



SAFETY MATTERS

SEPTEMBER 2006

INJURY FIGURES PUBLISHED

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The Health and Safety Commission (HSC) recently published the annual fatal injury statistics showing the lowest fatal injury number on record. In 2005/2006 212 people were fatally injured, a reduction from 223 in 2004/2005. The rate is also the lowest on record, at a rate of 0.71 fatalities per 100,000 workers.

Bill Callaghan, Chair of HSC said, "The figures are very encouraging but more needs to be done. There are still too many people killed at work every year, and quite often simple, **inexpensive measures could have prevented the tragic loss of life.** The figures show that the Commission's strategy is working.

This is based on enforcement, information and advice, regulation and persuasion and working in partnership with industry and trade unions. The construction industry is an example where all parties have worked closely together over a number of years and achieved impressive results.

Falls from height remain the most common cause of fatal injury, with 46 workers being killed following a fall compared to 53 workers killed in 2004/2005.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has recently run a campaign warning of the dangers of working at height in a bid to further raise awareness of the dangers posed by working at height and try and reduce this figure still further.

Two industries, construction and agriculture account for just under half of all fatal injuries, however, both industries saw sizeable reductions in the number and rate of fatalities.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- European Safety Week
- Fire Safety Law is Changing
- First Aid Training Forthcoming dates
- Working at Height How Safe are you.
- Manual Handling

WELCOME

Welcome to this the first of our Newsletters which we will call "Safety Matters".

We will publish this on a monthly basis and will Endeavour to keep you updated with the latest "hot topics".

In an attempt to cover areas relevant to all our clients, we would like to hear from you on matters you may wish us to highlight in our forthcoming newsletters.

Whilst covering Health and Safety issues, we will also be announcing dates for forthcoming events in the area as well as occupational course dates.

We would like to hear your thoughts about this new initiative. Additionally please feel free to pass copies of this newsletter onto to other parties that may find it of interest. They can register for their own copy by simply emailing a request titled;

"Safety Matters" to info@sme-training.co.uk.

TIME 2 ACT

TAKE ADVICE

INFORM

MAKE AN EFFORT

ENTHUSE & ENFORCE

2

ACT NOW

CONTROL RECORDS

TRAIN YOUR STAFF

REMEMBER IF IT CANT BE DONE SAFELY— DON'T DO IT



EUROPEAN SAFETY WEEK

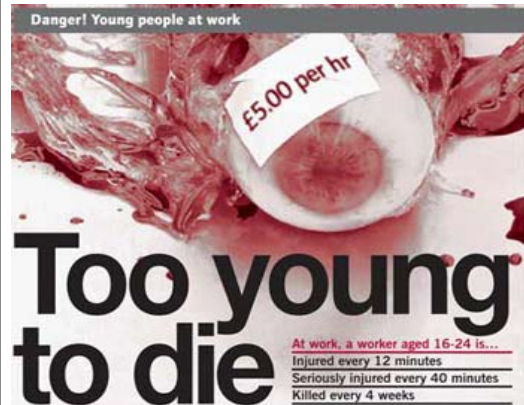
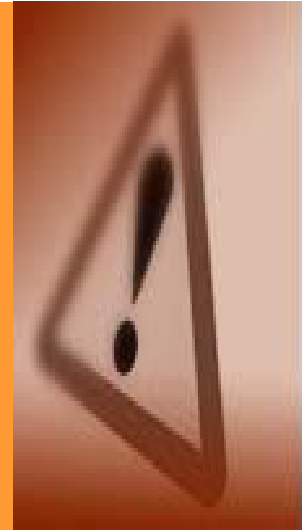
European Health and Safety Week takes place in October each year and is designed to raise awareness of health and safety. The European Agency for Safety and Health describes the week as: "Aimed at people in organisations, companies and workplaces of all sizes and sectors. Everybody involved in occupational safety and health matters is invited to take part, especially safety and health institutions and occupational insurance organisations, trade unions and employers' organisations, companies, managers, employees and safety representatives."

Health and Safety Week 2006 will take place between 23 - 28 October. Make sure you put this date in your diary now!

The main theme will be Young Workers. It's purpose is to raise awareness of the risks facing young workers, in particular those new to a work environment

The week is run by the European Agency for Safety and Health who have published a site full of news, materials and activities. In the UK the week is being coordinated by the Health and Safety Executive.

