

NISO Safety Observer
October 2022; Issue 67

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Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

October 2022 - Issue 67

Welcome to the October 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 6 September 2022 last and the next edition for NISO members is scheduled for November 2022. The last edition of Safety Observer was distributed on 28 July 2022.

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NISO NEWS

58th Annual NISO Conference

The NISO Annual Conference is taking place on 11 November 2022 in Galway. Book early to avail of Early Bird discounts!

[Further details/online bookings.](#)

CPD Certificates in Safety Management at Work

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

Psychological H&S at Work

NISO is hosting a half day seminar in the Oranmore Lodge Hotel, Galway, on 28 November 2022.

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...](#)

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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IRISH NEWS

Over 4,000 farm accidents in 2020

According to new data from the Teagasc National Farm Survey, there were 4,523 accidents on Irish farms in 2020. Over 88% of these farm accidents involved the farm operator, 11% involved a family member and 1% involved farm workers. Almost half (46%) of farm workplace injuries required hospitalisation.

<https://bit.ly/3C8ixn8>

Employer liability claims down by 28%

The total value of compensation paid out in claims handled by the Personal Injuries Assessment Board (PIAB) last year was 43% lower than in 2019 according to the PIAB's recently published annual report. Employer liability accounted for 13% of the overall claims made, down 28% from 2019.

<https://bit.ly/3re6jD7>

Over 12 health staff assaulted daily

According to new figures, more than 12 health service staff are subjected to physical, verbal or sexual assaults every day. A total of 7,307 assaults on staff was logged by the Health Service Executive in the period from January 2021 to July 2022. With nurses bearing the brunt of workplace assaults across the health service, the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO) has called for a “zero tolerance” approach to the problem.

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

HSA launch two-week farm inspection campaign

The HSA has launched a two-week farm inspection campaign focussing on working safely at height. During the past ten years, 20 people were killed on Irish farms in accidents involving a fall; 15 of these fatalities related to falls from a height. Over the course of the two-week period, HSA inspectors will visit farms across the country to remind farmers of the serious risks involved in any work at height.

<https://bit.ly/3Cew0tK>

Harmful workplace behaviour in the arts

An independent facility for the anonymous disclosure of harmful workplace behaviours across the arts should be established by government, a report from a cross-party joint committee has urged. The report calls for stricter funding regimes and says that funding recipients should have to adhere to anti-harassment and dignity-in-the-workplace initiatives, declare any allegations and uphold allegations of harmful workplace behaviour, provide training on gender-based harassment and abuse, report on gender balance and policies and have compliance checks.

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

Garda sick leave due to mental health issues

Members of an Garda Síochána have missed over 8,600 days of work due to mental health issues since the start of last year. This sick leave has been taken by 84 officers. So far in 2022, 37 Gardaí have taken sickness absence due to mental health issues such as stress and anxiety.

<https://bit.ly/3BU2mlz>

Farm safety inspections set to double in 2022

The number of HSA farm inspections that have taken place so far this year has already exceeded the total number of such inspections carried out over the

whole of 2021. Over 611 farm inspections have been carried out so far in 2022 while 400 inspections were carried out in total in 2021.

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

Unmet need for mental health supports in the workplace

New international research carried out in eight countries, including Ireland, has found there is a significant unmet need for mental health supports in the workplace. Just 26.2% of the experts involved in the research agreed that employees could speak openly about mental health. The research also discussed stigma, return to work following mental illness, support for managers and recommendations.

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

Third of staff face bullying in higher education

A third of workers in Irish higher education institutions (HEI) say they have been bullied in work over the past three years, with the perpetrator reported as a senior colleague in more than half of the cases. According to the study from the Dublin City University Anti-Bullying Centre minority groups including LGBTQ+, ethnic minorities and respondents with a disability were more likely to endure negative acts at work, bullying and cyberbullying compared to majority groups.

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

Creating a positive hybrid workspace

Organisational psychologist with the HSA discusses the future of the Irish workplace during this transitional time with some employees still working from home, some trying a hybrid schedule and some returning full time. This article and radio interview discusses some of the challenges facing employers and employees and offers advice on creating a positive hybrid workspace.

