

NISO Safety Observer
November 2022; Issue 68

[View this email in your browser](#)



Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

November 2022 - Issue 68

Welcome to the November 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 late November 2022. The last edition of Safety Observer was distributed on 29 September 2022.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE NISO MAILING LIST

The NISO Observer Newsletter is sent to **NISO Members** and **Email Subscribers** only. Please forward this newsletter on to any colleagues or friends who may wish to read or subscribe to the mailing list.

[SUBSCRIBE TO THE NISO MAILING LIST](#)

ANNUAL NISO HEALTH AND SAFETY CONFERENCE

CPD CERTIFICATES IN SAFETY MANAGEMENT AT WORK

SEMINAR: PSYCHOLOGICAL H&S AT WORK

NISO CERTIFICATE IN SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE AT WORK

NISO NEWS

58th Annual NISO Conference

The NISO Annual Conference is taking place on 11 November 2022 in Galway. Hear our esteemed speakers present on the conference theme "Health and Safety Mindset".

[Further details/online bookings.](#)

CPD Certificates in Safety Management at Work

CPD Certificate Courses (Certified by TU Dublin) - 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](#)

NISO Certificate in Safety, Health and Wellbeing at Work

NISO's flagship course is commencing Online/Dublin, Athlone, Castlebar, Cork, Limerick and Waterford in spring 2023. Further details/book online [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.

[Topics...](#) [Safety news...](#) [In the Courts...](#) [Inquests...](#) [Statistics...](#) [Resources...](#) [Reports...](#) [Guidance...](#) [Publications...](#) [Podcasts...](#) [Videos...](#) [Training and Events...](#)

In this issue...

- **HSA publishes Annual Review 2020–2021**
- **Workplace stress on the rise since COVID-19**
- **New construction skills and safety standards reform Bill**
- **Minister puts focus on farmer physical and mental health**
- **New proposal to protect EU workers from asbestos**

IRISH NEWS

HSA publishes Annual Review 2020–2021

The HSA has published its Annual Review of Workplace Injuries, Illnesses and Fatalities 2020–2021. This comprehensive review analyses the workplace injuries, illness and fatalities during this period under various headings including the most common reported injuries in different sectors; most injured body parts in workers and non-workers; days lost due to work-related injuries and illnesses under numerous categories such as sector and age group; fatal injury statistics under various headings including employment status, different sectors, age, gender.

<https://bit.ly/3Ds6vWk>

New construction skills and safety standards reform Bill

Minister Simon Harris T.D. has announced that the government has approved publication of the Construction Safety Licensing Bill 2022. This Bill will modernise and reform the existing accreditation model and provide for a licensing model for construction and quarrying activities. The purpose of these

regulations is to provide for the safe operation of the construction and quarrying sector and a sound legal basis for safety training and licensing.

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

Minister puts focus on farmer physical and mental health

On World Mental Health day Minister Martin Heydon, T.D. discussed his focus on farmers' mental health and wellbeing. Minister Heydon spoke about several evidence-based initiatives led by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) to improve farm safety and wellness among the farming community. He announced that he has secured an increased dedicated funding of €2.5 million for farm safety, health and wellbeing in 2023. Minister Heydon also discussed the work being done by the farming initiatives On Feirm Ground and four farm safety European Innovation Partnerships (EIP's) focussed on mental health in the farming community.

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

Sexual ethics training planned for Defence Forces

The Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces has recently admitted that discrimination, including sexual harassment against female members, still exists in the Defence Forces today. Following an RTÉ documentary which detailed sexual assault and harassment by male colleagues and superiors, more than 6,000 Defence Forces personnel received a briefing on the concerns and initiatives planned by the force. A new training module on sexual ethics and respectful relationship training is now being compiled.

<https://bit.ly/3TsH5NK>

Farm accidents - machinery and livestock not to blame

The cause of farm accidents, according to a senior inspector with the HSA, is not farm machinery or livestock but it comes down to the individual decision at the time of the accident. The inspector said that when approaching machinery, livestock or working at height, it is the decision they make that determines if there will be a positive or a negative outcome. He added that the only way we will be able to change the statistics is to change the individual behaviour of farmers.

<https://bit.ly/3MUvPY4>

HSA launches national quarry safety inspections

The HSA launched a two-week campaign to focus on pedestrian and vehicle

safety at quarries across Ireland in October. Over the past 10 years (2012–2021) there have been eight fatalities arising from incidents associated with Irish quarries. Since 2020, two fatalities in the industry have involved vehicles. HSA inspectors focussed on safe work practices and ensuring proactive measures are in place to reduce the risk of accidents, including serious or fatal injury and designated pedestrian routes for workers and non/workers/visitors to quarry sites.

