eight healthcare workers have died after contracting the virus since March with the first death occurring in April and the most recent in July. The head of the HSE has said they are working very closely with unions to ensure healthcare workers are protected from COVID-19.

<https://bit.ly/2Ub5RoN>

Almost 50 health staff a day test positive for COVID-19

Data from the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) shows that over one recent 14-day period around 670 healthcare workers tested positive for COVID-19 which amounts to almost 50 health workers per day becoming infected with the virus. The number of healthcare workers infected in Ireland since the pandemic began now stands at more than 11,000, or in excess of 16pc of all those infected.

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

Teachers express health concerns

Teachers have significant concerns around their own health and that of others in their household, according to a survey of more than 1,500 members of an Irish teachers' union. One in five respondents said that they have an underlying health issue that is of concern to them in terms of COVID-19. The union has criticised the criteria used in risk assessments by the occupational health service to determine which school staff should be excused from the classroom on health grounds.

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

Retailers are not hotbeds of COVID-19 infection

Figures from major Irish retailers suggest their workers are not being infected with coronavirus at a higher rate than the general population. The figures cast doubt on concerns that shops could be hotbeds of COVID-19 infection. Major retailers in Ireland such as supermarkets have reported infection rates among their staff below the 1 per cent national rate.

<https://bit.ly/32JICa3>

All September meat plant inspections unannounced

All inspections of meat processing plants carried out by the HSA in September were unannounced. This follows controversy surrounding meat plant inspections after it had been revealed that the majority of meat plants that were inspected had been notified of the visit beforehand, despite the high number of positive COVID-19 cases amongst plant staff.

<https://bit.ly/3lcSU9Z>

Recommendations for meat plants

The Special Committee on COVID-19 Response has referred a number of

matters related to meat plants to both the Joint Committee on Agriculture and the Marine and the Joint Committee on Health. The recommendations include the appointment of COVID-19 compliance officers in all meat plants and routine testing for staff with results returned within 24 hours to individual workers.

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

Construction inspections under Level 5 restrictions

The HSA has conducted 27 inspections in the construction sector since Level 5 COVID-19 restrictions were introduced, 14 of which focused on COVID-19 measures. In 43% of cases, the HSA issued a "report of inspection" in relation to the COVID-19 control measures in place, setting out areas where improvements should be made. One TD has dismissed the number of inspections as being "wholly inadequate" and has called for the HSA to be given more inspectors and greater enforcement measures where sites and employers were found to be in breach of safety protocols.

<https://bit.ly/2U9rHsL>

Stress-related sick leave increased during pandemic

Eight per cent of those who participated in a recent survey say they have taken a sick day since March, with almost half saying they had taken more sick leave than last year. On average, the amount of certified sick days arising from stress or anxiety across the population since the pandemic arrived is nine days. The survey looked at Irish workers' experience of stress and anxiety during the pandemic under different demographics such as age and gender.

<https://bit.ly/3pCioA1>

Emergency responders report increased stress during pandemic

A new report has found that emergency responders such as ambulance staff and fire brigade personnel experienced heightened stress and worry at the outbreak of the pandemic, sparked by fears of contracting the disease and passing it onto their loved ones. The report also found that a lack of facilities and the equipment needed for protection and sanitisation also caused distress, while the government's response, leadership and taking effective action mitigated some of the issues.

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

Civil servants raise "alarm" over Dáil sittings

Higher Civil Servants in Leinster House have voiced their strong concerns

about the dangers to their safety caused by the Dáil and Seanad sitting during the COVID-19 pandemic. In a letter to the secretary general of the Houses of the Oireachtas Service, Higher Civil Servants voiced their concerns regarding the level of activity and the level of attendance by members and also regarding the “lack of compliance” with the pandemic safety measures.

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

IRISH NEWS

HSA publish its Annual Report 2019

The HSA has released its Annual Report for 2019. The report outlines all the HSA’s activities during 2019 which include: 9,270 inspections; 1,032 investigations completed following accidents or complaints to the HSA and 11 fines imposed at a total of €938,000. The report includes a more detailed breakdown of the HSA’s work throughout the year.

