



The Safety Observer



Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

June 2021 - Issue 56

Welcome to the June 2021 edition of **The Safety Observer**, the newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation. The Safety Observer contains information that is current, informative and useful to subscribers. We keep you up to date on what is happening in occupational safety and health. NISO Update, the quarterly magazine, was circulated on 29 April 2021 last and the next edition for NISO members is scheduled for July 2021. The last edition of Safety Observer was distributed on 31 March 2021.

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HEALTH & SAFETY TRAINING

NISO CERTIFICATE IN SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE AT WORK



NISO NEWS

All Ireland Safety Awards 2021

NISO/NISG are currently accepting entries for the All Ireland Occupational Safety Awards 2021! Visit safetyawards.ie for all your awards-related news, downloads and guidance including the awards brochure, closing dates, entry forms and lots more!

H&S Training

NISO is continuing to hold Mobile & Home Workers Assessor Training, Safety Representation and DSE/VDU Risk Assessor Training online. Classroom-based Manual Handling Basic training has resumed. View upcoming course dates 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 autumn 2021. Further information [HERE...](#)

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

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COVID-19 NEWS

Updated “Work Safely Protocol” launched

The government has recently launched an updated “Work Safely Protocol” as more workplaces continue to reopen. The new protocol covers the latest public health advice and contains guidelines on antigen testing, vaccinations and ventilation. The Tánaiste and Minister for Trade and Employment has confirmed that vaccinations will remain voluntary but has urged more employers to use antigen testing whilst continuing to implement COVID-19 safety guidelines.

<https://bit.ly/3bGv0ki>

HSA investigating 17 COVID-19 deaths

The HSA has confirmed that it is carrying out investigations into the deaths of 17 healthcare workers who may have acquired COVID-19 but has not yet given details on any specific cases or employers involved.

<https://bit.ly/3ymo2dW>

Employers should prepare for safe return to work

As the vaccine roll-out continues and COVID-19 infection rates drop, employers

must again begin to plan how their employees will be able to return to work safely. Employers will need to carry out workplace health and safety risk assessments to plan how best to protect their employees from the risk of contracting COVID-19 in the workplace and look into possible issues that may arise regarding vaccinations.

<https://bit.ly/33ZlwfD>

Home workers experiencing back and neck pain

New research by an Irish chiropractic clinic has found that 46% of people working from home due to COVID-19 restrictions are struggling with back and neck pain. The clinic reported seeing a significant increase in patients experiencing pain since the pandemic began. The study also looked into the ergonomic conditions of those working from home.

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

Rapid antigen testing in meat plants

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) has published its advice to the Health Service Executive (HSE) on the potential impact of different serial testing scenarios using rapid antigen detection tests (RADTs) to detect COVID-19 in meat processing plant workers. Meat plant employees have been found to be at higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than the general population. HIQA has found RADT-based serial testing once weekly to be the preferred strategy to mitigate the high infection rate in meat plants.

<https://bit.ly/3u15yMO>

HIQA against compulsory vaccination

HIQA has looked into the issue of vaccination among healthcare workers as part of developing policy for healthcare personnel, including healthcare workers and frontline health administrative staff, who do not avail of the COVID-19 vaccination. According to HIQA, making vaccination compulsory for health workers would be a most “intrusive” move.

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

Healthcare workers suffering mental exhaustion

A report by the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO) has revealed that 91% of nurses and midwives surveyed experienced mental exhaustion when off-duty as a result of dealing with the COVID-19 crisis on top of their regular duties. The survey also found that 61% considered leaving the profession entirely.

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

150 buildings account for 50% of workplace outbreaks

An assistant professor at the UCD school of architecture has said that focussing on ventilation in indoor spaces is key to managing cases of COVID-19 and that buildings with poor ventilation have provided a disproportionate number of cases to date. Some 2,492 of the 6,559 workplace cases, or 53%, of the virus were concentrated in fewer than 200 meat, fish or poultry factories or other food plants.

