



**EASTWOOD  
& PARTNERS**  
INSURANCE BROKERS

# Health & Safety Bulletin

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## BE GAS SAFE

Only use a Gas Safe registered engineer and always check the engineer's Gas Safe Register ID card. Anyone employed to work on gas appliances in domestic premises must be Gas Safe registered and competent in that area of gas work

## HSE WEB SITE

HSE welcomes people of all nationalities and ethnic backgrounds to its web site. If you are looking for information, help or guidance a number of publications have been translated into languages other than English

## Eastwood and Partners Limited Insurance Brokers Display Screen Equipment (DSE)



Most health problems associated with display screen equipment are avoidable, if the persons using the equipment follow simple guidelines.

According to information provided by the HSE computer workstations or equipment can be associated with Neck, Shoulder, Back or Arm pains, Fatigue and Eyestrain, these pains are often referred to as Upper Limb Disorders (ULDs) or Repetitive strain Injuries (RSI)

As already stated many of these type of aches and pains can be avoided if persons follow good practice.

There is DVD available which brings humor into the lessons being taught by the DVD. The DVD is a refreshing change from the old fashioned approach of someone spouting Regulations at you.

Not everyone will appreciate the humor portrayed by Ken Morley (better known for playing Reg Holdsworth in Coronation Street) but as long as it gets the message across to those people that need it might be worth considering.

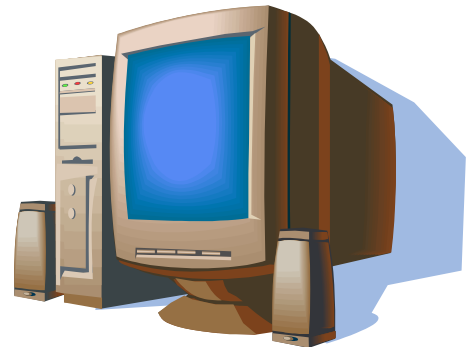
It is very reasonable as DVDs go

these days £49 +vat

The DVD informs the viewer of the importance of good practice as it is often poor ergonomics that results in the aches and pains that people experience.

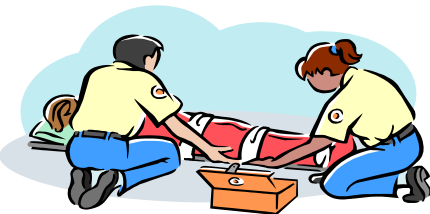
The DVD is called 'Don't Monkey about, and is produced by safety Monkey and is available from:

[www.safetymonkey.co.uk](http://www.safetymonkey.co.uk)



## ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

Most people would agree with the moral and managerial arguments for thorough accident investigation.



But another aspect of accident investigation is not always considered and that is in being able to defend yourself against unwarranted personal injury (PI) claims. This is where an accident investigation conducted in a manner so as to obtain as accurate and unvarnished record of the events can help in defending any possible future claims. As proper investigation can assist in exposing potentially fraudulent claims.

Your starting point for any investigation should be the initial accident report.

You should therefore have a formal accident reporting procedure which requires all personnel to report any accident or near miss as soon as possible.

When creating your accident report form it should be easy to understand, as well as details of injured party it should space for a summary of the events surrounding the accident. The form should also be completed with the assistance of the injured party.

To support this an injured party statement should be taken recording as much in their own words as possible, the injured party should be asked to read and confirm by signing the statement that it reflects the events of the accident.

If there are any witness to the event they should also be asked to make a statement of

what they heard or saw and sign it and date it. It would also make sense to get statements from others who said they heard and saw nothing.

It is also good practice to keep a camera on hand to record the site of an accident as soon as possible after the event.

As soon as possible after personnel injuries have been attended to cordon off the area of the accident to preserve as much detail as possible. Photograph the area and record as much as possible of the scene.

Should the incident have been a fatality then the scene must be preserved until police have finished their investigation.



## HSE NOTICES

The HSE have released the figures of deaths for the first quarter of 2010 (1st April –30th May)

27 fatalities in the workplace

Industries include:

Agriculture	8 deaths
Manufacturing	5 deaths
Construction	5 deaths
Services	8 deaths
Extractive/Utility	1 death

For the same period 2009

There were 31 deaths

For the same period 2008

There were 44 deaths

### Woodworking health and safety

Most injuries in the woodworking and furniture industry are caused during manual handling activities. There is potential for injury present during: handling of timber and board material machining and assembly handling and storage of the finished product Lifting and handling aids can significantly reduce the risk of injury.

