

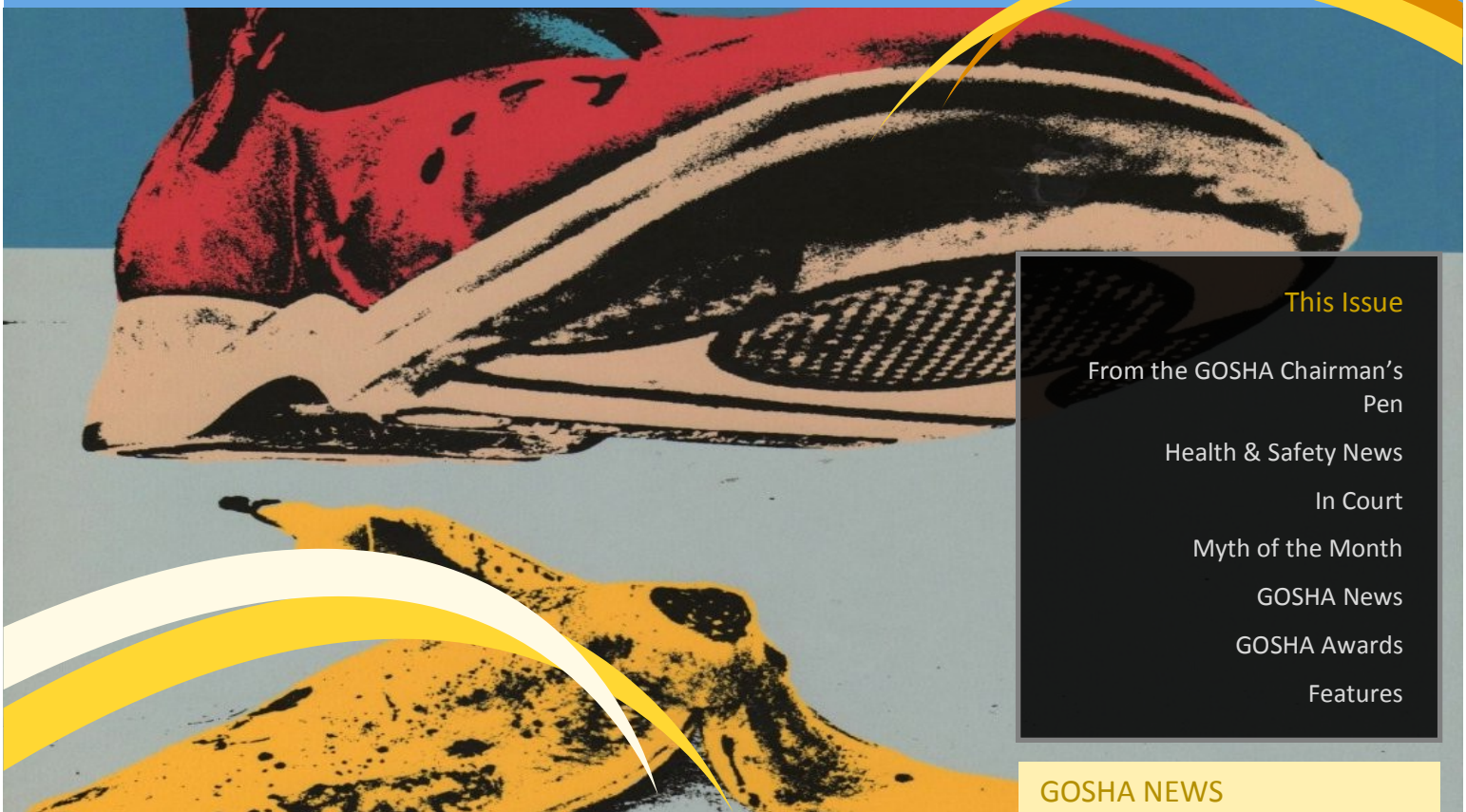


Guernsey
Occupational
Safety & Health
Association

GOSHA NEWSLETTER

Health & Safety Newsletter

March 2010



This Issue

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Pen

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From the GOSHA Chairman's Pen....

As we begin to enjoy spring and look forward to summer, let's spare a thought for those who have suffered injuries at work in Guernsey over the past 12 months, especially those who have needlessly suffered long-term disability and whose outlook on life will be very different to this time last year.