<https://bit.ly/2SaM9LU>

More people working while infectious or symptomatic

The Department of Public Health Mid-West has said it is monitoring and managing worrying trends of new cases entering the workplace, causing some onward transmission in households, schools and other workplaces. The Department has reported seeing evidence of more people working for days while infectious, or showing symptoms of COVID-19.

<https://bit.ly/34mJZvD>

DAFM conducts 895 inspections of meat plants

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) has reported that it has carried out 895 inspections of the country's meat-processing plants, up to May 14 this year, as part of its COVID-19 response. The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine has said that the inspections are ongoing and are in addition to the inspections carried out by the HSA.

<https://bit.ly/3bWK2m9>

IRISH NEWS

Thirty workplace deaths linked to vehicles in 2020

Thirty people were killed in workplace accidents involving vehicles last year with nearly 250 killed in the last decade, according to a report by the HSA. Farming and agriculture accounted for the largest portion of workplace fatalities involving vehicles, with 110 deaths between 2010 and 2019.

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

Ageism and bullying in the workplace

The findings from research into ageism and bullying in the workplace by DCU have recently been published. The study found that a key factor in workplace ageism

and bullying are issues related to stereotyping as we age, such as the assumption that older people are unsuitable for acquiring new skills necessary for today's workplace. The findings also suggest that workplace bullying has a measurable impact on retirement decisions for older workers with some choosing to retire earlier than they would have anticipated.

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

Safety pleas following farm accidents

Farmers are being urged to exercise maximum caution after three men recently narrowly escaped death or crippling injury in separate farm accidents in Cork and Tipperary. All three accidents involved farmers becoming entangled in machinery with one man facing months of rehabilitation after suffering over a dozen fractures to his arms, legs and torso.

<https://bit.ly/3eY2Zqv>

HSA not proposing tachographs for tractors

The HSA has recently stressed that it is not advising or actively proposing the use of tachographs on tractors or other farm vehicles despite recent reports in the media. A senior inspector has stated that while the HSA is highlighting the continued dangers around the use of farm machinery during silage season it is not actively proposing the use of tachographs.

<https://bit.ly/3u0OzKo>

Mental Health support scheme for farmers

A new initiative to support mental health among farmers within rural communities has been launched. The programme will start with two online workshops in June aimed at advising and helping participants to recognise and cope with mental health issues.

<https://bit.ly/33Ww679>

Debris from building site falls into gardens

There have been calls for the HSA to investigate after high winds knocked a large amount of debris from a building under construction into neighbouring back gardens. Fortunately nobody was injured in the incident. An Garda Síochána said debris was blown off the building but that there was no reports of a collapse.

<https://bit.ly/33WWDRQ>

HSA has a role in content moderator conditions

The Tánaiste has said that the HSA “has its role” in relation to the working conditions of content moderators for Facebook. Speaking to the Oireachtas Enterprise Committee to discuss the treatment of moderators working on behalf of Facebook, one moderator described how they have to view hate speech, bullying, graphic violence, suicide, abuse and child exploitation on a daily basis. The Tánaiste said that moderators who are outsourced should be given the same psychological supports as direct employees if they are doing the same job.

<https://bit.ly/3f8pnO9>

Councillors to get counselling for trauma

Councillors in Dublin City Council are to get counselling to cope with the effect of harassment and dealing with trauma. Elected members will get up to six counselling sessions a year to help deal with issues such as harassment, racist abuse and the aftermath of working with people experiencing traumatic events.

<https://bit.ly/3hC9Pnn>

HSA docks and ports inspection campaign

The HSA carried out a transport operations and vehicles risks inspection campaign, targeted specifically on docks, in January this year. Fifty-one inspections were carried out during this period and it was found that there was evidence of improvements made since the last campaign carried out in October 2019. The main concern arising from the campaign were the issue of traffic management plans, where they existed, and not being translated into action on the site.

<https://bit.ly/3f6sINu>

Air ambulance call outs increase by 21%

The Irish Community Air Ambulance was tasked to 127 incidents during the first three months of 2021, across nine different counties, with farm accidents among the top three most common incident types it was tasked to. The figures represent a 21% increase compared to the same period last year.