<https://bit.ly/3dLF5kn>

HSA urges farmers to prepare for quad regulations

The HSA is urging farmers to get ready for new quad bike regulations and to take steps to become compliant before the November 2023 deadline. The new regulations require that farmers are trained quad bike users and wear an appropriate helmet when operating quad bikes. There have been 11 fatalities in agriculture involving quad bikes during the 10-year-period from 2012 to 2021.

<https://bit.ly/3Cew0tK>

New and emerging farm safety technology

Following Farm Safety Week in Northern Ireland, the Farm Safety Partnership (FSP) is encouraging the farming community to consider new and emerging farm safety technology in efforts to keep everyone safe on farms. The FSP says that the evolution of farm safety equipment is set to help make farms much safer and it will continue to champion evolving safety technologies.

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

UK NEWS

Dyson fined £1.2m after machine falls on worker

Technology firm Dyson has been fined £1.2m after one of its employees was injured when a giant milling machine fell on top of him. The firm pleaded guilty to breaching health and safety laws and was ordered to pay £1.2m for failing to properly train its staff in handling the kit.

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

Retailer fined £1m after electrician sustains burns

A retail company and an electrical contracting company have been fined after an electrician suffered serious burns to 15% of his body when he was caught in an explosion at a warehouse in Liverpool. The retail company pleaded guilty to breaches of the health and safety legislation and was fined £1m and ordered to pay costs of £4,978. The electrical contractors pleaded guilty to a breach of health and safety legislation and were fined £100.

<https://bit.ly/3RUbu6R>

EUROPEAN NEWS

OiRA helps create a healthy office workplace

The Online Interactive Risk Assessment (OiRA) tool from EU-OSHA now includes risk assessment for office work. A broad variety of risks are addressed including ergonomic risks due to prolonged sitting, aspects related to lighting and working with a screen.

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

Digital technologies and COVID-19 - new H&S challenges

A 2019 ESENER survey clearly identified digitalisation as an emerging occupational health and safety issue. Since then it has been found that despite

the increasing use of digital technology, only 24% of workplaces are having discussions about the potential impact of such technologies on the safety and health of workers. Follow up studies have also found that further challenges involve psychosocial risks and work practices transformed by COVID-19.

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

WORLD NEWS

Mexico abandons hope of rescuing miners

Mexican authorities have outlined an 11-month plan to search for and recover the bodies of 10 coal miners who have been trapped underground for over a month. The new recovery plan signals that the authorities have abandoned hopes of rescuing the men alive.

<https://reut.rs/3ROxTm9>

UN urges action to safeguard workers' mental health

The United Nations (UN) has said that far more must be done to safeguard mental health in the workplace. The UN agencies for health and labour have published two documents filled with advice on how best to prevent and protect against mental health risks at work, warning that psychological distress is costly for individuals and society alike. According to the World Health Organization and the International Labour Organization an estimated 12 billion work days are lost every year due to depression and anxiety, costing the global economy nearly \$1 trillion.

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

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

Man dies in Co. Tipperary farm accident

A man in his 70s has died in a farm accident in Co. Tipperary. An Garda Síochána and the HSA have confirmed that they have launched separate investigations into the fatality..

<https://bit.ly/3SgUMi2>

Man dies in Co. Roscommon workplace accident

A man in his 70s has died in a workplace accident in Co. Roscommon. An Garda Síochána and emergency services attended the scene but the man was pronounced dead at the scene. The HSA has launched an investigation into the

fatality.

<https://bit.ly/3QRzne8>

Man dies in farm accident in Co. Wexford

A man in his 60s has died following a farm accident in Co. Wexford. An Garda Síochána and the HSA have launched separate investigations into the incident.

<https://bit.ly/3R6zaDL>

Man killed while cutting trees in Co. Westmeath

A man in his 50s has died following an incident in which he was struck by a tree while he was cutting trees in Co. Westmeath. Emergency services were called but the man was pronounced dead at the scene. An Garda Síochána are investigating the incident and confirmed that the HSA has been notified.

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

Man dies in farm accident in Co. Offaly

A man in his 70s has died following a farm accident in Co. Offaly. The man was fatally injured when a tractor overturned on private land. An Garda Síochána has launched an investigation into the incident and has appealed for anyone who may have been in the area to contact them. The HSA has been notified of the fatal incident.

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

Carpenter dies following fall from roof

A construction worker who fell from a roof that he was working on in Co. Tipperary has died from the serious injuries he sustained. The man, who was 55 years of age, sadly passed away after two weeks in hospital.