I don't mean to be morbid, more to highlight that injuries suffered in the workplace change lives and spoil the quality of many people's lives and most could have been easily avoided.

Risk assessments save lives, prevent injuries and ill-health. You don't need special training or qualifications to carry them out but you do need to remember to do them and to record that they have happened.

Just a regular walk around the workplace with a clipboard to make notes, record hazards and the action taken to remove the hazards is often all that is needed.

Please take a few minutes to read Beckie's article and visit our excellent website www.gosha.org.gg - the getting started bit - for some really helpful guidance. Then do your bit to make Guernsey a safer place in which to work.

And as more people are employed in the hospitality sector as the busy season begins, our special feature on this sector, written by Paul Adamson, is a timely reminder of the precautions which need to be taken to maximise business success and profitability in this important island industry.

Have a happy Easter and look out for news of site visits and further open meetings in May, June and July.

Best wishes

Andrew Mills, Chairman.

GOSHA NEWS

Forth coming National Event



Safety & Health Expo - Organised by IOSH

Date: 11-13 May 2010

Location: National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham

Alongside high-level educational content, exciting feature areas and numerous opportunities to share ideas and best practice with your peers.

Look out for the up and coming **Asbestos Safety Event – June 2010**—Date and venue to be confirmed shortly.

GOSHA AWARDS

Following the great success of last year's event, GOSHA is again holding its annual awards for excellence in health & safety. In addition to the categories relating to the size of the organisation, nominations will be available for individuals who have performed highly in health & safety along with recognition for particular sectors of commerce of industry. Watch this space on how to make a nomination for awards.

Health & Safety News

England

Refuse worker fell under road sweeper

A 19-year old refuse worker sustained a broken pelvis, leg and ankle when he slipped and fell under the wheels of a road sweeper alongside which he was running during the cleaning of gutters in Hathaway Gardens, Waterlooville.

France

Fire at Normandy cider plant

An electrical malfunction is speculated as the cause of the fire at a cider plant on a farm in Vaux-sur-Mer, 65 miles north of Bordeaux. Fire crews had to contend with a roof collapse as they tried to prevent the blaze reaching a fuel tank fuelling a generator.

Scotland

Catering worker badly burned

A chef employed at the West Port Hotel in Linlithgow, East Lothian, is receiving treatment for serious oil burns sustained when a deep fat fryer drum overheated and exploded

Australia

Farmer and son electrocuted in power line accident

A Victoria farmer and his son were electrocuted when their front-loader vehicle transporting a 7.5-metre tall windmill contacted overhead power lines as they were moving it at their premises near Rainbow, 250 miles northwest of Melbourne. Two rescuers sustained serious burns in their attempt to help the farmers. This was the 4th electrocution incident in the last year in the state which has had a vigorous 'look up and live' campaign to alert workers to the hazards of work near overhead power lines

HSE



Tree Work News - April 2010

The fourth edition of the HSE e-newsletter, the first for 2010 In this issue: Reducing the risks from top handed chainsaw use, Safety and Health Awareness Days (SHADs) and AFAG updates

<http://news.hse.gov.uk/2010/03/12/tree-work-news-april-2010/?eban=rss>

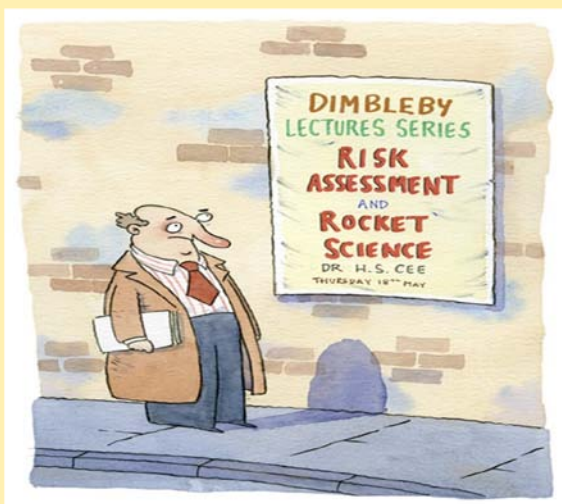
IOSH Chief Executive-Speaks Out

IOSH Chief Executive Rob Strange OBE has questioned the way the media portrays health and safety.