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

Over €3m paid out for military training injuries

Seventy-two members of the Defence Forces have shared €3.2 million in damages for claims over personal injuries sustained in military training exercises over the past seven years. The figures show that the average damages payout to defence forces personnel over the seven years was €44,750.

<https://bit.ly/3v7LPMT>

Agri contractors seeking safer work practices

Irish agricultural contractors have begun a project which will seek to instil work safety practices across farms and have applied for government funding to help support this topic. The aim of the project is to develop a change of strategy that enables safe work practice messages to be communicated to farmer clients in an open and non judgemental way.

<https://bit.ly/3hH4viz>

Launch of the “Be Summer Ready” campaign

The Government’s “Be Summer Ready” campaign was recently launched and serves as an important reminder to farmers and to anyone who may visit farms of the need to be aware of all the risks. Farming accounts for over 40% of all fatal workplace accidents each year. The “Be Summer Ready” campaign contains a lot of relevant safety information for farmers.

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

Filming of gardaí a threat to their safety

The public's filming of gardaí is leading to serious threats to officers' safety as their images and home addresses are being shared online alongside calls for people to attack them. The call by garda representatives to stop the footage being used to target their members comes at the same time as a Bill to allow gardaí to wear cameras while policing is being proposed.

<https://bit.ly/3f7ezQf>

Cork schoolboy saves father’s life in farm accident

A Cork schoolboy has been hailed a hero after his quick thinking and actions saved his father’s life following a farm accident. Firefighters commended the boy for his bravery after his father got crushed between an agitator and the wheel of his tractor and said that the incident served as a good reminder of the importance of being alert and aware when using farm machinery.

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

UK NEWS

Waste contractor fined £1m following fatality

A waste contractor has been fined £1m after a refuse collector was killed under his own bin lorry. His employees pleaded guilty to breaching health and safety

legislations and was fined £1.02m.

<https://bbc.in/3wzgf19>

Rail operator fined £1.5m over fatality

A rail operator has been fined £1.5m after a worker was killed while carrying out maintenance work. The deceased was electrocuted in 2014 while working on high voltage overhead lines, after grabbing a live wire that he believed was isolated from the power supply. An investigation found safety-critical procedures were ignored and some continued following the fatality.

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

Workers in insecure jobs higher risk of COVID-19 death

According to a recent report by the Trade Unions Congress of England and Wales, workers on zero-hours contracts and other insecure jobs are twice as likely to have died from COVID-19 as those in other professions. The research showed that those on the frontline of the pandemic, such as care workers, nurses and delivery drivers, were at higher risk of death and that many of these workers were in insecure work resulting in a “triple whammy” of no sick pay, fewer rights and endemic low pay, while also having to shoulder higher risk of infection.

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

Thousand of work-relate COVID deaths going unreported

New research suggests that businesses could be significantly under-reporting the number of work-related COVID-19 deaths to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). A major UK union has said that it is not credible that just 2.5% of working-age COVID deaths are down to occupational exposure and that the low level of reporting had endangered workers by preventing inspectors intervening in unsafe workplaces.

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

EUROPEAN NEWS

EU-OSHA Call for Tender

The EU-OSHA has issued the following call for tender -

EUOSHA/2021/OP/F/SE/0152 - Overview of research and practices in relation to new monitoring systems for improving worker safety and health. This call for tender invites tenderers to carry out an overview of existing research, workplace material (codes of practices, guidelines etc.) as well as practices in relation to new monitoring systems for workers' safety and health and to assess their implications for OSH. The

deadline is 23 June 2021 at 13.00hrs.

<https://bit.ly/3bLV0uA>

EU research into diagnostic antigen tests in the workplace

EU-OSHA has teamed up with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) to explore the use of rapid antigen diagnostic tests for the virus that causes COVID-19 in occupational settings. The report shows that rapid antigen testing can help to reduce the spread of the virus in high-risk indoor workplaces but stresses that testing cannot replace other safety and health measures and should be used to complement them.