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

Pilot farm safety mentorship project

A farming community where nearly half of those polled in a farm safety survey said they had injuries or near misses in the last three years is being helped by the Farmers4Safety project. Farmers in three counties are gathering to discuss farm safety, both physical and mental, as part of the drive to make consciousness of safety a normal and sustained part of the farming culture in Ireland. The aims included embedding farm safety knowledge in discussion groups, advising on supports and services for farm families, creating buddy systems and making farm work practises safer.

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

Calls for a renewed focus on construction safety

A slight increase in workplace injuries in the construction sector around the country has led to calls for a renewed focus on safety on building sites. A total of 794 injuries were reported across construction last year, an increase of 4.3% on 2020, according to the latest HSA figures. The top three causes of construction-related accidents from 2017 to 2021 were slips, trips and falls; lifting and carrying, and falling from heights.

<https://bit.ly/3TsIS5q>

Defence Forces' H&S section seriously understaffed

Delegates at PDForra's recent annual conference heard that the Defence Forces health and safety section is seriously understaffed and in need of a major revamp to negate the number of high-risk situations soldiers, sailors and aircrews find themselves in on an almost daily basis. Currently, the Defence Forces' health and safety department is staffed by just two military personnel. PDForra's Health and Safety officer said that this is "totally inadequate and needs to be significantly bolstered".

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

25 farm construction deaths over 9 years

According to figures from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), 25 people lost their lives as a result of farm construction work between 2010 and 2019. At a recent Irish Farm Buildings Association conference delegates were reminded of the risks associated with construction work on farms and the need to take every precaution and heed every guideline when carrying out building work.

<https://bit.ly/3f5Kmns>

INMO calls for the HSA to take action on overcrowding

The Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO) has called on the HSA, Health Service Executive and the Minister for Health to take immediate action as the highest number of patients on trolleys in 2022 has been recorded. The INMO's general secretary has said that the health and safety of its members and the patients in their care must take priority and that they are currently operating in truly unsafe care environments.

<https://bit.ly/3N8WjoN>

UK NEWS

Company fined for workers' excessive radiation exposure

A company which provides diagnostic imaging services and its radiopharmaceutical subsidiary company have been handed six-figure fines following incidents at two sites in which employees were exposed to radiation levels in excess of the legal annual dose limit. In March 2019, a vial of radioactive substance (FDG) leaked after it was installed into a shielded dispensing pot in the dispensing laboratory at a facility in Leeds. This resulted in two members of staff becoming contaminated with skin doses in excess of the annual dose limit. In a second incident in November 2019, the same radioactive substance was unknowingly handled by a member of staff whose skin was also contaminated with a skin dose in excess of the annual dose limit. The company involved was fined £300k plus costs of £11,382 and its subsidiary company was fined £120k plus costs of £11,382.

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

Employers urged to examine employee mental health nuances

A 2019 report from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in the UK found that

stress, depression and anxiety was responsible for 44% of work-related ill health and 54% of working days lost in 2018 and 2019. This article states the employers must look closer to recognise the nuances driving employee mental health. The article, which draws on research and surveys into employee mental health and the impact of COVID-19, says that there is a need to understand the complexities of the interplay of mental health and the workplace and to appreciate that there are few simple, one-size-fits-all modular solutions.

<https://bit.ly/3N17cZN>

EUROPEAN NEWS

Dr. Sharon McGuinness' ECHA role confirmed

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has confirmed that Dr. Sharon McGuinness will commence her first five-year term as ECHA's Executive Director on 1 December 2022. Paul Krajnik, Deputy Director for Chemicals in Policy and Biocides, has been reelected as ECHA's Management Board chair for another two years.

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

New proposal to protect EU workers from asbestos

The European Commission has adopted a communication and put forward a legislative proposal on the protection of workers from the risks related to asbestos exposure at work amending the Asbestos at Work Directive 2009/158/EC. It aims to update the existing binding occupational exposure limit value for asbestos, considering the latest scientific developments and technical progress.

<https://bit.ly/3z60RXn>

Creating a culture of wellbeing in EU's education sector

Across all education settings, the education sector can be stressful and cause a deterioration of mental and physical wellbeing. This report from EU-OSHA examines how a strong occupational health and safety management system including risk awareness and training can create a culture of positive staff wellbeing. The report also includes policy pointers on areas of OSH management.

