

NISO Safety Observer  
August 2022; Issue 66

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Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

August 2022 - Issue 66

Welcome to the August 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 29 June 2022.

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## Annual NISO Health and Safety Conference

National Irish Safety Organisation /  
Technological University Dublin

### CPD Certificates/ Diploma in Safety Management at Work

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

### UPCOMING SAFETY WEBINARS

#### **NISO NEWS**

##### **58th Annual NISO Conference**

The 58th Annual NISO Health & Safety Conference is taking place on 11 November 2022 in the Galmont Hotel & Spa, Galway. Further details [HERE...](#)

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

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

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

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

##### **Upcoming Safety Webinars**

NISO is holding a series of free, coffee break webinars on different health and safety themes.

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

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### In this issue...

- Safety Representative of the Year Award 2022
- Government to invest €1.25m in farm safety
- Vehicle safety in Europe takes a giant leap forward
- THOR Republic of Ireland Report
- Four new regulations recently signed into law

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## IRISH NEWS

### **Safety Representative of the Year Award 2022**

NISO, in association with the Cpl Institute, has launched the Safety Representative of the Year Award for 2022. Are you, or is someone you know, an outstanding Safety Representative who deserves recognition? This award acknowledges the contributions of Safety Representatives that have resulted in positive advances in workplace health and safety.

<https://bit.ly/3PTm3pi>

### **Nurses face assaults and verbal aggression daily**

The Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO) has said that nurses are working in a “pressure cooker-type environment” which is leading to more assaults and more must be done to protect them. Recent figures have shown that more than five nurses were physically, verbally or sexually assaulted every day in the month of June. The HSA has said it is establishing a new occupational health division that will help tackle the number of healthcare workers being assaulted in their day-to-day duties.

<https://bit.ly/3b1uLmP>

### **High level of stress among secondary school principals**

A new report has found that 64% of second-level principals and deputy principals are experiencing burnout due to stress, a figure which is well ahead of the 34% found in the general healthy working population. As many as two in

five principals were diagnosed with stress-related medical conditions in 2022. The reported decline in wellbeing comes after three school years that were severely affected by the pandemic and also struggles with teacher shortages.

<https://bit.ly/3BaY4Oy>

### **Women feel more pressure to work remotely when sick**

A new survey has found that women working remotely are more likely to feel obliged to work when sick with a greater number of female employees likely to suffer mental exhaustion compared with their male counterparts. In the survey, 54% of women in Ireland feel they must work while sick when working remotely while only 34% of men said they feel the same pressure.

<https://bit.ly/3RUc1Gn>

### **Government to invest €1.25m in farm safety**

The Government has announced €1.25m to be used for investment in farm safety through the purchase of 18 farm machinery simulators. The machinery simulators are to be used in all agricultural and horticultural colleges across the country. Driver operation has been identified as a leading cause of incidents involving tractors and machinery. The provision of simulators will enhance training on agricultural machinery which has been highlighted as an important tool to improve the safety of the agricultural sector.

<https://bit.ly/3zn6h0H>

### **HSA launches wellbeing resources for farmers**

The HSA's Farm Safety Advisory Committee (FSPAC) working group has developed a new health and wellbeing guide and mental health awareness video. The guide offers advice on the various health issues that pertain to farmers and their work. The video highlights the story of a farmer who struggled with his mental health and how he reached out and took the first step to seek the support he needed.

<https://bit.ly/3z8PSM8>

### **Records of assaults on council staff released**

Records released have shown how staff at Dublin's four local authorities were subjected to dozens of instances of verbal abuse and physical assaults since 2018. Staff have reported being head butted, spat on, sexual harassment and threatened with weapons among other incidents. All incidents were investigated by the councils, which followed up with enforcement and security measures, as

well as contacting an Garda Síochána in some instances.

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

### **New farm safety module for female farmers**

The Irish Farmers' Association (IFA) has welcomed a move by Teagasc to offer training in farm safety to female farmers. The new Farm Safety and Assurance module Level 5 course will be offered at Mountbellew Agricultural College. The first round of the course will be delivered specifically for women in the agri-sector.

