

Safety Matters

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Custodial sentence for construction company owner

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A Construction Company proprietor, was sentenced to an 18-month custodial sentence following a prosecution brought by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). The case heard at Hereford Crown Court, followed a joint investigation between the police and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) into the death of an employee.

Whilst installing a barn roof, 2 employees worked at roof height from a 'home-made' basket balanced on the forks of a telehandler. Both the basket and telehandler belonged to the proprietor. The telehandler tipped over, throwing both men approximately 25 feet to the ground, one employee received serious injuries and the other sustained fatal

injuries from which he died.

The employer was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment for manslaughter, no separate penalties were awarded for the health and safety breaches.



"This case is a reminder to all those involved in the construction industry of their legal obligations to manage health and safety"

HSE Inspector

Unsafe roofworkers caught red-handed

The Health & Safety Executive are warning firms and their employees to make sure proper precautions are in place when working at height after two workers were caught red handed walking over a fragile roof in Loughborough.

Venturi Steeplejack Company Limited, based in Basford, pleaded guilty to contravening work at height regulations and were **fined £4,000** at Loughborough Magistrates Court. Leicestershire HSE Inspector Roger Amery

was making a routine visit to a firm in Loughborough in April last year when he saw two men working on the roof of Fisher Scientific Ltd, Bishop Meadow Road. Roger said: "I spotted the two men walking across a fragile roof

and quickly made my way over to them. Although happily in this case no one was injured, every year people working at height lose their lives or suffer serious injury"

Portland cement - hazard assessment update

HSE has published EH75/7 "Portland cement dust hazard assessment" document on the scientific information which underpins the hazard assessment for the substance, updating a

review last undertaken in 1994. This updated assessment focuses on the evidence for non-malignant respiratory disease and carcinogenicity. The assessment concludes that a

causal association between Portland cement exposure and cancer has not been established. Nevertheless, the findings of the recent studies reviewed in this document maintain the

uncertainty concerning a possible risk of cancer raised by the earlier data reviewed by HSE (1994).



Grief for mechanic killed by crane: 'People cried when they heard' – tribute

A community is coming to terms with the death of a much-loved mechanic and father-of-three who died after a crane crashed 40ft and struck his head. Hassan Goussa, aged 39, who lived in Battersea had gone to

a breakers yard in Essex to buy spare parts for a customer. Tragedy struck when part of the crane snapped off hitting Hassan on the head. Despite attempts by an ambulance crew to revive him, he died 25

minutes later. Essex police are now holding a joint investigation with the Health and Safety Executive.

Manish Mehta, owner of Williams Newsagents on Thrale Road,

Tooting said: "People were crying when they heard the news. We as a community feel something has been taken away from us. We feel really saddened, I couldn't digest the news at first."

Fog of vapour 'behind oil blasts'

A fog of petrol fumes and water vapour 200 yards wide moved across the Buncefield oil depot minutes before December's blasts, investigators say.

But exactly what led to the cloud or caused it to ignite is not yet known. The devastation from the blasts, which wrecked the depot in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, and

caused major damage to homes, has held up investigators. Officials have revealed they were investigating a small leak two or three weeks before the disaster.

The blasts injured 43 people, but no-one was killed



Royal Court Theatre fined £22,000

The Royal Court Theatre in Sloane Square has been fined £22,000 for breaching health and safety regulations, leading to a man falling off a roof and suffering several broken bones.

The prosecution was brought by the Council following the incident, which happened in November 2004.

The Royal Court Theatre was fined £18,000 for failing to secure the health, safety and welfare of its employees. The theatre was also fined £4,000 for failing to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks to the health and safety of its employees. Both these fines are close to the maximum that could

have been imposed by the court. In addition the company was ordered to pay costs of £10,000.

The incident occurred when a carpenter was instructed to climb a ladder to install a light box on the roof of the theatre. When on top of the roof, the carpenter fell a distance of five metres, breaking his

wrist and leg and suffering head injuries.

EHO: "It is only by luck that this accident was not a lot more serious. The Council will continue to clamp down on organisations that breach regulations and I hope the size of this fine sends out a clear message that only the very highest standards of health and safety will be tolerated"

Stepladder fall put employer in dock

Ken Read & Son Ltd of Market Deeping, has been prosecuted and fined £13,000 after pleading guilty to breaching the Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations and

section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work Act at Bourne Magistrates' Court.

