

NISO Safety Observer  
July 2022; Issue 65

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Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

July 2022 - Issue 65

Welcome to the July 2022 edition of **The Safety Observer**, the newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation. The Safety Observer contains information that is current, informative and useful to subscribers. We keep you up to date on what is happening in occupational safety and health. NISO Update, the quarterly magazine, was circulated on 1 June 2022 last and the next edition for NISO members is scheduled for August 2022. The last edition of Safety Observer was distributed on 4 May 2022.

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**CPD Certificates in Safety  
Management at Work**  
(Certified by Technological  
University Dublin)

**NISO Certificate in  
Safety, Health and  
Wellbeing at Work**

## **NISO NEWS**

### **31st Annual Safety Awards**

Final entry deadline to the All Ireland Safety Awards is Thursday, 7 July at 17.00hrs. Visit [safetyawards.ie](https://safetyawards.ie) for entry forms, guidance, and the most up-to-date awards information on the All Ireland Safety Awards 2022.

### **CPD Certificates in Safety Management at Work**

CPD Certificate Courses (Certified by TU Dublin) commencing September 2022 - view the upcoming dates & courses [HERE...](#)

**Free information webinar** taking place 4 & 12 July at 11.00hrs. Register [HERE](#)

### **NISO Certificate in Safety, Health and Wellbeing at Work**

NISO's flagship course is commencing Online/Dublin; 13 September  
TUS Athlone (in class); 19 September  
TUS Limerick (in class); 20 September  
Further details/book online [HERE](#)

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- [Risk Assessment Method Statement Guidance](#)
- [Impact of Long COVID on workers and workplaces](#)

## IRISH NEWS

### **Lowest number of workplace fatalities in 2021**

According to figures from the HSA, there was a reduction of almost a third in the number of workplace fatalities in 2021. Thirty-eight fatalities were reported in 2021, down from 54 in 2020, making it the lowest number of workplace fatalities recorded in a year since the HSA was established in 1989.

<https://bit.ly/3N9Eq7C>

### **HSA Annual Report 2021**

The HSA has published its Annual Report for 2021 which highlights the HSA's activities during out year and includes key statistics from the year. According to the report, 7,477 inspections were completed across all sectors in 2021, with a further 1,109 investigations completed following incident reports and complaints received.

<https://bit.ly/3bn5wey>

### **Higher numbers at risk from radon gas than thought**

Many more homes are at risk from high levels of cancer-causing radioactive gas than previous studies suggested, a new countrywide survey shows. In total, 170,000 houses are located in high radon zones - 45,000 more than when the data was last gathered in 2002. Employers and school managers in high radon areas are legally obliged to have buildings tested. The HSA has welcomed the new maps which make it easier for employers to fulfil their responsibilities.

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

### **Dr. Sharon McGuinness selected as ECHA's new Executive Director**

The management board of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has selected Dr. Sharon McGuinness as ECHA's next executive director. Dr. McGuinness has been the Chief Executive of the HSA since 2018. As part of the appointment procedure, she will make a statement before the European Parliament and answer questions from its members - this is tentatively scheduled for 4 July 2022.

<https://bit.ly/3l0uP2o>

### **New Assistant Chief Executive appointed to new HSA division**

Dr. Adrienne Duff has recently been appointed as the Assistant Chief Executive of the HSA's new Occupational Health Division. Under the HSA's Strategy Statement 2022–24 a new occupational health division has been established to give further emphasis to this important area. While the HSA will continue to focus on high risk sectors and hazards, there will equally be an emphasis on occupational health hazards.

<https://bit.ly/39ZV0tp>

### **New "peer-to-peer" mentoring approach to farm safety**

A new farm safety project that adopts a "peer-to-peer" mentoring and championing approach to engage farmers in an attitudinal and behavioural change towards farm safety by tackling and improving the social norms around farm safety and emotional wellbeing is being carried out by rural groups and the HSA. The project will investigate farmers', and farm families', behaviours and attitudes towards farm safety, health and wellbeing.

<https://bit.ly/3xI3o8D>

### **"Dial before you dig" to avoid gas pipelines**

Before starting excavation works, you should always "Dial before you dig" and contact Gas Networks Ireland in plenty of time before work starts to obtain maps of the gas network. Natural gas is highly flammable so damaging a gas pipeline can cause major disruption, property damage, serious injury or even death.