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

Workplace stress on the rise since COVID-19

A recent EU-OSHA workers' survey has found that more than four out of ten (44%) of workers say their work stress has increased as a result of the pandemic. Almost half of the respondents (46%) said they are exposed to severe time pressure or work overload. Other factors causing stress include poor communication or cooperation within the organisation and a lack of control over work pace or work processes. Half of those surveyed said that the pandemic has made it easier to talk about mental health while 50% worry that disclosing a mental health condition could have a negative impact on their career.

<https://bit.ly/3VShMX6>

A “silent pandemic” the EU is not prepared for

Following a recent EU-OSHA survey which found that 44% of workers in the EU reported an increase in work stress as a result of COVID-19, this article takes a look at workplace mental issues in Europe including psychosocial risks in the workplace and systemic problems.

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

WORLD NEWS

Eliminating Violence and Harassment in the World of Work

The International Labor Organization (ILO) has established new global standards aimed at ending violence and harassment in the world of work. Governments that ratify the standards will be required to put in place the necessary laws and policy measures to prevent and address violence and harassment in the world of work.

<https://bit.ly/3N3pN7J>

IN THE COURTS

Civil Engineering Contractors fined €220k following fatality

A civil engineering company has been fined €220,000 in the Circuit Criminal Court following a guilty plea to breaches of health and safety legislation. The case arose following a fatal incident at a construction site in 2016. The construction of a temporary floating road on the construction site triggered a land slide of peat, as a result of which an employee suffered fatal injuries.

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

Over €200k imposed for H&S breaches following fatalities

Two companies have been fined for breaching health and safety legislation in the Limerick Circuit Court. The case arose following an incident in which two workers were fatally injured when the basket in which they were working and which was attached to a lorry mounted crane fell into the river Shannon. The incident occurred during planned maintenance work on a bridge. Both companies pleaded guilty to one charge in breach of health and safety legislation with one company fined €200,000 and the other fined €25,000.

<https://bit.ly/3N3jxq9>

Farmer awarded €75k following bull attack at mart

A mart has been ordered to pay €75,000 damages to a farmer who broke several ribs when he was attacked and gored by a bull in a holding pen. The High Court found that the operator of the mart was negligent in driving young bulls back into the pen after some had become blocked in a passageway on the day of the incident. The injured man claimed that redirecting the bulls “spooked” one of the animals and it charged at him. The mart denied all liability and alleged the claimant was responsible for the incident. The judge concluded that the farmer’s account was the most accurate and reliable and awarded him €75,000 in damages to compensate for suffering to date and ongoing PTSD symptoms.

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

Dublin golf club to pay €75k in sexual harassment case

A Dublin golf course has agreed to pay out €75,000 to settle one of two sexual harassment cases taken against its general manager. The cases were taken against the golf club by two administrators for repeated sexual harassment by the man. One of the cases was settled for €75,000. It is reported that a similar offer in the other case was rejected.

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

Pharmacy employee awarded €26,700 for injuries

A pharmacy saleswoman who was injured when a steel-framed advertising poster fell off the wall and struck her head was awarded €26,700 damages in the Circuit Civil Court. The employee was six months pregnant at the time and suffered from neck pain that has lasted intermittently. Liability was conceded by her employer and the court was being asked to only assess damages in the case. Awarding the damages for personal injury of €25,000 together with

€1,700 expenses and her legal costs, the judge said she had suffered quite a shocking injury.

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

Meat factory worker suing following workplace accident

A meat factory worker is suing over an injury to his arm after it got caught in the blades of a meat machine as he cleaned it. The injured man told the High Court his left arm was pulled into the machine and he had to wait two hours to be freed as the machine had to be dismantled. It is claimed there was a failure by his employers to take any precautions for his health and safety while he was lawfully engaged in his work duties. There was also an alleged failure to provide any adequate safety equipment, training or supervision. The judge heard that liability has been conceded in the case but his employers contended there was alleged contributory negligence on the part of the injured party. The case continues.

<https://bit.ly/3f5WJ2M>

INQUESTS

Inquest hears how worker was swept to his death

A construction worker, giving evidence at an inquest, told how he watched a lifelong friend and colleague being swept away to his death after he fell from a barge while they were demolishing part of a bridge in Co Donegal. He told that neither were wearing lifejackets which had been supplied and were not using harnesses as they placed two pontoons together to collect concrete debris on the pontoons or barge. The deceased man was jumping from one pontoon to another when he lost his footing and fell into the water. A HSA inspector outlined the safety procedures and plan which should have been followed at the site, but were not. The coroner concluded that death was due to drowning.