<https://bit.ly/38ttbGx>

Farmers have “high levels of preventable ill health”

According to Teagasc, farmers have been identified as having high levels of preventable ill health. The issue was highlighted as part of a best practice guide for health and safety on sheep farms. A major Irish study found that 74% of male farmers have four, or more, risk factors for cardiovascular disease. More awareness of health promotion practices are needed among the farming community according to Teagasc.

<https://bit.ly/36GNON3>

New farmer health and wellbeing initiative launched

A new initiative focusing on farmer health and wellbeing, entitled On Feírm Ground, was launched in October. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Department of Health, the Health Service Executive (HSE), Teagasc and IT Carlow came together to fund a programme of research which has now resulted in a training programme that will see agricultural advisors engage with farmers on their health and wellbeing over the farm gate.

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

Ibec published first Annual Corporate Wellbeing Barometer

Ibec has published findings from its first Annual Corporate Wellbeing Barometer focusing on the wellbeing strategy and programmes of 479 organisations. The

respondents who represented organisations from all sectors of the economy, have on average 6 workplace wellbeing programmes in place. Topping the list of wellbeing initiatives are the bike to work scheme (74%), mental health supports (61%), flu vaccinations (47%) and bereavement supports (45%).

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

Findings from workplace bullying studies

A recent study entitled “Bullying in the Workplace” has found that bullying is cited as grounds for almost 35% of unfair dismissal cases taken to the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC). The study also found that in almost half of bullying cases male employees were the alleged perpetrators compared to 20.7% being women, and that men were significantly more likely to bring cases involving bullying, harassment or victimisation to the WRC than women. A second study, “Ageism and Bullying in the Workplace” found that negative stereotypes about older people in the workplace feed directly into bullying behaviour. The studies also looked at steps organisations are taking, or not taking, to help address workplace bullying.

<https://bit.ly/32XIDbH>

Laser technology to help prevent truck collisions

New laser technology to warn trucks of impending bridge strikes is being trialled by Ireland’s national rail provider. The Over-Height Vehicle Detection (OHVD) system has already been installed at a railway bridge in Dublin's north inner city which has been hit 11 times in five years.

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

Twenty Air Corps personnel died prematurely since 2017

In a recent Dáil sitting it was reported that 20 Air Corps personnel have died prematurely since a whistleblower asked a government minister for help more than two years ago. It was reported that the 20 premature deaths since 2017 are among a total of 86 premature deaths among Air Corps personnel. The Dáil heard that personnel were regularly exposed to chemicals at a time when they had little or no personal protective equipment which has had a devastating effect on their health.

<https://bit.ly/2ImDrp8>

Claims of bullying and harassment in the Oireachtas

An investigation by a national newspaper has found claims of a culture of

harassment and abuse in the Oireachtas. Six former staff, who all left after the last election, said they had negative experiences while working for politicians which included leaving work in tears, suffering PTSD-like symptoms and being unable to sleep. The claims were made against well-known TDs and senators from a number of parties and groupings. A survey conducted in 2019 found one in seven staff in the Oireachtas had experienced bullying.

<https://bit.ly/3n9cdR>

Gardaí faced 74 harassment claims in five years

Gardaí have faced 74 allegations of bullying, harassment or sexual harassment within the force over the past five years. Of the 74 complaints recorded, 71 were categorised as bullying, two cases as sexual harassment and one of harassment. Twelve cases were not deemed to be bullying, harassment or sexual harassment under official policy, while another seven cases were withdrawn. Fifty-two of the total number of allegations were forwarded for investigation.

<https://bit.ly/32zUIm0>

UK NEWS

HSE annual injury and ill-health statistics

The UK's Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has released its annual injury and ill-health statistics for Great Britain which includes statistics for work-related ill health, workplace injuries, working days lost, enforcement action taken and the associated costs to Great Britain. According to the HSE the statistics show that "Great Britain is still one of the safest places in the world to work with the lowest number of deaths on record." The statistics also show that more than half of working days lost in 2019/20 were due to mental ill-health.

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

Feed processing company fined £140k following injury

An animal feed processing company has been fined following an incident where part of an employee's arm was severed by a moving conveyor while trying to clear a blockage. An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the company did not have a documented safe system of work for clearing these blockages which occurred on a recurrent basis on this conveyor as well as others at the site. The company pleaded guilty to breaching the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £140,000 plus costs of

£2,591.30.