The main theme will be Young Workers.



FIRE SAFETY AND HOW IT AFFECTS YOU

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 is planned to come into effect in October 2006 and will replace or combine over 100 existing pieces of legislation that deal with fire safety.

The new law applies to all non domestic premises and places a duty of care on either or any combination of the Employer, the Occupier or the Owner as the **Responsible Person** to appoint a **Competent**

Person whose duty it is to carry out a fire risk assessment of the premises, the risk of fire from the operations that are carried out in the premises and the people who work in the premises.

Although best practice states that it would be better if the **Competent Person** is an employee this legislation recognises the fact many small and

medium sized businesses do not have the resources in time or money to have an employee committed full time to this work and therefore allows for the appointment of third party assistance to complete the **Fire Risk Assessment**.



Fire fighting equipment should be properly maintained and accessible for use.



FALLING FROM HEIGHT

Last year 46 deaths and 3800 serious injuries were caused from working at height.

Not all these injuries were caused on construction sites, and not all accidents were caused from working above head height.

Understand the Working at heights regulation and ensure your staff are working safely.

LOW HEIGHTS CAN BE HIGH RISK

More than half of serious fall injuries, such as fractured skulls, broken bones and severe cuts, are caused by falling from below head height.

To avoid a fall just follow these simple tips:
Plan ahead • Don't overreach
Use the right equipment • Don't rush

TAKE A MOMENT, NOT A FALL

To find out more visit www.hse.gov.uk/falls or call 0845 345 0055

HSE
Health and Safety Executive

LACORS

A Typical Shelf Stacking Scenario

A worker is standing on a chair to load the shelves. Heavy items are on the top when they should be at the bottom.

Top Tips for shelf stacking:

- Ensure employees have the right equipment and know how to use it safely.
- Always store heavier items lower down and lighter items higher up.
- Put frequently used items in an easy place to reach.

Anyone using a ladder for shelf stacking should take a regular break (e.g. every 30 minutes).

Even falling from this height could cause you serious injury

More than half of serious fall injuries, such as fractured skulls, broken bones and severe cuts, are caused by falling from below head height.

To avoid a fall just follow these simple tips:
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LACORS

A Typical Loading & Unloading a Van Scenario

A worker is standing on top of a vehicle to unload it. If they fall off, the next journey will be to hospital.

Top Tips for unloading a vehicle:

- If you don't need to work at height to unload a vehicle then don't!
- If you can't unload the vehicle from the ground, can you drive it to a raised unloading point?
- When safety equipment such as guardrails and work-restraints are available, use them.

Don't walk backwards when on a vehicle and don't jump off.



MANUAL HANDLING

Under the manual handling operations regulations 1992, you **must** provide suitable training. Many companies are under the impression that this does not apply to them because they are primarily an office environment. This is a misconception that can have serious consequences. Most back and spinal pain is caused by continual bad lifting, twisting and stretching and **not** single trauma injuries.

Manual handling remains one of the main causes of occupational injuries within the UK and is associated with more over-three-day injuries reported to the HSE (36%) than any other occupational task (2001-2002).

Prevention and control of work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) is currently one of HSE's major priorities and as such a new risk assessment method called the MAC tool has recently been developed, as well as a major revision of the Guidance to the Manual Handling Regulations. If you are unsure and would like further information on Manual Handling Assessments and training contact us for a competitive quote.



HAVE YOUR SAY

Each Month we will be highlighting “**Hot topics**” from the Health & Safety profession that may affect your business.

Let us know your views either by email or write to us at the above address.

Any correspondence will be published in the next Newsletter

We're here to help YOU help yourselves !

Dates For Your Diary:

OCTOBER 2006

- 1 PREMISES FIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED UNDER THE NEW - REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER 2005
- 23-28 EUROPEAN HEALTH & SAFETY WEEK. LET US HELP YOU RAISE EMPLOYEES AWARENESS
- 18 FIRST AID APPOINTED PERSONS COURSE. GUARANTEE YOUR PLACE BOOK EARLY FOR PREFERENTIAL RATES

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Q: The cost ?

A: Your company good will and a similar gesture in return.

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