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

STATISTICS

Twenty people have been killed in workplace accidents since 1 January 2022 - Correct at 24 October 2022. Source: www.hsa.ie

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

PUBLICATIONS

HSA Newsletter September 2022

In this edition:

- Registration now open for upcoming EU-OSHA events on Ergonomic Best Practice and Healthy Workplaces
- European Week for Safety and Health at Work
- Quarry inspection campaign
- Farmers urged to get ready for new quad bike regulations
- Farmers' Health and Wellbeing - a guide
- Guidance on the Safe Use of Chainsaws
- Reminder on new procedures for notifying hazardous mixtures
- Farm inspection campaign

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

High Visibility Clothing for Use Around Moving Vehicles

New Information Sheet from the HSA - High visibility clothing is a vital and necessary requirement in any workplace where a significant proportion of the work occurs near, in, on and around moving vehicles.

<https://bit.ly/3N8ZdtH>

GUIDANCE

Farm legal advice following mart injury case

This article offers legal advice and guidance following a recent case in which a plaintiff was awarded €75k compensation after he sustained injuries at a mart. The article states that this was an interesting case that all marts throughout the country should consider. It also offers advice for anyone seeking to bring a personal injury case to court and also for the defendants of such cases.

<https://bit.ly/3N2pcDd>

RESOURCES

Help Inside the Hard Hat campaign

Lighthouse Club - The Construction Industry Charity has launched its "Help Inside the Hard Hat" campaign to raise awareness of poor mental health within the construction industry. In the UK, two construction workers take their own

lives every working day and stress, anxiety and depression account for a fifth of all work-related illnesses. There are resources available on the charity website along with helpline numbers (ROI/UK).

<https://bit.ly/3f772Ub>

Psychosocial risk factors and MSDs

A series of discussion papers and articles from EU-OSHA review the impact that psychosocial risk factors (e.g. excessive workload) can have on the development of a musculoskeletal disorder (MSD). This includes a publication that reviews the effect that digitalisation is having on workers' exposure to physical risk factors (e.g. repetitive tasks) for work-related MSDs. The publications also discuss the prevention of psychosocial risks and MSDs together and present good practices for a sustainable return to work.

<https://bit.ly/3FkELo2>

SAFETY IN VIDEOS

Suicide prevention video

Suicide prevention video from the CITBNI for the Building Mental Health Alliance - a helpful insight into an employee struggling to cope that can be applied to any sector.

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

SAFETY PODCASTS

ECHA's Safety Chemicals Podcast

Highlights from ECHA's September 2022 meeting of its Biocidal Products Committee with guest Erik van de Plassche, Chair of the Committee. In this podcast they talk about active substance approvals, requests from the European Commission, Union authorisations and what the Biocidal Products Committee does.

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

MCIB REPORTS

Report of an investigation into an incident involving a fishing vessel in Co. Donegal by the Marine Casualty Investigation Board.

<https://bit.ly/3ffgc0V>

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: 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 AND/OR Online

[DSE-VDU Risk Assessor Course](#) (Online); NISO Certificate (1 day); 3 November; 6 December [BOOK NOW](#)

[Safety Representation](#) (Online); NISO Certificate (2 day); 15–16 November; 13–14 December [BOOK NOW](#)

[Manual Handling Basic](#) NISO Certificate (half day); 18 November; 9 December [BOOK NOW](#)

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

NISO Certificate in Safety, Health and Welfare at Work

(13 weeks / 2 hours per week) [BOOK NOW](#)

TUS Limerick: Technological University of the Shannon: 31 January 2023

TUS Athlone: Technological University of the Shannon: 13 February 2023

Dublin / Online: 21 February 2023

SETU Waterford: South East Technological University Waterford: 7 March 2023

Castlebar: Date/Venue TBC

Cork: Colaiste Stiophain Naomhe: Date TCB

Health & Safety Webinars (Free)

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

Seminar: Psychological Health & Safety at Work

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

National Events

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

[ONLINE](#)

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

[Follow NISOIreland on Facebook!](#)

[Follow NISOIreland on Twitter!](#)



SUBSCRIBE

Newsletters | Updates | Breaking News | Safety Events
Courses and Training | Reminders | Legislation Update
Unsubscribe at end of emails at any time.

We do not share your details without your permission.

CLICK ME to subscribe online or visit: niso.ie/subscribe