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

COVID-19 cases could be 30 times higher than reported

The number of COVID-19 infections at food factories that supply UK supermarkets and restaurants could be more than 30 times higher than reported, according to a report which says employers have too much influence over official data. Just 47 notifications of COVID-19 workplace infections, and zero deaths, have been reported to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) while the investigators found that there have been at least 1,461 infections and six deaths.

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

Bakers most likely to suffer from work-related asthma

Bakers are 83 times more likely to suffer from work-related asthma than other professions according to a recent study. As a result, the study ranked bakers and flour confectioners as the most dangerous occupation in the UK when it comes to workplace illness, ahead of vehicle paint technicians, plant and machine operatives and chemical process operatives.

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

EU NEWS

Healthy Workplaces Good Practice Awards - open for nominations

EU-OSHA is seeking examples of innovative approaches to tackling musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) in the workplace for entry into the Good Practice Awards 2020-22. The awards recognise organisations that have put in place practices that make a demonstrable, sustainable contribution to preventing or managing MSDs. They are part of the Healthy Workplaces Lighten the Load campaign 2020-22 and are a great opportunity to get involved and give visibility to successful interventions.

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

EU-OSHA launches Health Workplaces Campaign 2020–22

The EU-OSHA has launched its Health Workplaces Lighten the Load Campaign 2020–22. The two-year campaign will focus on work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) which are the most common ailments among workers in Europe. They are also highly treatable and preventable. The EU-OSHA

campaign will include many resources and activities to help manage workplace MSDs throughout the two years of the campaign.

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

Finland drops “cars for kids” plan

The entry-into-force of a new law in Finland to permit children as young as 15 to drive regular cars fitted with speed limiters has been withdrawn following drawn-out discussions with the European Commission about the legal and road safety implications of the scheme. According to research a number of factors contribute to younger drivers being less safe on the road. The Finnish measures were strongly supported by car manufacturers.

<https://bit.ly/3fce05X>

US NEWS

Almost 20,000 COVID-19 cases among US Amazon workers

Amazon has reported that nearly 20,000 of its frontline US staff have tested positive or been presumed positive for the virus that causes COVID-19. The disclosure comes after months of pressure from Amazon workers and labour groups calling for the company to divulge the coronavirus numbers. The company said it examined data dating from 1 March to 19 September on 1.37 million workers at Amazon and Whole Foods Market across the US and that the rate of infection is lower than the national average. Companies have no legal obligation to publicly reveal how many of their workers have contracted the virus and few are doing so.

<https://bit.ly/2K2CO4X>

GENERAL SAFETY NEWS

Studies show extent of driver fatigue

The results of two studies on driver behaviour have recently been presented to the Road Safety Authority. One study found that 24% of drivers admitted they had driven at least once in the previous month when they were so tired they had trouble keeping their eyes open. In another study, 16% of drivers admitted they had fallen asleep at the wheel.

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

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

Man dies in workplace accident in Co. Wicklow

A 36-year-old man has died in a workplace accident in Co. Wicklow. The accident occurred in a family-run hardware shop and emergency services attended the scene. The HSA is investigating the incident.

<https://bit.ly/36D6mOm>

Fisherman dies following incident in Galway Bay

A fisherman has died following an incident in Galway Bay. The man was on board a boat when he got into difficulty and was transferred to University Hospital Galway where he was later pronounced dead. The HSA has been notified of the incident and investigations are ongoing.

<https://bit.ly/35tGBka>

Farmer airlifted to hospital after tractor accident

A farmer was airlifted to hospital following an incident on a farm in Co. Clare. The accident involved a mechanical failure on a tractor which caused the machine to overturn. The driver suffered a suspected head injury and was airlifted to the Neurological Specialist Centre Corps in Galway.