Rob claims in a personal opinion article in The Independent on 15th March 2010, that the media have a formula of 'exaggeration, half-truth, generalisation and myth making which has created a great British joke, the one about 'elf n safety gone mad.' The article warns of the danger of trivial and negative media coverage leading people to turn their backs on health and safety. Rob also calls for a much greater media focus on the 'real'

Myth of the Month

Myth: Risk assessment is too complicated for me to do!



The reality

Carrying out a risk assessment should be straightforward. It's about focusing on real risks and hazards that cause real harm and, more importantly, taking action to control them.



What is Risk Assessment?

A risk assessment is an examination of the workplace and actions carried out - that identify what could cause harm to employees and others, so that an employer can assess if enough precautions have been taken or if more could be done to prevent harm. Control measures need to be taken to protect employees and others from causes of harm connected with the workplace and actions carried out there. Some control measures must be put in place regardless of cost, but generally the term "reasonably practicable" applies - meaning that control measures must be put into place if the benefit outweighs the balance of the time, effort and costs.

Accidents and ill health can ruin lives and affect your organisation through loss of output, damaged machinery, an increase in insurance costs, being served with either an improvement/prohibition notice or even a trip to court.

To help businesses the HSE have produced a leaflet Five Steps to risk assessment, a copy of this leaflet can be found on the HSE website <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg163.pdf>

The Five Steps to risk assessment are

1. Identify the hazards
2. Decide who might be harmed and how
3. Evaluate the risks and decide on precaution
4. Record your findings and implement them
5. Review your assessment and update if necessary

A risk assessment must be suitable and sufficient - covering all activities and locations where serious harm may occur. When thinking about your risk assessment, remember:

- a hazard is anything that has the potential to cause harm, such as chemicals, electricity, working from ladders, an open drawer, etc; and
- the risk is the chance, high or low, that somebody could be harmed by these and other hazards, together with an indication of how serious the harm could be

The website also has example risk assessments for many different types of businesses as well as downloadable risk assessments and policy templates further information can be found at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/fivesteps.htm>

In Court.

Guernsey

Failure to report an accident

GOSHA is reminding all organisations to ensure they are familiar with accident reporting requirements after a local employer pleaded guilty to a failure to report an accident involving one of his employees. At the hearing on 15th March 2010 local builder Damien Crocker admitted the offence, but denied a failure to ensure the safety of staff. The case will now go to trial. For more information about accident reporting please see the article "HSE - Simple mistakes can shatter lives" in the February newsletter - which can be downloaded from our website www.gosha.org.gg

England

Excavation collapse trapped worker for 2 hours Vickers Construction Limited of Eaglescliffe has been fined £5,000 with costs of £3,178 at Darlington Magistrates' Court in connection with a 25th November 2008 accident in which an employee was trapped in a collapsed trench for more than 2 hours. An excavator was being used to dig a trench for drainage pipes on a sloping bank at the Allanbrae site, near Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, at the time. An HSE official commented: "The employee using the excavator should have been properly trained and industry guidance, which recommends providing shoring or trench boxes, should have been followed."

England

Corus fined after crane incident

Corus UK Ltd has been fined £100,000 plus £9,908 costs at Sheffield Crown Court in connection with an incident in September 2008 at Aldwarke Steel Works in Rotherham in which a mobile crane overturned.

The crane had 'safe working load' alarms fitted but they were not switched on because the driver had not been trained on using them. When the crane became overloaded, it overturned.

An HSE official was critical of Corus commenting: "This is a serious health and safety breach by a company that globally employs tens of thousands of people which could easily have led to people being killed. The operator was extremely lucky to escape with only minor injuries."

Canada

Maximum fine levied for potash mine fatality For the first time in the province's history the maximum \$300K (£194,193) fine under the Occupational Health and Safety Act has been levied against the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan in respect of a fatal underground accident at a potash mine in Lanigan in September 2008 in which an employee was crushed by a vehicle after driving off an unmarked ledge, the company pleaded guilty to a failure to ensure the health, safety and welfare of its employees.

England

Employer carried no insurance

The proprietor of an Ashington, Northumberland, greengrocer's business has been fined £2,100 with £1,850 costs for not possessing compulsory employer's liability insurance.

He admitted 4 offences under S.1(1) of the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969