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

Dangerous practices in long-haul road transport sector

A television documentary distributed online by a team of investigative journalists into appalling working practices in the largest Lithuanian international haulage companies has provoked widespread news coverage and urgent discussions in the Lithuanian parliament and government. The film includes interviews with drivers explaining how they are often forced to break rules on rest times, by switching the tachograph to a rest time when they are doing other work such as making a delivery or filling up their vehicle. A representative of the Lithuanian Freight Transport Association interviewed by the programme denied wrongdoing.

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

US NEWS

Eight shot dead at Californian rail yard

An employee shot dead at least eight people and injured several more at a rail yard in California before taking his own life. The shooting took place at a union meeting with at least 80 staff on site at the time. The local mayor paid tribute to the victims who he described as essential workers who helped others get through the pandemic and who risked their own lives to do so.

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

WORLD NEWS

Investigation into Taiwan train crash that killed 51

Prosecutors in Taiwan said they have questioned the owner of an unmanned construction truck that rolled onto a rail track causing a train to derail, killing 51

people and injuring 146. The district's prosecutor's office is investigating the incident and have not yet filed any charges.

<https://bit.ly/2RHds0G>

53 crew members die in submarine sinking

A missing Indonesian submarine has been found, broken into at least three parts, in the Bali sea. The submarine's 53 crew members have died in the incident. It is believed that the vessel may have cracked resulting in its sinking.

<https://bit.ly/3wuD5Ay>

Long working hours linked to stroke and heart disease

The first global study of the loss of life associated with longer working hours has found that 745,000 people died from stroke and heart disease associated with long working hours in 2016. The joint study, produced by the World Health Organisation and the International Labour Organization, also found that men accounted for 72% of the deaths linked to longer working hours. Overall, the study found that working 55 hours or more a week is associated with a 35% higher risk of stroke and a 17% higher risk of dying from ischemic heart disease, when compared to a 35–40 hour working week.

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

McDonalds to mandate anti-harassment training

McDonald's will mandate worker training to combat harassment, discrimination and violence in its restaurants worldwide starting next year. The training requirement will impact two million workers at 39,000 stores worldwide. The change follows ongoing sexual harassment issues within McDonalds, which has seen at least 50 workers file charges against the company over that last five years.

<https://bit.ly/3ffY1KG>

Calls for resilient OSH systems for future emergencies

The International Labour Organization has said that countries need to put in place sound and resilient occupational safety and health (OSH) systems that would minimise the risks for everyone in the world of work in the event of future health emergencies. A new report, "Anticipate, prepare and respond to crises. Invest now in resilient OSH systems", examines risk prevention and management relating to the pandemic and analyses other health and safety risks associated with the changing work arrangements arising from virus control measures.

<https://bit.ly/3vIUc7p>

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

Man killed in farm accident in Co. Limerick

A Polish man in his late 30s has died in a farm accident in Co. Limerick. It is understood that the man was killed by a bull on the farm. An Garda Síochána and the HSA are investigating the fatality.

<https://bit.ly/3fl5NHh>

Man dies in in construction site accident in Galway city

A man in his 30s has died in a workplace accident in Galway city. An Garda Síochána attended the scene and the HSA has been notified of the incident.

<https://bit.ly/3hTqKC2>

Man dies in workplace accident at an Irish Port

A 20-year-old man has died in a workplace accident at an Irish Port. Emergency services attended the scene and garda enquiries are ongoing. The HSA has been notified of the incident.

<https://bit.ly/3fiy08l>

Five sailors rescued in operation off Cork coast

Five sailors were rescued after two small boats capsized off the Cork coast in a major operation by the RNLi and Coast Guard. The sailors were able to stay with the capsized vessels and all were wearing full safety gear in accordance with protocols. Excellent visibility also aided the rescue operation.