<https://bit.ly/3RR8eK3>

### **Rail worker narrowly escaped death on tracks**

A new report by the Railway Accident Investigation Unit recorded details of a "near miss" which occurred in Co. Meath last year. In the incident, a worker narrowly escaped death after jumping clear of a railway track just four seconds before a train travelling at 140 km/h passed where he had been standing.

<https://bit.ly/3cKqFH5>

## **UK NEWS**

### **HSE publishes workplace fatality figures 2021/2022**

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in Britain has published its workplace fatality figures for 2021/2022. The data, which covers the period from April 2021 to March 2022, shows that 123 workers died in work-related accidents during this period. The industries with the highest number of fatalities were construction (30), agriculture, forestry and fishing (22) and manufacturing (22). Agriculture, forestry and fishing had the highest rate of fatal injuries per 100,000 workers.

<https://bit.ly/3J1dve3>

### **Managers jailed following two fatalities at plant**

The managers of a food waste plant have been imprisoned and the company fined €2 million after two staff members drowned in a tanker of pig feed. A 19-year-old employee died after falling into the tanker while cleaning it and his 35-year-old male co-worker died trying to save him. The accounts manager was jailed for 13 years after being found guilty of two counts of gross negligence for manslaughter and a health and safety offence. Her husband, the managing director, was sentenced to 20 months in prison after he was convicted of

breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act.

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

### **Carlsberg fined £3m following ammonia gas leak**

Carlsberg has been fined £3 million after a contractor died and another was seriously injured following an ammonia gas leak at one of its breweries. Twenty people needed hospital checks after showing ammonia exposure symptoms. The incident happened at a site in the UK. An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive found Carlsberg hadn't put the proper controls in place.

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

## **EUROPEAN NEWS**

### **Vehicle safety in Europe takes a giant leap forward**

New models of car, van, lorry and bus launched on to the EU/EEA market from 6 July 2022 must be fitted with an array of new vehicle safety technologies as standard. The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) has welcomed this milestone but says standards for two of the new technologies are too weak and need to be urgently reviewed.

<https://bit.ly/3b1i2Aq>

### **Mental health in the digital world of work**

The European Parliament has voted to pass a report on mental health entitled "Mental Health in the Digital World of Work" authored by an Irish MEP. This report aims to set a policy standard for mental health and wellness support for workers across the EU.

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

## **FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS**

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

The HSA is investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of a man on a farm in Co. Galway. An Garda Síochána and emergency services attended the scene. The HSA confirmed that it has launched an investigation into the fatality and the no further information in relation to the cause of the fatality was available at that time.

<https://bit.ly/3PNdRa4>

### **Man seriously injured in accident at harbour**

A man in his sixties was seriously injured in an accident at a harbour in Co. Wicklow. Paramedics attended the scene and treated the man before he was removed to hospital. The HSA is investigating the incident.

<https://bit.ly/3vfXTh1>

### **IN THE COURTS**

#### **Family of man injured at work settle actions for €3m**

The High Court has approved a €3 million settlement over two actions related to an accident in which a man suffered catastrophic injuries when he was crushed by a forklift against a refuse skip at work. The man was left brain damaged, requires full-time care and has to live in residential care. An investigation by the HSA found that there was no mechanical fault with the forklift truck and no prosecution was brought in the case by an Garda Síochána. The man's employer denied negligence and alleged there was contributory negligence.

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

#### **Supermarket worker awarded €60k following ladder fall**

The High Court has awarded €60,000 to a supermarket employee who dislocated her ankle after falling off a ladder while organising shelves four years ago. The judge accepted the evidence that the employee had reached the second rung of the ladder when it became unstable and that the ladder was defective. The supermarket disputed this claim and contended that the employee tripped over the ladder as she walked past it. The judge assessed a total of €120,000 damages and allowed €40,961 special damages. Counsel for the supermarket said it intended to appeal and applied for a stay; a partial stay was granted, providing that one third of the award should be paid out.