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

### **Farm Family project to deliver free training**

A new farm safety project, “Farm Family CPD”, which will deliver online, multi-generational training free of charge was recently launched in Co. Kilkenny. The training is funded through the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine which means that the training can be freely accessed by all farming families. The project hopes to harness the power of the “dinner table chats” to bring about a change in behavioural norms around farm safety from within the family unit.

<https://bit.ly/3OtDw77>

### **Increase in healthcare workers seeking help**

A confidential mental health support service for those working in the healthcare sector has reported that the number of healthcare professionals presenting with stress, anxiety and burnout increased by more than a third last year. According to a new report, these symptoms are resulting in clinicians misusing substances such as alcohol or drugs, questioning their careers and contemplating suicide.

<https://bit.ly/3NcrVZ5>

## **UK NEWS**

### **Company directors sentenced after asbestos exposure**

Two former company directors have been sentenced and fined after a refurbishment project at a former department store was found to have disturbed asbestos containing materials (ACMs) while demolition work was still taking place. The Health and Safety Executive UK conducted an investigation following a reported concern regarding unsafe construction work at the site. Both directors were found guilty of breaching two counts of health and safety legislation and received 14-month sentences, suspended for 2 years. They also received fines of £44,774.21, were ordered to carry out community work and are suspended as directors for 10 years.

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

### **Calling a man “bald” ruled sexual harassment**

An employment tribunal in the UK has found that calling a man “bald” as an insult is sexual harassment. Hair loss is much more prevalent among men than women so using it to describe someone is a form of discrimination, a judge has concluded. The ruling came about in a case between a veteran electrician and his manufacturing firm employers.

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

## **Report - Is Injury an Occupational Hazard for Horseracing Staff?**

A group of researchers have examined the “prevalence and effect of injury” in British horseracing staff over the course of a year. The results were published in a paper entitled “Is Injury an Occupational Hazard for Horseracing Staff?” in which a survey of 352 staff showed that 88% have reported injuries at work.

<https://bit.ly/3bn4yiq>

## **EUROPEAN NEWS**

### **Lithuania awarded road safety prize**

Lithuania has been announced as the winner of this year’s European Road Safety Council’s (ETSC) Road Safety Performance Index (PIN) Award in recognition of major improvements in road safety over the last decade. Out of the European countries tracked by ETSC, Lithuania was the only EU country to halve road deaths between 2011 and 2021.

<https://bit.ly/3bmH8K6>

## **WORLD NEWS**

### **Fire spotlights Bangladesh industrial safety**

A fire at a shipping container storage depot in Bangladesh has killed 41 people and injured more than 100. The fire has raised further concerns over industrial safety standards in Bangladesh, which has a history of industrial disasters.

<https://bit.ly/3ne6f4l>

## **GENERAL SAFETY NEWS**

### **Surge in incidents at level crossings**

A “surge” in incidents at level crossings has been reported with 54 incidents so far this year compared to 31 for the same period last year. Some of the incidents have been described as being “particularly worrying” with the majority occurring in Dublin. This article includes footage of a few near misses and a reminder of the rules at the different types of level crossings in Ireland.

<https://bit.ly/3xT6Xc1>

## **FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS**

### **Boy (6) dies after getting into difficulty in hotel pool**

A six-year-old boy has died after getting into difficulty at a hotel swimming pool in Co. Offaly. The child was rushed to a regional hospital and later transferred to a children's hospital in Dublin where he tragically died. An Garda Síochána and the HSA have confirmed that they are carrying out separate investigations into the fatality.

<https://bit.ly/39P8S9L>

### **Man dies in Kerry farm accident**

A man in his 60s has died as a result of an accident on his farm in Co. Kerry. Emergency services were called but it is understood that the man died at the scene. An Garda Síochána and the HSA have confirmed that they have launched separate investigations into the fatality.

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

### **Man killed in workplace incident in Co. Monaghan**

A man in his 50s has died following a road traffic collision involving a road roller work vehicle in Co. Monaghan. It is understood the man was the driver of the roller vehicle. An Garda Síochána have appealed for witnesses to come forward and to make any camera footage available to them. The HSA confirmed that it has also launched an investigation into the incident.