<https://bit.ly/3f9gLVS>

IN THE COURTS

Shipping firm's breach of H&S laws caused fatality

A shipping company's breach of health and safety laws resulted in a fatal workplace accident in which an experienced welder died, the Circuit Criminal Court has heard. The man died instantly when a six metre steel column fell on top of him shortly after he had used a blow torch to separate it from a larger metal structure. An investigation was carried out by the HSA who subsequently brought charges against the shipping firm. The company pleaded guilty to failing to manage work activities, specifically the dismantling of a steel hopper in a way to ensure the safety and health of employees, as a consequence of which the deceased suffered personal injury and died. The judge has adjourned the case to December for finalisation.

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

Two men fined over farm death

Two men have been fined for breaches of health and safety legislation following

the death of a farm worker who was killed when a trench collapsed on top of him while laying a drainage pipe on a farm in Co Cork over three years ago. A HSA investigation found that there were no support systems in place for the trench and no safety provisions in place. Both men pleaded guilty to separate charges with one being fined €10,000 and the other man fined €1,000 for a separate offence that he admitted.

<https://bit.ly/2IV2dwH>

Painter to get only €825k of €3m settlement

A painter who fell 16ft from a ladder to the ground and suffered a traumatic brain injury has settled his High Court action for €3m. The High Court has heard that the man will only see €825k of that award as the insurance company involved, which is based on mainland Europe, has gone into liquidation. The award will be paid through Insurance Compensation Fund which is designed to facilitate payments to policyholders when an insurance company goes into liquidation.

<https://bit.ly/3kmu9Xu>

Store supervisor awarded €189k following accident

A 52-year-old store supervisor has been awarded €189,000 by the High Court following an incident in which a steel girder fell on her at work causing a 25cm long laceration to her right calf and leaving her with “a shark bite” scar. She sued her employers following the incident claiming there was a failure to secure the iron bar and that it had been stored in a dangerous manner and also that there was a failure to provide her with a safe place of work. The woman needed to spend a number of days in hospital and required skin grafts. She also continues to experience ongoing pain and has had to reduce her number of working hours, all of which was taken into consideration by the judge in granting the €189k award.

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

Worker awarded over €69k for fall at bus depot

A lead hand engineering operative who fell over a ground brake bar installed at a bus depot to stop buses has been awarded over €69k by the High Court. The judge accepted the evidence of the injured party’s engineer who said that the bus wheel stop bar, which the operative had fallen over, was a significant trip hazard. The operative claimed there was an alleged failure to provide and maintain any adequate lighting in the area of the metal bar. The bus company

denied the claims and contended there was alleged contributory negligence on the part of the operative and that he allegedly did not keep adequate or significant lookout. The judge found that the injured party could not be faulted for contributory negligence and that the system in place required him to work essentially in the dark. The total award of €69,725 included over €24,000 in special damages.

<https://bit.ly/32Gn7XL>

Dublin university sued over neck injury

A corporate relations manager who claims she injured her neck as she attempted to pick up a box of information leaflets at an event in Budapest to promote a Dublin university has settled her High Court action on undisclosed terms. The 57-year-old woman told the court she felt “overwhelming and extreme pain” in her neck when she lifted the box eight inches from the ground at the university’s stand at a Hungarian university. She claims she has been left with complex pain syndrome, has pain in her neck and down one side of her body, and a condition which means her neck is tilted to the right. She claims the box full of material was provided which was too heavy for her and caused injury and she further alleged failure to notify her of the weight of the box and to provide her with any or adequate training in the manual handling of loads, safety and health and welfare at work. The claims were denied by the university and contributory negligence was alleged.

<https://bit.ly/3ktMP7Q>

Baggage handler awarded €64,000 for arm injury

A baggage handler who injured his arm when he gave a colleague a lift up to close a plane cargo hold has been awarded €64,536 damages by the High Court. The airline employee faced a disciplinary hearing following the incident, received a written warning and his wages were stopped for a number of weeks. The injured party claimed the airline failed to take any precautions for his safety and to provide an alternative means of closing the cargo hold. He further claimed he was permitted to lift up a fellow employee for the purpose of closing the cargo hold due to the time pressure of the 25 minute turnaround and that there was a failure to provide him with any or adequate equipment to enable the cargo hold to be closed safely. The claims were denied by the airline. The judge said the baggage handler was dealing with a difficult but common occurrence for which he had no training.

