



SAFETY UPDATE

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NEWS

CONSTRUCTION SECTOR DEATHS: THE 'BIG THREE'

HSE in-year fatalities for 2017/18 may indicate upward trend

HSE publish each month the in-year details of all deaths at work under their jurisdiction including those occurring on construction projects. *The information is 'as reported' by third parties and does not purport to be a formal statistical release.*

The HSE reports (updated 14/05/2017) showed that thirty-four (34) worker deaths occurred involving 'construction' during the 12-month reporting period April 2017 – March 2018 inclusive. The reports indicate that three types of incident account for 94% of all construction industry fatal injuries.

Descriptions of the 34 incidents are classified as follows:

- **FELL – from height** – 17
- **STRUCK – by an object (6) or moving vehicle (2)** – 8
- **TRAPPED – by something collapsing** – 7

There were two other reports and 2 members of the public died as a result of construction activities. One death involved falling from height and the other involved a moving vehicle.

Number of deaths may be set to show increase

If the above in year reports for 2017/18 are confirmed in the HSE final statistical release the number of worker deaths in construction will have risen by about 12% between March 2017 and April 2018.

In past years a rise in the number of worker deaths has also been associated with a rise in the worker fatal injury frequency rate i.e. deaths per 100,000 persons employed.

The Lift and Escalator Industry Association

33-34 Devonshire Street

London

W1G 6PY

SCAFFOLDING SITE ACCIDENTS AT RECORD LOW

NASC Annual Report reveals all time low in 2017 incidents

The *National Access and Scaffolding Confederation* (NASC) has reported that number of accidents and injuries recorded by NASC members fell to an all-time low in 2017. There were 89 incidences occurring on-site throughout the year.

The figure was revealed in the NASC 2018 Safety Report, which documents and analyses accident and injury statistics for its full contracting members, representing more than 16,000 scaffolding operatives across the UK.

In addition, it is now the fifth year in a row that the NASC has reported a "fatality-free year".

Compliance with standards and adherence to NASC guidance

The 2017 number of accidents and injuries continues a "decade-long general trend in ever-reducing incidences". The NASC Safety Report reveals 17 major injuries (down 37%) and 89 incidences in total, down from 96 in 2016.

There was a 46% reduction in falls from height and 36% reduction in manual handling injuries year-on-year. Additionally, no members of the public were injured around NASC member scaffolds in 2017. Des Moore, CEO of TRAD Group and NASC President, said:



"The 2018 Safety Report shows how workplace accidents can be reduced through compliance with industry safety standards and adherence to NASC guidance."

CASES

SPARE POWER INTERLOCK KEY CAUSED DEATH

Dangerous machinery safety precautions defeated for maintenance tasks

A pre-cast concrete products manufacturing company has been fined £660,000 after a 43-year-old man was fatally injured when trapped by machinery in October 2016.

Bath Magistrates heard how the maintenance fitter was carrying out work whilst the machine was not isolated. HSE investigators found the company had not implemented procedures to ensure machinery was isolated before starting maintenance work.

Special interlock key system defeated

Access to dangerous moving parts of the machines was generally controlled by enclosures which prevented access to the danger zones. Access into the enclosures was controlled by a special key system designed to ensure machinery is isolated and safe when people are in the enclosures.

HSE discovered a spare key allowing access to dangerous machinery without the power isolated. It was common for people to access dangerous areas while machines were running and there were other spare keys which were easily accessible.

The company was fined £660,000 and ordered to pay costs of £14,563.57. Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Leo Diez said:



“Employers should make sure they apply effective control measures to minimise the risk from dangerous parts of machinery. Maintenance work should only be carried out when the piece of plant / equipment is isolated and confirmed safe. There should not be any spare keys to captive key systems.”

CDM 2015 PRINCIPAL DESIGNER FINED OVER FIRE RISK

PD and PC failed to comply with CDM 2015 responsibilities

A Principal Designer and Principal Contractor have been sentenced after serious breaches of their health and safety duties under CDM 2015 in 2016.

Exeter Magistrates heard that concern was raised about the lack of health and safety controls on a large timber frame extension project at a residential home in Exmouth. HSE inspectors visited found:

- **Risk** – uncontrolled high-risk activities including falls from height and poorly controlled wood dust with a “total disregard” for health and safety and site management; and
- **Fire** – risk of fire spread from the timber frame extension to an existing building where physically and/or mentally impaired residents of the home were put at risk due to the possibility of fire spreading into the home.