<https://bit.ly/3oM70Sd>

IN THE COURTS

Husband awarded €300k following wife's death in the workplace

A man has secured a €300,000 settlement against a defibrillator manufacturer and supplier over the death of his wife after she suffered a cardiac arrest in her workplace cafeteria. The man claimed that his wife was deprived of an opportunity of survival because a defibrillator in the cafeteria did not work when she suffered cardiac arrest. There was a significant issue in terms of establishing causation of death arising from the alleged defective defibrillator but a medical report indicated that, had a functioning defibrillator been available, the deceased's prospects of survival would have increased by some 38%.

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

Settlement of €175k for wife and partner of deceased brothers

The wife and partner of two brothers who died in a tragic sewer incident in Co. Dublin have secured settlements totalling €175,000 of their High Court actions. The two brothers, aged 34 and 45, died as a result of being overcome by toxic gas while working in a sewer in Co. Dublin in June 2015.

<https://bit.ly/3ukY8E0>

€46k for supermarket worker following injury

A supermarket worker who suffered a minor head injury after a heavy metal shutter fell on his head has secured a settlement for €46,000. The accident happened when the employee was walking through a doorway and a heavy metal shutter dropped and struck him on the head. The man was diagnosed with a minor head injury and has complained of headaches, dizziness and poor balance following the accident.

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

Garda awarded €40k for injuries

A garda who was head-butted in the face as he attempted to restrain a man has been awarded more than €40,000 damages in the High Court for personal injuries. The judge awarded the garda €25,000 in general damages for pain and suffering to date, €9,000 towards future pain and potential dental services in the future and €7,653 special damages for expenses incurred in treatment since the incident.

<https://bit.ly/3yBNs7n>

Firm to pay €30k over disability dismissal

A technology company has been ordered to pay a development manager €30,000 compensation for dismissing him on the grounds of his disability, Crohn's disease. The case adjudicator ordered the €30,000 payout for the distress cause to the development manager and the effects of the discriminatory treatment and dismissal.

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

INQUESTS

Worker's death caused by asbestos exposure

An inquest into the death of an 85-year-old former tyre factory worker has returned a verdict of death due to occupational-related disease. The inquest heard how the deceased died from malignant mesothelioma, a form of cancer caused by inhaling

asbestos fibres. The family of the deceased man expressed concern that other employees at the factory may be unaware of the risk to their own health.

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

Inquest hears huntsman died after attack by stag

An inquest has heard how a 45-year-old father of three was fatally injured when he was attacked by a stag as he went to feed the animals at the kennels of a local hunt. The deceased was employed as a huntsman and had been with the hunt for 14 years looking after their pack of Old English Hounds at their kennels. The HSA investigated the incident but did not take any prosecution for any breaches of health and safety legislation in relation to the fatality.

<https://bit.ly/3wqZU8i>

Inquest finds fisherman died by drowning

An inquest has delivered a verdict of death by drowning in the case of a 23-year-old fisherman who was thrown overboard from his boat in rough weather off the Cork coast in 2019. The coroner said that it was a “miracle” that the man’s body was recovered and tributes were paid to the rescue services and 600 volunteers who took part in the search for the young fisherman in the days after his death.

<https://bit.ly/3wCxpV0>

STATISTICS

Twelve people have been killed in workplace accidents since 1 January 2021 - Correct at 21 May 2021. Source: www.hsa.ie

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

PUBLICATIONS

Chemical Agents and Carcinogens Code of Practice 2021

The HSA has published a revised Code of Practice (Chemical Agents & Carcinogens). The HSA has advised employers who use or generate hazardous substances in their workplace to review their current chemical risk assessments and control measures to ensure compliance with any revised OELVs listed in the COP.

<https://bit.ly/3oVTI5v>

Interim Guidance for Workers on Fitness for Work following COVID-19 Absence

This guide from the HSA is designed to assist workers returning to the workplace following a COVID-19 related absence having had a confirmed case of COVID-19 or a negative test result: (COVID-19 not detected).