<https://bit.ly/3vfnV44>

#### **Worker awarded €15,000 for harassment**

A Polish Catholic cleaner who was harassed on the grounds of religion at work when a colleague made fun of his race and religion has been awarded €15,000 by the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC). The WRC adjudicator ordered the man's employer to pay €10,000 compensation for the harassment he faced on the grounds of religion and €5,000 for the harassment on the grounds of race under the Employment Equality Act 1998. The man alleged that his supervisor did nothing to stop the harassment and said his employer had failed

to respond to previous complaints regarding alleged bullying. As part of her order, the adjudicator ordered the company to develop a workplace anti-harassment policy and workplace anti-bullying policy that comply with relevant statutory Codes of Practice and take the necessary steps to ensure such policies are verifiably communicated to, and understood by, all employees.

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

### **Crane system failed leading to deaths of two men**

The Circuit Court in Limerick has heard evidence of the circumstances that lead to the the deaths of two workers who drowned when the steel cage they were working in collapsed and fell into a river in 2015. An investigation by the HSA established that the two block safety system on a crane failed to work, causing a cable with a steel basket attached to snap. Representatives of the two crane companies involved have both pleaded guilty to breaches of the health and safety act. Sentencing in this course has been adjourned until October.

<https://bit.ly/3BIN00S>

### **Aviation firm facing trial over workplace fatality**

An aviation firm is facing trial over the death of an airport worker who fell from a plane doorway. The 64-year-old father of five was seriously injured when he fell from the doorway of a cargo plane and later died in hospital. The HSA conducted an investigation resulting in charges being brought against the aviation company. The judge allowed for a two-month adjournment for the prosecution to complete a book of evidence. It is not yet known how the company will plead.

<https://bit.ly/3b3T7MD>

### **Workman loses €60k claim against employer**

A six foot five inches tall workman, who banged his head when he forgot to duck as he left a private cubicle in a work toilet, has lost a €60,000 damages claim for personal injuries against a former employer. He said that he remembered to stoop when he walked into the cubicle but had forgotten to bend down on the way out and as a result, banged his forehead against the door frame causing injury including severe shock, a laceration and pain in the back of his neck. In cross examination the man conceded that it was his responsibility to have looked where he was going and to take full responsibility for the accident. The judge dismissed the case.



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

### **Man settles action against parents after bull attack**

A man who lost a part of his earlobe when a bull struck him has settled a High Court action against its owners, his parents, for an undisclosed sum. The man suffered physical and psychological injuries as a result of the attack. A claim for loss of earnings was withdrawn and, following talks between both parties, the case was settled.

<https://bit.ly/3b6FUD1>

## **INQUESTS**

### **Inquest hears farm safety impeded by “huge cultural issues”**

The family of an Offaly man who was killed after being struck by a bull while helping his cousin on a farm over four years ago have claimed there are “huge cultural issues” around improving farm safety. The 58-year-old father of five sustained severe brain injuries during an incident at his cousin’s farm when he and two other men were helping to segregate eight bulls from a herd of 26 animals in a temporary pen. He died from his injuries in hospital the following day. The jury returned a verdict of misadventure. The man’s family told the jury that they were very anxious to prevent future deaths in similar circumstances.

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

## **SAFETY ALERTS**

### **Management of ACMS on Demolition & Refurbishment Sites**

This Safety Alert for all duty-holders involved in the management of demolition or refurbishing/upgrade/refit works. The HSA is reissuing this alert to ensure Asbestos-Containing Materials (ACMs) are correctly identified before such works take place and are dealt with accordingly. This Safety Alert outlines the requirements of the relevant duty holders.