<https://bit.ly/3nfvwv1>

### **Teenager dies following tractor accident**

A 15-year-old teenager has died following a tractor accident in Co. Offaly. An Garda Síochána are appealing for witnesses to the accident to come forward and any road users with video footage have been asked to make this available.

<https://bit.ly/3tZnsm2>

### **Elderly man seriously injured in farm accident**

A man in his 90s was airlifted to hospital after he was seriously injured in a farm accident in Co. Cavan. It is understood the accident involved a tractor and occurred in a field. An Garda Síochána and the HSA have launched separate inquiries into the incident.

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

## **IN THE COURTS**

### **Former pet shop worker awarded further €1m**

A woman who was left severely disabled after allegedly contracting a rare disease from a pet shop parrot 14 years ago has secured a further payout of €1 million at the High Court. The latest interim payout which was approved by the High Court brings to €16.5 million the total amount paid out as part of settlement of the legal action. The woman suffered catastrophic injuries and is paralysed and confined to a wheelchair after allegedly contracting chlamydia psittacosis - an airborne infection which can be transferred from birds to humans - while working at the pet shop.

<https://bit.ly/3u4a1kO>

### **Glass factory worker awarded €120k following accident**

A glass factory worker who sustained injuries to his lower limbs in a work accident has been awarded €120,000 by the High Court. The man was injured when he was struck by several sheets of glass which fell from a trolley. Liability in the case has been admitted by the glass manufacturer and the action before the court was for assessment of damages only. The man is also to receive a sum equivalent to four years loss of future earnings which will be finalised later.

<https://bit.ly/3xN7bl4>

### **Former jockey awarded €95k following kick**

A former jockey has been awarded €95,000 damages for injuries he suffered after being kicked in the face by a horse at the stud farm where he worked. Lawyers for the plaintiff argued that the stud farm had failed to train him and to assess risk at the premises as well as devising a system of work which was not safe in the circumstances. The stud farm's legal team argued that the unexpected nature of the incident meant that the accident was unforeseeable no matter what steps had been put in place and that a system put in place on the date of the accident to protect its employees was ignored by the plaintiff. The judge noted that the stud farm had admitted breaching its statutory obligations by failing to provide training to its employees and failing to review and update safety statements.

<https://bit.ly/3u4c7Rt>

### **Windfarm firm plead guilty over employee death**

A company director has pleaded guilty to two charges brought under health and safety legislation arising out of the death of a worker who was killed in a windfarm landslide. In all there were six counts before the court brought under



the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 but when the case was called the director was arraigned on two counts and pleaded guilty. The case has been adjourned until October to fix a date for sentencing.

<https://bit.ly/3xP7j3y>

### **Company instructed to make charity donation**

A Co. Wexford based company that pleaded guilty to three breaches of health and safety legislation after a pedestrian was killed on its premises has been instructed to donate €1,000 to a charity of the deceased family members' choice and to cover court costs. The case arose after a member of the public was fatally injured when he was struck by a reversing courier van that was collecting and delivering parcels at the company premises. It was found that the company failed to provide a traffic management system to safely control and manage the movement of vehicles and pedestrians at their place of work.

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

### **Herdsman wins case following kick from heifer**

An organic farm in Tipperary has been found by the High Court to have failed to protect a herdsman after he suffered a kick from a heifer which required him to undergo emergency surgery. The court ruled that the herdsman was working in an "unsafe" and "poorly designed" cattle crush which did not separate the animals correctly, requiring him to enter the pen. The judge found the man guilty of contributory negligence as he did not ask for changes to the pen system. The case was settled for an undisclosed sum with costs.

<https://bit.ly/3Noo4lw>

### **Farmer returned to trial in relation to fatal accident**

A farmer and another man have been returned for trial relating to alleged health and safety breaches concerning a fatal farm accident that claimed the life of a Clare-based farmer last year. At a hearing in April, the judge described the circumstances in which the man lost his life in a farm accident as "horrific". The case involves a fatal incident that related to an excavation being dug at a farm premises.