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

Appendix 1 Interactive Checklists PDF - Interim Guidance for Employers on Fitness for Work following COVID-19 Absence

This document from the HSA contains three interactive checklists, Checklist A: Returning to work following a suspected case of COVID-19, Checklist B: Returning to work following a confirmed case of COVID-19, Checklist C: Worker unfit to return to work following a confirmed case of COVID-19.

<https://bit.ly/3bXrHW5>

Interim Guidance for Employers on Fitness for Work following COVID-19 Absence

This guidance from the HSA sets out the steps involved in determining/assessing Fitness for Work of any worker, after an absence due to COVID-19 Infection or suspected infection. This Guidance should be considered within an organisation's existing sickness and absence management procedures and policies.

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

Safe Motor Vehicle Repair and Maintenance - Info Sheet

This guidance is aimed at anyone involved in motor vehicle repair and maintenance (MVRM). It covers the main causes of injuries and ill health and explains some of the precautions you can take to prevent them.

<https://bit.ly/3bYi8pE>

Level Crossing Safety Awareness Campaign

Every year there are numerous collisions and "near miss" incidents involving pedestrian and/or motorists at unattended level crossings. These are the level crossings where members of the public are responsible under law for both opening and closing the level crossing gate. Irish Rail has produced a series of safety booklets to promote level crossing safety awareness for local users, professional users, farmers and services & emergency users.

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

Working with chronic MSDs info sheet

A new info sheet and infographic from EU-OSHA explains how simple measures to

help an individual living with chronic MSDs to remain in their job can often be of benefit to the whole workforce. This four-page info sheet contains information on employers' responsibilities, tips on workstation adaptations, examples of open conversations that can support individuals with chronic conditions and more.

<https://bit.ly/3hUZJy3>

Participatory ergonomics: how can it prevent MSDs?

A new discussion paper from EU-OSHA explores the benefits of using participatory ergonomics (PE) - involving workers in planning and controlling work activities - to tackle work-related MSDs. It outlines the steps involved in setting up a PE project and describes several real-life examples of PE being used to address MSD risk factors in the workplace, from offices to construction sites.

<https://bit.ly/3i1sEQO>

Emerging risks in the agriculture and forestry sector

A new policy brief from EU-OSHA identifies the traditional dominant risks in the agriculture and forestry sector, such as animal handling and accidents related to machinery. It also takes a closer look at the OSH challenges that might arise from the major emerging risks for the sector including pesticide-related risk, zoonotic diseases, MSDs, skin cancer, stress and psychosocial risks.

<https://bit.ly/34k8rOk>

infoIRSST News about Research Newsletter

In this edition:

- Knee surgery: Factors hindering the return to work
- Sustainable return to work following a musculoskeletal disorder: courses of action for supervisors
- EPICOH 2021 - From the workplace to the population: Exposure and prevention

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

SAFETY REPORTS

Improving OSH compliance in the changing world of work.

A major, new review by EU-OSHA explores external institutional support for promoting OSH compliance and better practice. It focuses on key areas affected by change such as social norms, business incentives, supply chain relations and the approaches of OSH regulators and prevention services.

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

Protecting teleworkers' H&S during pandemic

The sudden increase in teleworking from home during the COVID-19 pandemic has put workers at greater risk of MSDs and mental health problems. A new report by EU-OSHA looks at these risks, the benefits and problems arising from teleworking and the EU regulations in place to protect workers.

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

GUIDANCE

Fáilte Ireland Guidelines

The tourism and hospitality sectoral guidelines have been updated to align with public health measures and the revised Work Safely Protocol.

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

HSENI: Farm Safe Essentials

Helpful safety tips, reminders and resources from HSENI as part of its 2020–2021 Farm Safety Action Plan. The key actions highlighted in the action plan should be employed by farmers to protect themselves and others from the situations which have tragically led to death and serious injury.

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

Precautions when working at height

Farm building and maintenance work, in particular working at height, can be very dangerous. According to the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013, farmers and clients have legal duties for certain construction projects on farms. This guidance provides advice on precautions for working at height, proper safety measures and insurance when undertaking farm building projects.