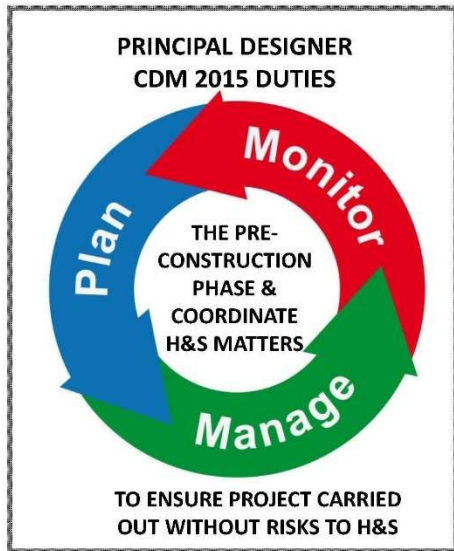
HSE investigation also revealed that the work was not properly planned, nor appropriately supervised or carried out in a safe manner.

Third party risk not considered

The CDM Principal Contractor was fined £150,000. The CDM Principal Designer (PD) pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 11(1) and 11(3) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 and was fined £20,000.

The PD must plan, manage and monitor and coordinate matters relating to health and safety during the pre-construction phase. This includes foreseeable risks to the health or safety of any person carrying out or liable to be affected by construction work.

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Nicole Buchanan said



"Those in control of work have a responsibility to devise safe methods of working and to provide the necessary information, instruction and training to their workers in the safe system of working.

Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take enforcement action against those that fail to control workplace risks appropriately."

PROPERTY MANAGERS FINED WITH CONTRACTOR

Defendants failed to check for asbestos during soffit replacement works

A residential property management company and a specialist installation contractor have been fined after a resident raised concerns about soffit replacement work carried out on the guttering on three blocks of flats in London during July 2016.

Westminster Magistrates heard that the property management company engaged the contractor to replace the soffits on the blocks of flats on a housing estate in Sutton, London.

HSE investigators found that before instructing the contractor the management company failed to check whether the soffits contained asbestos. The contractor arranged for the soffits to be analysed and became aware they contained asbestos.

Proceeded despite awareness

Despite being aware of the presence of asbestos containing materials the contractor started to remove the soffits without adequate precautions to ensure workers and residents were protected.

The contractor was fined £18,500 and the property management company was fined £8,000. HSE inspector Fu Lee commented after the hearing:



"The work risked not only the workers, but also the residents of the flats being exposed to disturbed asbestos. This incident could have been avoided if the companies had taken appropriate action to identify the type of asbestos and engage an appropriately qualified contractor to carry out the work safely."

OVERHEAD CABLE STRIKE FIRM FINED £500,000+

Inadequate system caused risk of harm despite lack of worker injury

A construction company has been fined £1/2m after a tipper vehicle came into contact with overhead power lines during the construction of a waste transfer station on March 2016.

Northampton Crown Court heard the vehicle driver was emptying soil from the vehicle at a site in Northampton. The company had identified the need for permanent protection structures (goalposts) but after an initial delay only one was installed.

To empty the last of the load the driver drove the vehicle forward with the body raised. This resulted in the vehicle touching or coming close to 33KV overhead power lines (OPL).

The tipper vehicle suffered minor damage but the driver was unhurt.

Very serious incident

HSE investigators concluded that the company should have assessed the risks from OPL's "more rigorously" and realised that the system of work was inadequate to reduce the risk of tipper vehicles striking an OPL.

The contractor was fined £566,670. HSE inspector Stuart Parry, speaking after the sentencing said:

"A suitable and sufficient assessment would have identified the need to contact the Distribution Network Operator, Western Power, to request the OPL's were diverted underground prior to the commencement of construction. If this was not reasonably practicable, Mick George Ltd should have erected goalposts either side of the line to warn drivers."



Figure 5 Typical passageway through barriers

HARDWOOD DUST CONTROL NOT MAINTAINED

Manufacturer failed to examine and test local extraction system

A furniture manufacturer has been fined after employees were exposed to significant quantities of hardwood dust, a hazardous substance known to cause occupational asthma and nasal cancer.

Luton Magistrates heard how employees were exposed to hardwood dust on a daily basis and that the high levels of the hazardous substance were partly due to the dust extraction system, which was found to be inefficient during an HSE inspection in 2016.

HSE investigators also found that following previous visits, and verbal and written advice, the company failed to ensure standards achieved following previous inspections were maintained.

Engineering control must be monitored

The company should have identified that the workshop contained significant quantities of hardwood dust and taken steps to reduce employee exposure, including ensuring extraction was working efficiently and implementing a robust cleaning regime.

The company pleaded guilty to breaching the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 and was fined £8,000. HSE inspector Sandra Dias said:



"The company was fully aware of the health and safety standards it needed to maintain.

Breathing in dust can cause life-changing lung disease or make existing conditions worse. Thousands of people die from work-related lung diseases every year, often due to continued exposure over a long period of time.