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

### **TV presenter's sexual harassment case to commence**

A TV presenter has brought a claim that she was sexually harassed and victimised while working for a national broadcaster to the Workplace Relations

Commission. Legal representation for the broadcaster denies all the allegations. The case is set to commence tomorrow.

<https://bit.ly/3xZWID6>

## **INQUESTS**

### **Inquest into deaths of Rescue 116 crew held**

An inquest has heard evidence from several investigations that were held following the crash of Coast Guard helicopter Rescue 116 in which four crew members died in March 2017. Several investigations were launched in the hours after the incident and all had to be completed before the inquests could be held. A HSA investigation, details of which have not been made public, determined that no prosecutions would be taken under health and safety legislation.

<https://bit.ly/3N9SGO3>

### **Proper inquest into Coast Guard death needed**

An international maritime lawyer has questioned why an inquest has yet to be held into the death of an Irish Coast Guard volunteer who lost her life during active service. The mother-of-two (41) who was an advanced coxswain died off the Clare coast in September 2016. An investigation by the HSA concluded that no criminal charges would be brought following the fatality. The maritime lawyer has said that a "properly conducted coroner's inquest" is needed to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death properly and to help prevent further fatalities.

<https://bit.ly/39VyG40>

### **Farmer crushed by cow in holding pen, inquest hears**

A farmer suffered fatal injuries after being crushed by a cow that crashed through a holding pen after it reacted to seeing a dog in the farmyard, an inquest has heard. The 59-year-old man died in hospital five days after he received traumatic crush injuries after the animal and metal barriers fell on top of him in an accident on his farm in Co. Wicklow. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death and issued a recommendation that a system of audit and inspection on the use of farm equipment should be put in place for health and safety reasons.

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

## **STATISTICS**

Eleven people have been killed in workplace accidents since 1 January 2022 - Correct at 2 June 2022. Source: [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)

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

## **SAFETY ALERTS**

### **Safety Alert for STIHL Chainsaws**

The HSA has issued the following safety alert after being made aware of a Rapex Safety Alert issued by the manufacturer of STIHL chainsaws in respect to Model No. 5 MS 462 and MS 391. The HSA wish to bring this safety alert and relevant information to the attention of owners and users of these chainsaws as well as maintenance and inspection personnel. Operators should stop using these chainsaws immediately as per advice from the manufacturer.

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

### **MCWPs - failures detected in drive units**

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) UK has issued a safety alert relating to a serious technical fault found with mast climbing work platforms (MCWPs). Platforms could fall from height where mechanical faults in drive units go undetected. If not rectified quickly, the fault could cause serious injury, or even death.

<https://bit.ly/3R1TY0G>

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Construction Safety Action Plan 2022–2024**

The Construction Safety Partnership Advisory Committee (CSPAC) has published its Construction Safety Action Plan for 2022–2024. The CSPAC has identified five key areas to focus on between 2022 and 2024 and has set goals accordingly in order to help improve safety and health in this sector.

<https://bit.ly/3A9BbdC>

### **Safe Working with Diesel Engine Exhaust - Information Sheet**

Vehicles and equipment that use Diesel engines are potential sources of exposure to diesel exhaust fumes in the workplace. This information sheet from the HSA will help you to understand the composition of the exhaust, its health

effects and ways to assess and prevent exposure.

<https://bit.ly/3A9svUx>

### **Crystalline Silica Dust - Information Sheet**

Information sheet from the HSA. Crystalline silica is widely found in nature. Where concrete, stone or sand material are used, there is potential for exposure to crystalline silica dust.

<https://bit.ly/3u9tvEp>

### **Wood working - Information Sheet**

Information sheet from the HSA. Hardwood or softwood dusts generated during work processes can be hazardous to your health. Certain machines, e.g. sanding machines, can generate particularly high levels of dust.

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

### **Retailers duties when selling chemical products**

Guidance document from the HSA. In order to ensure the safe use of chemicals in our everyday lives, it is important that the hazards and risks associated with these products are communicated clearly through the hazard label on the product and/or via the safety data sheet (SDS) accompanying the product.

<https://bit.ly/3HYR2Oj>

### **Impact of Long COVID on workers and workplaces**

This discussion paper from EU-OSHA outlines challenges for preventing and managing related occupational safety and health risks due to Long COVID. It also explores measures that can be taken at the policy, research, and implementation level to reduce the impact of Long COVID and to protect against future pandemics.