<https://bit.ly/3cH2yCd>

## **STATISTICS**

Twelve people have been killed in workplace accidents since 1 January 2022 - Correct at 15 July 2022. Source: [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)

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

## **RESEARCH/STUDIES**

### **THOR Republic of Ireland Report**

The Health and Occupation Research (THOR) Republic of Ireland (ROI) is a report by physicians of work related ill health in Ireland. An annual report is produced showing the number of cases reported that year and in addition there is a compiled report covering commencing in 2005. The report provides valuable information on the types of WRIs, causal agents and industry sectors they occur in. The report also allows comparisons of cases between Northern Ireland and Great Britain. THOR ROI is financially supported by the HSA.

<https://bit.ly/3Jbs1jb>

## **GUIDANCE**

### **Farm safety tips for harvesting season**

Harvest time is a pressurised time on Irish farms. This article offers guidance on planning for harvest season to ensure that safety is the priority at all times.

There are also useful links to video material and HSA resources.

<https://bit.ly/3oB2x5E>

### **HSE Motor Vehicles eBulletin**

HSE eBulletin: Fatal accidents while working on incorrectly supported vehicles. The HSE (UK) released this eBulletin following at least eight fatal accidents since 2019 due to work being carried on out incorrectly supported vehicles or cabs. This eBulletin gives guidance on working safely under motor vehicles being repaired.

<https://bit.ly/3PUuBw6>

## **SAFETY COMMENTARY/OPINION**

### **Farm safety - it is always in our hands**

This opinion piece takes a look at the dangers of farming and the pressures on farmers at this time of year which increases the risks and potential hazards.

<https://bit.ly/3v3LD39>

### **Moving machinery a huge killer on farms**

Article highlighting that the clear message from HSA statistics on farm fatalities

is to act now on training or upskilling for those working on your farm rather than become another statistic that the HSA reports on. The use of a helmet on quad bikes and safety training for driving quad bikes will be regulated from November 2023 - this article strongly advises implementing this rule now.

<https://bit.ly/3cNfiY9>

## **LEGISLATION UPDATE**

### **Four new regulations recently signed into law**

European Union (Equipment and Protective Systems Intended for Use in Potentially Explosive Atmospheres) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 (SI 322/2022)

<https://bit.ly/3S1yIbM>

European Union (Lifts and Safety Components for Lifts) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 (SI 323/2022)

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

European Union (Pressure Equipment) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 (SI 324/2022)

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

European Union (Personal Protective Equipment) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 (SI 325/2022)

<https://bit.ly/3PD7eHV>

## **SAFETY IN VIDEOS**

### **Mental health & wellbeing in farming**

Short video from the HSA focussing on the most important element of good farming which is often overlooked - your own health and wellbeing.

<https://bit.ly/3zdDjz6>

### **Silage cutting safety on Irish farms**

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) has partnered with Axa and Agriland Media Group for an innovative campaign to promote greater awareness of farm safety. This short video offers guidance on silage cutting safety on Irish farms.

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

## **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](#)

### **Health & Safety Webinars (Free)**

**Manual Handling - Load and Weight:** 11:00-11:30hrs; 29 August 2022 [REGISTER HERE](#)

**Noise - How to select Ear Defenders:** 11:00-11:30hrs; 26 September 2022 [REGISTER HERE](#)

**Safety Behaviour - The Swiss Cheese Model:** 11:00-11:30hrs; 24 October 2022 [REGISTER HERE](#)

**Fire Safety - Flashovers:** 11:00-11:30hrs; 28 November 2022 [REGISTER HERE](#)

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

[Manual Handling Basic](#) NISO Certificate (half day); 5 & 26 August [BOOK NOW](#)

[Safety Representation](#) (HYBRID); NISO Certificate (2 day); 13-14 September; 11-12 October [BOOK NOW](#)

[Mobile & Home Working Assessor Course](#); NISO Certificate (1 day); 27 September; 25 October [BOOK](#)

[NOW](#)

[DSE-VDU Risk Assessor Course](#) (ONLINE); NISO Certificate (1 day); Date TBC

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

13 weeks / 2 hrs per week 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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