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

Waste firm fined €60k following fatality

A waste management company has been fined €60,000 over the death of a worker who was crushed by a telehandler while he was sorting waste four years ago. The 48-year-old man died after he was hit by a telehandler as he sorted through waste at the company's site in Dublin. A HSA investigation found that the waste company failed to properly segregate its pedestrian workers from the telehandler. The company pleaded guilty at the Circuit Criminal Court to one count of failing to ensure the safety, health and welfare of its employees at the site where the accident occurred.

<https://bit.ly/36Em0cf>

No second prosecution for farmer over death of boy

A Cork farmer will not be prosecuted for a second time over the death of a boy who fell from his defective tractor seven years ago, after the Court of Appeal overturned an earlier ruling that the trial could proceed. The farmer was convicted for the fatality under the Road Traffic Act in 2014. Last year the High Court ruled that the HSA could also proceed with another prosecution over the fatality on grounds that the tractor was an unsafe place to work. The farmer successfully claimed that he should not be prosecuted a second time for what he says is substantially the same offence.

<https://bit.ly/35F8aHe>

STATISTICS

Forty-five people have been killed in workplace accidents since 1 January 2020 - Correct at 18 November 2020. Source: www.hsa.ie

<http://bit.ly/34bJFyp>

SAFETY ALERTS

Lifts installed by Ellickson Engineering Ltd.

This Safety Alert replaces the previously issued 2019 Safety Alert; "Passenger Lifts installed by Ellickson Engineering Ltd", which has been withdrawn. The HSA wishes to again alert owners/operators of lifts installed by Ellickson Engineering Ltd (no longer trading and currently in receivership since 2011), to carry out checks to ensure such lifts have been installed as required under the relevant legislation i.e. European Communities Lifts Regulations 1998 to 2008

or, as appropriate, to the European Communities (Machinery) Regulations 2008. As previously advised in 2017, the HSA wishes to reiterate to all lift owners and other interested parties that passenger lifts marked with the number 490 following the CE mark may not have been designed and / or installed in compliance with the relevant legislation, as the number 490 is not a valid notified body number.

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

PUBLICATIONS

Guidance on Working from Home for Employers and Employees

This guide from the HSA will enable employers and employees to understand the requirements when working from home. A “Homeworking Risk Assessment/Checklist” is included to help employers and their employees to carry out an assessment of the home working environment. The guidance covers several topics related to home working including employer and employee responsibilities, home office/workstation requirements, training, work-related stress, sensitive risk groups, risk assessment, communication and more.

<https://bit.ly/3pwB4kL>

Safe Quarry: A Guide to Pedestrian Safety in Quarries

This publication from the HSA has largely been developed from the Quarries National Joint Advisory Committee (QNJAC) “Follow our Footsteps-Guide to Pedestrian Safety in Quarries” document. This guidance is for all those with responsibilities for the management of quarries and surface mining operations, including managers and supervisory staff.

<https://bit.ly/305iaXc>

RESEARCH/STUDIES

New research into employee’s mental health

New research commissioned by IOSH was conducted to gain a better understanding of individual variability in the return to work process for employees on sick leave due to poor mental health. The study has found that employers need to take greater account of an individual’s needs when planning their return to work following an absence due to poor mental health and emphasises the need for more tailored approaches.

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

GUIDANCE

Hygiene tips to keep drivers safer from COVID-19

Guidance to help drivers reduce the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19 and maintain good hygiene levels when driving cars and vans.

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

Best practice for H&S on sheep farms

Guidance from Teagasc on best practice for health and safety on sheep farms which includes information on Risk Assessments, the TAMS 11 Schemes, child safety on farms, preventing tractor and machinery accidents, preventing picking up infections from sheep and farmers' health.

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

RESOURCES

HSA Transport Safety Guidance & Resources

The HSA has developed a series of vehicle risk management resources to highlight the importance of managing vehicle-related risks in the workplace. The resources were developed in response to the high level of vehicle-related injuries at work. The HSA has reported that vehicles are involved in almost half of all work-related deaths each year and to date this year that figure is above 60%.

