



**EASTWOOD
& PARTNERS**
INSURANCE BROKERS

Health & Safety Bulletin

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Eastwood and Partners Limited Insurance Brokers Business Continuity Planning

HSE—FREE LEV Road shows

Following on from the three successful Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) Pilot Road shows in the Midlands in March 2009, the HSE have decided to go national!

In 2010 they will be running a further five events across the country:

Cambridge, February 10
Janet.price@HSE.gsi.gov.uk

Whitburn, February 17
Linda.aitken@HSE.gsi.gov.uk

Bristol, February 23
Puline.Mortimer@HSE.gsi.gov.uk

Gateshead March 3
Samantha.glasgow@HSE.gsi.gov.uk

Manchester March 11
Azhar.rasul@HSE.gsi.gov.uk



Business Continuity Planning (BCP,s)

At some time or other we have heard this mentioned along with the cost!

When a major incident occurs such as the recent floods in Cumbria 2009 and the July 2007 Floods in the South Yorkshire area the cost to many small companies can be so great that they never recover, it has been suggested that small business require help from the government when such natural disasters strike.

Many business have no Business Continuity plans in place for disturbance to their operations, from such things as flooding, fire, terrorism etc. Such disturbances to business may not always be direct but may be indirect as a result of an external event to an adjacent company which could prevent access to the premises.

Many companies feel that they would be able to cope, but would they? If only a small number of staff could get in as was the case to many com-

pany's in the recent January snows, this cost firms a great deal in lost business.

The need to plan for the unexpected should be a part of business management.

The internet has many sites which can provide information on BCP's

Some aspects to consider are:

Affect on the business in first 24hrs, the first week, up to two weeks

Resources required for recovery in first 24hrs first week, up to two weeks

Create a list of the hazards which if they happened could create an impact on the business listing against each one how it is currently handled and what you could possibly do more

West Yorkshire

New figures published by the HSE show the extent of safety failings in the West Yorkshire area.

The HSE hope that these figures will act as a stark reminder to both employers and their staff to make their workplaces safer in 2010 according to the HSE in 2009 there were 109 work related incidents across the region each week.

Including other absences due to ill health

caused by work activities, this contributes to an estimated 2.4 million working days lost across Yorkshire and the Humber, the HSE says it therefore makes perfect sense to make the working environments safer .

The HSE warns however that if employers insist on compromising the health of their employees then they will take enforcement action

Last year the HSE prosecuted 119 firms across Yorkshire and Humber

TO GRIT OR NOT TO GRIT THAT IS THE QUESTION

Excuse the reference to Shakespeare, couldn't help myself.

But joking apart, with the severe weather conditions that we have been facing it is a question that many have had to face.

Is it a matter of SAFETY or LIABILITY?

If employees are present at work they are owed a duty of care, therefore in my opinion that if you have the facility to grit then you should do, if you are concerned about persons slipping on areas which have not been sufficiently gritted, make it clear to all persons the area that has been treated and which has not.

By gritting you are taking steps to reduce a foreseen hazard (in winter it does tend to snow and ice patches do build up)

	Fatal injuries	Major non-fatal injuries	Over 3 day injuries
West Yorkshire	8	1205	4480
Bradford	1	246	907
Calderdale	2	87	360
Kirklees	2	195	649
Leeds	2	448	1559
Wakefield	1	229	1005

WILL YOU WAKE UP?

Last year 15 people died and 234 suffered major injuries from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Don't become a statistic; there are things you can do to keep yourself safe.

If you are living in rented accommodation, your landlord has to have any gas appliance that they own regularly maintained by a Gas Safety Register engineer and issue you with a copy of the gas safety certificate following the annual safety check.. (Contact the HSE if your landlord does not, on request, provide you with a copy of the certificate).

You can also ensure that you are protecting yourself by installing an audible carbon monoxide alarm. If it is a battery operated device, you need to test that the battery is working on a regular basis, just as you would with a smoke alarm.

'Will you wake up?' is the HSE campaign aimed at making you, and your landlord aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide

News

TUC Lone Guide

The TUC have issued two new sets of guidance.

One on Lone working produced with the CBI which can be downloaded from www.lexisurl.com/hsw789

and one on Harassment & Violence produced with Partnership of Public Employers which can be downloaded from www.lexisurl.com/hsw15

World Asthma Day

This takes place on May 5th it is an annual event organized to improve asthma awareness and care around the world.

The HSE is undertaking various activities throughout May, aimed at reducing occupational asthma and other work-related respiratory diseases

Launch of new guidance - Controlling Airborne Contaminants at Work: A Guide to Local Exhaust Ventilation (HSG 258 - ISBN 978 0 7176 6298 2)

Launch of a new Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) website

HSE MYTH OF THE MONTH:

The Myth: *It's ok to get a general handyman to work on gas appliances*



The Reality: Gas and cowboys don't mix! Anyone who is employed to work on gas appliances must be listed on the Gas Safe Register. If the person you're using isn't registered then they might not be safe and they are also breaking the law.,

Incorrectly fitted or badly repaired gas appliances can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning, gas leaks, fires and explosions. By using a Gas Safe engineer, you can make sure that they're qualified to do the work safely - just check the back of their ID card!

Recent cases

CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FINED

A construction company from Gateshead has been ordered to pay £4,500 after one of its workers was seriously injured when a forklift truck telehandler he was operating overturned.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) prosecuted the company following the incident at its site near Corbridge, in Northumberland, on 16 July 2008.

The company, which is based at Birtley pleaded guilty to breaching section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 at Tynedale Magistrates' Court in Hexham. It was fined £4,500 and ordered to pay costs of £2,342.20 and a victim surcharge of £15.

The court heard that the employee, was lifting roof trusses onto the roof of the development when the forklift truck telehandler that he was operating overturned. The machine fell onto its side throwing the employee against the machine's window and controls.

The employee was not trained to use the machine and was not wearing a seat belt when the incident happened. He suffered multiple fractures to his right arm, leaving him with limited mobility in his shoulder. He still requires medical treatment and is unable to return to his job.

After the case the HSE pointed out that While the company had produced a risk assessment and a system of work for lifting the roof trusses, neither were sufficient, and had failed to identify the dangers that workers would face.

This incident demonstrates how important it is for construction companies to effectively manage health and safety at all levels within the business.

Builder Fined

A builder was fined £8,000 and ordered to pay £2,244 costs for using unsafe scaffolding.

The court heard that during a routine inspection the HSE witnessed people working on scaffolding that was unsafe and posed a risk of serious, if not fatal, injuries.

An investigation revealed that between 2 April and 29 April 2009 employees working on a new housing build were put at risk of falls of up to five metres. The internal and external scaffolding was poorly erected and there was no edge protection in place.

Fined for huge FIRE risk

A Leicester haulage company has been prosecuted for creating a massive fire risk by illegally storing huge quantities of highly flammable aerosols.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the firm had not properly managed the risks associated with storing large amounts of aerosol products at their site in Leicestershire.

The company pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 6(2) of the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 (COMAH) and Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. The company were fined a total of £5,000 and ordered to pay costs of £4,900.