The HSE has produced examples showing good lifting techniques and the use of different lifting aids for use with sheet material:

Examples are

Unaided manual lift/fold out lifting tool

Side Grip, Cam Grip and Panel Handler

## Recent cases

Three men have been fined at total of £5,000 after a worker suffered multiple injuries when he fell eight metres through a barn roof in Greater Manchester.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) prosecuted the three following the incident in Sale on 20 June 2007. The 28 year old man, was standing on the roof of a former riding stable, removing corrugated panels, when he fell eight metres to the ground below. He suffered serious injuries to his head and back, was in a coma for several days and was made partially blind in one eye.

The HSE investigation found that no scaffolding or protection had been provided for the worker, who was expected to balance on the steel frame of the building while removing roof panels. Trafford Magistrates' Court heard that the owner of the barn and had acted as a project manager, overseeing its conversion into an antiques warehouse. The person he had hired, to carry out the work, subcontracted it to a third party. The HSE Construction Inspector in Greater Manchester, said:

"This man could easily have been killed when he fell through a fragile roof panel. Workers at the site were expected to balance dangerously on the steel structure, while they knocked through bolts on fragile sheets. Clearly this was very dangerous.

"This case should act as a warning to construction companies about the dangers their employees and contractors face when they carry out work at height. Otherwise workers will continue to be injured or even killed."

The subcontracted party pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 by failing to ensure the safety of his employees and was fined £2,000 and ordered to pay £2,000 towards the cost of the prosecution at Trafford Magistrates' Court on 13 July. The other two men both pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(2) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 by allowing workers to be exposed to risks to their health and safety.

"All three men failed to plan the work safely in advance. Scaffolding, or a mobile work platform such as a scissor lift, should have been used to remove the corrugated sheets from underneath. There was no need to climb onto the roof."

Last year, more than 4,000 employees suffered a major injury as a result of a fall from height at work and 15 were killed. More information on HSE's Shattered Lives campaign, which aims to prevent injuries, is available at [www.hse.gov.uk/shatteredlives](http://www.hse.gov.uk/shatteredlives)<sup>2</sup>

### Firm fined after man has top of finger amputated

A Newcastle-under-lyme company were taken to court in July after one of its workers had part of a finger amputated while working on a conveying machine.

The employee who did not want to be named was injured while he was loading large fabric bags containing rubber into a hopper for distribution.

The company had replaced the fixed guard with an incorrectly fitted interlocked guard which allowed the employee to access the screw conveyor where he caught his right hand and suffered serious injury resulting in the amputation of his middle finger past the first knuckle.

The company pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 11(1) of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations and was fined £10,000 and costs of £4,000

### CAR WASH FIRM FAILED TO PROTECT WORKERS

A car wash company has been fined for failing to purchase compulsory insurance to protect its employees

The company was fined £6,750 at a magistrates court after the court had heard that it failed to produce a current Employer's Liability Compulsory Insurance (ELCI) certificate when a health and safety awareness officer from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) visited in December 2009

ALL employers need to have an ELCI certificate and must show a copy to a HSE official immediately on request.

The company was issued with a "notice to produce" with which it did comply. The company failed to attend court and were found guilty of five breaches of Section 1(1) of the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 and ordered to pay a further £1,000 in costs

## News

Joint statement from HSE and Environmental Agency

Jury Verdicts in Buncefield Trial

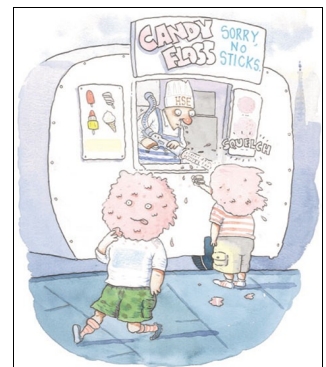
A jury at St Albans Crown court have found TAV Engineering guilty of failing to protect workers and members of the public.

Motherwell Control Systems 2003 Ltd was also found guilty earlier in the week of the same charge.

Also Hertfordshire Oil Storage Ltd was found guilty of failing to prevent major accidents and limit their effects



### MYTH OF THE MONTH



Come the summer sun and what tops off a great day out better than good, old fashioned candy floss?

But if you believe some newspaper headlines this beloved sweet treat is under threat – because of the dangers posed by the stick it is spun around. The truth is that there are no health and safety laws banning candy floss on a stick.

Is the traditional form of this sweet disappearing because it is easier to mass produce and store it in plastic bags? Who knows, but it certainly isn't health and safety leaving anyone with a bad taste in their mouth