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

Psychosocial risk factors for MSDs

OSH Wiki article from EU-OSHA outlining the psychosocial risk factors for musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). This article takes a look at how psychosocial factors can lead to MSDs and provides evidence for the relationship between both.

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

Mink farms: Rapid Risk Assessment methodology for workers

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), with the contribution of EU-OSHA, has recently published "Detection of new SARS-CoV-2 variants related to mink". A rapid risk assessment methodology that considers

the risk to human health posed by SARS-CoV-2 mink-related variants and proposes prevention and control measures for mink farm workers.

<https://bit.ly/2IM7V4v>

MSDs - practical tools and guidance

A database of over 700 resources from EU-OSHA to help workplaces assess and manage MSD risks. The resources include case studies and visual materials covering a wide range of sectors, hazard types and prevention measures. The resources can be filtered by a number of different categories to make it easy to find the information or resource that you are looking for.

<https://bit.ly/38OWseZ>

Reducing the risk of MSDs among agricultural workers

Farming is a sector with one of the highest rates of MSDs as it traditionally involves heavy loads, repetitive movements and static postures. A new discussion paper from EU-OSHA and the Italian National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at Work (INAIL) looks into the example of Italy's Marche region to examine how mechanisation can reduce the MSDs risk factors.

<https://bit.ly/3kOk8CQ>

SAFETY COMMENTARY/OPINION

Impact of working from home on mental health

Lecturers from TU Dublin say that the cracks are starting to show for people working from home on the physical, mental and emotional levels as many deal with various challenges, high stress levels, fatigue and COVID anxiety. This interactive article, which includes interviews and reports broadcasted on RTÉ, questions what are the long-term impacts and challenges of working from home during the pandemic.

<https://bit.ly/3p8Rlfs>

Tips to manage mental health at work during COVID-19

A short article from IOSH offering advice to employers and employees on minding our mental health at work during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

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

LEGISLATION UPDATE

Work in Fishing Convention of the International Labour Organization

A number of regulations implementing provisions set out under various articles arising from the Agreement concerning the implementation of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007, of the International Labour Organization as follows: SI No. 258/2020; SI No. 259/2020; SI No. 266/2020; SI No. 267/2020 SI No. 331/2020; SI No. 332/2020 and SI No. 333/2020. The Statutory Instruments are available to read in full at irishstatuebook.ie.

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

CASE STUDIES

Job role changes for a police officer with MSDs

Case study from EU-OSHA entitled “Job role changes and equipment accommodations for a police officer with multiple chronic MSDs”. This case study looks at how an experienced police officer suffering from lower back pain and other MSDs has been able to continue to work with the police thanks to a change in role.

<https://bit.ly/3ID7Jmc>

SAFETY IN VIDEOS

Changing Workplaces - Coping with the distress of disruption of work systems

Short video from the HSA offering useful advice on coping with the distress of changing work systems as a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://bit.ly/3kxa68U>

MCIB REPORTS

Report into a fatal incident involving a vessel off Portronan Co. Donegal, by the Marine Casualty Investigation Board.

<https://bit.ly/3pyqgm6>

TRAINING AND EVENTS

Training scheduled at NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12 OR Online

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

[Manual Handling Basic](#), NISO Certificate (half day); 30 November [Book online](#)

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

December [Book online](#)

[Safety Representation](#) (ONLINE), NISO Certificate (2 day); 9–10

December 2020 [Book online](#)

Upcoming Dates TBC

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

[VDU/DSE Assessor Training](#), NISO Certificate (1 day); New ONLINE course coming soon

Regional Courses

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

Cork: CSN College of Further Education Cork; Commencing February 2021

Dublin: NISO Training Centre, Ballymount, Dublin 12; Commencing February 2021

Kerry: Tralee (Venue TBC); Commencing February 2021

Mayo: GMIT Castlebar Campus; Commencing February 2021

Waterford: Waterford IT; Commencing February 2021

Westmeath: Athlone IT; Commencing February 2021

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

National Events

[NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Awards Presentation](#), 22 January 2021

[NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Quiz Finals](#), 2021 dates TBC

[57th Annual NISO Conference](#) 2021 dates TBC

[Trade Exhibition of H&S Products and Services](#) 2021 dates TBC

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