<https://bit.ly/3QZKOR6>

Teenager airlifted to hospital after tractor collision

A male in his late teens was airlifted to hospital following an incident involving a tractor in Co. Clare. It is understood that the teenager was moving bales in the area when the tractor overturned on its side. Emergency services, including ambulance personnel, fire crews and an Garda Síochána attended the scene. His condition has been described as serious.

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

IN THE COURTS

Charges brought over disco crush fatalities

Two men and a company that runs a Co. Tyrone hotel are being charged over a crush outside a venue that resulted in the deaths of three teenagers. Two men, aged 55 and 43, are each to be charged with three counts of gross negligence manslaughter, one charge for each of the deaths, as well as offences for breaching health and safety laws. The company which runs the hotel where the incident occurred will also face one charge of contravening the same health and safety legislation.

<https://bit.ly/3dB6Try>

Ex-bin worker withdraws €350k injuries claim

A former bin company worker has withdrawn his High Court action seeking €350k in lost earnings due to injuries he allegedly sustained when the refuse truck he was a passenger in drove over a speed bump. The man claimed he had been prevented from returning to work due to neck and spinal injuries he sustained after being thrust upwards from his seat and hitting head off a structure on the vehicle's roof. He claimed that the refuse truck was travelling at about 50km/h when it went over a ramp and that the driver had been distracted by a video on his phone at the time. His former employers had denied the claims.

<https://bit.ly/3S764Wd>

Family lodges legal action after workplace fatality

The family of a man who drowned while working on a bridge in Limerick City is taking a civil case against two companies who pleaded guilty to breaching health and safety legislation. The man's colleague died by drowning also. Sentencing for this same case in Circuit Criminal Court has been adjourned until October.

<https://bit.ly/3SilpC2>

STATISTICS

Eighteen people have been killed in workplace accidents since 1 January 2022 - Correct at 16 September 2022. Source: www.hsa.ie

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

SAFETY ALERTS

Personal Protection Equipment - filters

The HSA has issued a safety alert to advise distributors, retailers, owners and users of the 3M™ Versaflo™ A2B2E2K1HgP Filter, TR-6580E of a Distributor Advisory Notice and User Advisory Notice issued by 3M United Kingdom PLC. Evidence has come to light that the filter does not meet all requirements of two European Standards. It has been advised that the filter is removed from use with immediate effect until further information becomes available.

<https://bit.ly/3R8gPQc>

GUIDANCE

Tips to avoid hearing loss on the farm

According to a recently published guide to farmer health and wellbeing from the HSA, farmers' hearing can be impacted at an earlier age than hearing in other healthy adults. It has been found that 25% of farmers aged 30 and 50% of farmers aged 50 have some form of hearing loss. This guidance from the HSA offers top tips on protecting hearing on the farm.

<https://bit.ly/3eSN7b0>

RESOURCES

Link between psychosocial risk factors and MSDs

This article from EU-OSHA looks at the link between psychosocial risk factors and musculoskeletal disorders. There are links to further information, reports, studies, info sheets and practical guides amongst other resources.

<https://bit.ly/3DS73Ft>

SAFETY IN VIDEOS

Dashcam footage of tyres flying off truck on M7

Shocking footage of a driver's lucky escape as two tyres fly off a truck on the M7.

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

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 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](#)

Training scheduled at NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12 OR Online

[Safety Representation](#) (Online); NISO Certificate (2 day); 11–12 October; 15–16 November [BOOK NOW](#)

[Manual Handling Basic](#) NISO Certificate (half day); 21 October; 18 November [BOOK NOW](#)

[Mobile & Home Working Assessor](#) (HYBRID); NISO Certificate (1 day); 25 October; 29 November [BOOK NOW](#)

[DSE-VDU Risk Assessor Course](#) (Online); NISO Certificate (1 day); 3 November [BOOK NOW](#)

Seminar: Psychological Health & Safety at Work

Galway: 28 November 2022; 09.15hrs-12.00hrs; Oranmore Lodge Hotel, Co. Galway [BOOK NOW](#)

Health & Safety Webinars (Free)

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

National Events

NISO Annual Safety Conference; The Galmont Hotel & Spa, Galway; 11 November 2022 [BOOK NOW](#)

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

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