<https://bit.ly/3HNv40D>

### **Health & Safety Times**

The Summer 2022 edition of the Health & Safety times E-Newsletter is now available.

<https://bit.ly/3Aag5vY>

## **RESOURCES**

### **Risk Assessment Method Statement Guidance**

The Construction Safety Partnership Advisory Committee has developed guidance and a template for the Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS). The development of the RAMS is a 3 step process while the template is broken into 8 sections.

<https://bit.ly/3tMH64m>

### **Free HSA course for seasonal workers**

The HSA has launched a free and short online course for seasonal workers in horticulture. The 40-minute online course is suitable for seasonal workers, students and anyone working in horticulture on a part-time or full-time basis. The course has been translated into the most common ten languages of workers in the horticulture sector in Ireland.

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

## **SAFETY WEBINARS**

### **Webinar: Information on CPD Certificates (Certified by TU Dublin)**

Free webinar hosted by NISO - Information on CPD Certificates in Safety Management at Work (Certified by TU Dublin) coming up on 4 and 12 July.

<https://bit.ly/3nnOAY2>

### **Webinar: What happens when an inquest is listed**

Recording of a webinar hosted by Northern Ireland Safety Group entitled "What happens when an inquest is listed" that looks at the role of the coroner and the coroner's court.

<https://bit.ly/3nnOAY2>

### **Webinar: Musculoskeletal Disorders**

Managing the Risk of Manual Handling and Display Screen Equipment for Workers on Site or Working from Home - Webinar from the Health and Safety Executive UK is now available to watch.

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

## **SAFETY IN VIDEOS**

### **Incidents at level crossings**

Following a "surge" in incidents at level crossings this year, video footage of a few near misses has been released amid renewed appeals to all road users,

including pedestrians, to obey the rules at level crossings.

<https://bit.ly/3xT6Xc1>

## **NISO TRAINING AND EVENTS**

### **CPD Certificates in Safety Management at Work (Certified by Technological University Dublin)**

**Hybrid - NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12 and/or Online**

**CPD Certificate:** Workplace Ergonomics; 5–9 September [BOOK NOW](#)

**CPD Certificate:** Workplace Safety Management Part 1; 19–24 September [BOOK NOW](#)

**CPD Certificate:** Workplace Accident Investigation; 3–7 October [BOOK NOW](#)

**CPD Certificate:** Workplace Noise Measurement; 17–21 October [BOOK NOW](#)

**CPD Certificate:** Behavioural Safety Management; 14–18 November [BOOK NOW](#)

**CPD Certificate:** Workplace Safety Management Part 1; 21–25 November [BOOK NOW](#)

**CPD Certificate:** Fire Safety Management Part 1; 5–9 December [BOOK NOW](#)

**CPD Certificate:** Workplace Safety Management Part 1; 9–13 January 2023 [BOOK NOW](#)

**CPD Certificate:** Fire Safety Management Part 2; 23–27 January 2023 [BOOK NOW](#)

**Free information Webinar;** Online; 4 & 12 July [BOOK NOW](#)

### **Training scheduled at NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12 OR Online**

[DSE-VDU Risk Assessor Course](#) (ONLINE); NISO Certificate (1 day); 5 July [BOOK NOW](#)

[Safety Representation](#) (HYBRID); NISO Certificate (2 day); 5–6 July 2022 [BOOK NOW](#)

[Mobile & Home Working Assessor Course](#); NISO Certificate (1 day); Date TBC

[Manual Handling Basic](#) NISO Certificate (half day); Date TBC

### **NISO Certificate in Safety, Health & Welfare at Work [BOOK ONLINE](#)**

13 wks / 2 hrs per wk commencing:

**Dublin/Online:** 13 September

**TUS Athlone (in class):** 19 September

**TUS Limerick (in class):** 20 September

### **National Events**

**NISO Annual Safety Conference;** The Galmont Hotel & Spa, Galway; 11 November 2022

**NISO/NISO Safety Awards Ceremony;** The Galmont Hotel & Spa, Galway; 11 November 2022

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