DUMPER TRUCK HAND-BRAKE NOT MAINTAINED

Workman injured when pinned against stack of concrete blocks

A groundwork company has been fined after an employee suffered serious injuries whilst working in an excavation at an Essex school in February 2017.

Southend Magistrates heard how a site dumper was parked at a slight incline on a heap of excavated soil, adjacent to a partially back-filled trench. The dumper was unattended with the engine running when 'failure' of the vehicle handbrake caused the dumper to roll forward into the trench.

The truck pinned a workman against stacked concrete blocks causing broken ribs, a collapsed lung, multiple arm fractures and a broken nose.

Vehicle inspection is essential

HSE investigators found the company failed to regularly inspect and maintain the dumper handbrake to ensure it remained effective. The soil heap had been placed too far back from the excavation, preventing it from acting as a safety barrier and there were no wheel stop blocks or chocks available for use by workers.

The investigation also found the work was not "appropriately supervised and effectively monitored". The contractor was fined £23,000 and ordered to pay costs of £5220.65. HSE inspector Glyn Davies said:



"This case highlights the importance of regularly inspecting and maintaining construction vehicles, including site dumpers, to ensure they do not deteriorate to the extent that they put people's safety at risk."

FAILURE TO NOTIFY HSE PREVENTED INVESTIGATION

Regulator prosecutes over RIDDOR non-compliance

A home improvements company has been fined after a worker fell from a garage roof sustaining significant injuries in May 2015.

Greater Manchester Magistrates heard how an employee was working on a garage roof when he fell over 3m onto the driveway of an adjacent property. He suffered a fractured cheek bone, eye socket, ribs, left arm and a collapsed lung as a result.

Injury reported after nine months

HSE found the company did not report the incident within the required time frame and waited nine months which prevented a proper investigation.

The company from Bury pleaded guilty to breaching the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases, and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) and was fined £2,700 and ordered to pay costs of £1,000.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE Inspector Seve Gomez-Aspron said:



Reporting accidents and incidents at work

A brief guide to the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR)



This is a ready-to-use version of the RIDDOR reporting guide, published 10/13.

What is RIDDOR?

RIDDOR is the law that requires employers, and other people in control of work premises, to report and keep records of:

- work-related accidents which cause death;
- work-related accidents which cause major serious injuries (reportable injuries);
- diagnosed cases of certain industrial diseases; and
- certain 'dangerous occurrences' (incidents with the potential to cause harm).

There are also special requirements for gas incidents (see 'Reportable gas incidents').

This leaflet aims to help employers and others with reporting duties under RIDDOR to comply with RIDDOR and to understand reporting requirements.

RIDDOR 2013 Changes

From 1 October 2013, RIDDOR 2013 comes into force, which introduces significant changes to the existing reporting requirements. The main changes are to simplify the reporting requirements in the following areas:

"This incident could so easily have been avoided had the company simply carried out correct control measures and safe working practices.

Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take out appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards."

UNTRAINED DUMPER DRIVER SURVIVES OVERTURN

Inadequate barriers plus lack of operator and manager training

A contractor has been sentenced after an untrained dumper driver was injured when the six-tonne dumper fell on top of him in June 2017.

Brighton Magistrates heard how Daniel Robbins was operating the dumper tipping material from an excavation alongside a barn at the top of an embankment.

The dumper became stuck on a corner and when the dumper was reversed it fell over the edge of the embankment. He jumped from the dumper which landed on top of him at the bottom of the embankment.

Safe system and training essential

HSE investigators found the company failed to provide the operator with appropriate training for operating a dumper and the site manager was not suitably trained for managing a site. There were no measures in place to prevent dumpers from approaching or overrunning the edge of the embankment.

The contractor was fined £26,667 with costs of £3,659. Speaking after the hearing, inspector Stephen Green said:



"Those in control of work have a responsibility to devise safe methods of working and to provide the necessary information, instruction and training to their workers in the safe system of working."

PUBLICATIONS

3m SafeTea Break This set of toolbox talks provides you with the toolkit and platform you need to engage your workforce in a discussion about health, safety and long latency occupational diseases.

10 modules are included in the kit:

- 1 - Introduction
- 2 - Breathing
- 3 - Hearing
- 4 - Touch
- 5 - Skin
- 6 - Muscles
- 7 - Wellbeing
- 8 - Think for 30 Seconds
- 9 - Slips and trips
- 10 - Fall protection

Downloadable from

https://engage.3m.com/SafeTeaUK/?utm_term=sqbg-psd-na-en_gb-edu-safeteaemailResend-em-eloqua-na-na-na-may18&utm_campaign=PSD-1805-GB-EDU-CON-Play7i_SafeTea&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua&utm_content=PSD-201805-en_GB-CON-Email-Play7i_SafeTea_EmailResend&utm_eloquacontactid=6086730