The prosecution followed investigation of the May 2004 accident in which an employee fell from a stepladder,

breaking his collar bone and suffering concussion.

HSE comment: "Every year people working at height lose their lives or suffer serious injury.

Contractors and their clients need to exercise sufficient control to prevent this sort of thing happening - including carrying out a proper risk assessment."

Workplace Health Connect launches

An occupational health, safety and return to work support service for smaller businesses known as "Workplace Health Connect" has been launched.

It consists of an advice line, covering England and Wales, and a free problem-solving workplace visit service for smaller businesses in Greater

London, North East, North West, South Wales, and West Midlands. It is hoped that this will be extended to cover the South West in due

Course.



Spinal injury caused by defective vehicle seat

A commercial vehicle driver in his 40's, from Sheffield, is to receive £47,000 in an out-of-court settlement from his former employers, Onyx UK, of Beighton, Yorks, in respect of his

losses that were maintained to have resulted from having to use a vehicle with a defective seat, a matter for which the company admitted liability. His permanent disability

followed an initial back injury while negotiating his vehicle over a rough surface, and a subsequent period during which he was obliged to drive the vehicle fitted with the

faulty seat, a matter which he initially drew to the attention of his employer.



Health & Safety First Ltd

- Training Courses -

<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Course Description</u>	<u>Code</u>
Asbestos Awareness	Gives the delegate a thorough knowledge of where asbestos containing materials can be located in a building. The effects of exposure to asbestos fibres and the requirements of the current legislation, The Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002	AA
Scaffold Inspection	This course enables the delegate to acquire sufficient knowledge to enable them to conduct a thorough inspection of an erected scaffolding structure; it also outlines all the components in a scaffold together with all approved codes of practice and guidance notes.	SS
General Site Safety Awareness	Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974, Noise at Work Regulations, Risk assessment. Employee's responsibilities incl. manual operations, personal protective equipment, COSHH and construction regulations.	GSSA
Working at Heights	A detailed one day course encompassing all the requirements of the new legislation, Working at Heights Regulations 2005.	WAH
Abrasive Wheel Course	This course is designed to enable delegates to be competent in mounting an abrasive wheel and the safe use of abrasive wheel equipment i.e. disc cutter, grinders, bench or hand held.	AW
Site Management Safety Training	For managers & supervisors of construction & engineering. This course equips delegates with knowledge of approved practices in managing health & safety and current law.	SMST
NEBOSH	This course is for anyone needing a good understanding of health & safety. It covers risk assessments, incident investigation, various health hazards and controls on site.	NEBOSH

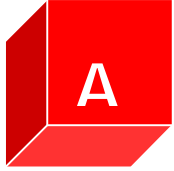
All courses are available for private group bookings; there is a substantial discount for block bookings. All courses can be held at your own premises or at our course venues in Honiton or Bristol.

We offer a wide range of courses, for further information please contact us on 08456 77 77 87 or visit our website: www.hs1st.com

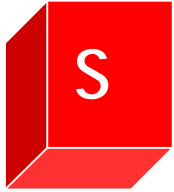
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NATIONAL ACCESS SCAFFOLD LIMITED



Launching soon.....



The Directors of Health & Safety First Limited acquired National Access Scaffold Limited in 2003, the company will be officially launched in May of this year with a dedicated scaffolding team and a fleet of vehicles to service the requirements of their new clients and any of their existing ones from Health & Safety Limited, which would require this new

service which is being offered by National Access Scaffold Limited. The Managing Director of both companies Mr. Colin Sheppard Tech. IOSH MIIRSM MGPI MaPS who is also qualified to erect scaffolding in any member state of the European Community, said today, 'This is a very exciting period for us, especially with our vast knowledge of the Construction Industry and Scaffolding erection over the years, National Access Scaffold Limited will also be Licensed with the Health & Safety Executive to erect scaffolding for any Asbestos Removal Operations'



Please call Becky or Kelly on the National Access Scaffold Limited enquiry line, 08458 99 44 88 or Colin on 07740 24 58 51