<https://bit.ly/3bXtQ4d>

RESOURCES

COVID-19: Staying safe while at work

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, in conjunction with the HSA, has developed a range of resources entitled “Staying safe at work” providing advice and reminders on staying COVID-19 safe in the workplace. The resources include

posters for displaying in the workplace and short videos for sharing on social media on different themes including physical distancing, cleaning and hand hygiene.

<https://bit.ly/2Tedai8>

SunSmart - guidance for outdoor workers

Outdoor workers are particularly vulnerable to developing skin cancer as they can be exposed to between two and three times more UV than indoor workers. CSO figures (2018) suggest that almost one in four skin cancer deaths in Ireland are related to the construction, outdoor and farming industries. The Healthy Ireland SunSmart campaign is supporting people to build skin cancer awareness into their everyday wellbeing routine.

<https://bit.ly/2T9qaFV>

OSHWiki article: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

EU-OSHA OSHwiki article which provides information on the use of PPE in the workplace. Special attention is paid to the use of selecting PPE for specific circumstances and various types of work including technical aspects, ergonomics and end-users' acceptance.

<https://bit.ly/3fl5nYn>

Top 100 companies leading in wellbeing index

An index of the top 100 companies leading in wellbeing has recently been launched. The index, which is the first of its kind in Ireland, recognises the top businesses of all sizes who are leading the way in supporting employee mental health and wellbeing.

<https://bit.ly/3fwwKh7>

LEGISLATION UPDATE

SI No 231 of 2021 Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Chemical Agents) (Amendment) Regulations 2021

These Regulations amend the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Chemical Agents) Regulations 2001 to give further effect to Council Directive 98/24/EC of 7 April 1998, Commission Directive 2000/39/EC of 8 June 2000, Commission Directive 2006/15/EC of 7 February 2006, Commission Directive 2009/161/EU of 17 December 2009, Commission Directive (EU) 2017/164 of 31 January 2017 and Commission Directive (EU) 2019/1831 of 24 October 2019.

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

SAFETY IN VIDEOS

Mental health of health care workers in the COVID-19 pandemic

A short film produced by the WHO Regional Office for Europe shows health care workers talking about the mental health and wellbeing challenges they have been facing while caring for patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. Beyond the physical impact of the pandemic on societies worldwide, studies are warning of the negative effects on people's mental health.

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

EU-OSHA: Napo in Lighten the Load

This series of short films shows the EU-OSHA character Napo confronting different work situations relating to MSDs and is suitable for all workers, including migrant and temporary workers.

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

Truck drives through level crossing in Roscommon

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

TRAINING AND EVENTS

Training scheduled at NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12 OR Online

[Safety Representation](#) (ONLINE), NISO Certificate (2 day); 29-30 June [BOOK NOW](#)

[DSE-VDU Risk Assessor Course](#) (ONLINE) NISO Certificate (1 day); 8 June [BOOK NOW](#)

[Mobile & Home Working Assessor Course](#) (ONLINE) NISO Certificate (1 day) 9 June [BOOK NOW](#)

[Manual Handling Basic](#), NISO Certificate (half day); 11 June; 2 July; 29 July [BOOK NOW](#)

Regional Courses

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

Nationwide: Commencing 14 September 2021; Online; 18.30-20.30hrs. [BOOK NOW](#)

Athlone (AIT): 20 September 2021; Online; 19:00 – 21:00hrs. [BOOK NOW](#)

Limerick (LIT): 21 September 2021; Online; 19:00 – 21:00hrs. [BOOK NOW](#)

Safety Awards Entry Deadlines

Standard Entry Deadline: 2 July 2021 at 17.00hrs

Late Entry Deadline: 30 July 2021 at 17.00hrs (additional fee applies)

National Events [subject to Government guidance]

[57th Annual NISO Conference](#), Killarney, Co. Kerry; 4 November 2021

[Trade Exhibition of H&S Products and Services](#) Killarney, Co. Kerry; 4 November 2021

[30th NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Awards Presentation](#), Killarney, Co. Kerry; 4 November 2021

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