

# Safety Update

THE NEWSLETTER FROM HEALTH AND SAFETY SOLUTIONS LTD

## UPCOMING COURSES

- **IOSH Working Safely:** 3 Dec
- **SPA Food and Drink (Full):** 3-4 Dec
- **SPA Food and Drink (Refresher):** 14 Jan
- **IOSH Managing Safely (Full):** 21-22&28-29 Jan
- **IOSH Working Safely:** 4 Feb
- **SPA Food and Drink (Full):** 4-5 Feb
- **IOSH Managing Safely (Refresher):** 11 Feb
- **IOSH Managing Safely (Refresher):** 22 Apr
- **IOSH Managing Safely (Full, Intensive):** 28-30 Apr
- **IOSH Working Safely:** 5 May
- **SPA Food and Drink (Full):** 5-6 May
- **SPA Food and Drink (Refresher):** 9 Jun
- **IOSH Managing Safely (Refresher):** 30 Jun
- **IOSH Managing Safely (Full):** 7-8 & 14-15 Jun

Call 01480 391022 or visit the website to book



## IOSH Managing Safely 3 days or 4 What would you prefer?

We have been delivering **IOSH Managing Safely** training for over **20 years**. When we first started, the course as delivered using acetates and an OHP. We then progressed to PowerPoint and projectors, and we now log in to the IOSH website to access the training materials, with them monitoring how long we spend on each section!

The course is a good one; demystifying what health and safety is all about. We do not need to prevent all accidents and ill-health; rather we need to do what is reasonable to prevent them. It explains what a safety management system is, and importantly explains how the parts fit together. Being accredited by the Chartered Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH), the course is also recognised internationally.



In short, the course benefits me, the employer and the trainee. When implementing a safety management system, if managers have been trained, they appreciate that what we are doing helps them to discharge their responsibilities. The employer gains a critical mass of like-minded managers that promote a change in the safety culture.

We have always delivered the 4 day course over 2 weeks, with 2 days taken from each, as we have found that this is usually easier for delegates than having 4

consecutive days away from the business. Our courses usually start at 9am each day and finish when delegates can no longer absorb the information, which is typically around 3:30 - 4pm.

**IOSH have introduced flexible delivery options, one of which is to deliver the course over 3, 8-hour days.**

A number of training providers have opted for this and as such can offer the course more cheaply than we can for the 4 day course. On reviewing this, we have decided to trial the 3-day option during 2020. The intention is to have 4 courses on offer, 2 of which will be running the 3-day intensive courses.

Whilst the 3-day course will be cheaper, it will not be for everyone. If you have an academic background you may well be fine, but if you are an experienced worker without that background who has progressed to supervisor through experience and merit, you may well find it hard-going.

The intensive courses are scheduled in for April and October. However, in case the intensive course does not prove popular, we have kept dates in the diary clear to allow us to revert to the 4-day course. The 4-day course is £700 + VAT and the new, 3-day version is £525 + VAT.

Could you please let us know which is your preference, either by email or directly when I am next in.

### Inside this month:

- P2 - HSE Press Releases
- P3 - Warehouse steps safety alert
- P3 - Christmas Myth Busters
- P4 - Training Schedule + Wordsearch



## PRESS RELEASES—KEEP UP TO DATE THE EASY WAY

Copy and paste the link into your browser to see the full article on the HSE website

20 Nov: Company director sentenced after repeated serious safety failings  
<https://press.hse.gov.uk/2019/11/20/company-director-sentenced-after-repeated-serious-safety-failings/>

11 Nov: Groundworks contractor fined for cable strike  
<https://press.hse.gov.uk/2019/11/11/groundworks-contractor-fined-for-cable-strike/>

4 Nov: Dairy farm fined after employee permanently blinded by disinfectant  
<https://press.hse.gov.uk/2019/11/04/dairy-farm-fined-after-employee-permanently-blinded-by-disinfectant-chemicals/>

19 Nov: Egg production company fined following forklift truck overturn  
<https://press.hse.gov.uk/2019/11/19/egg-production-company-fined-following-forklift-truck-overturned/>

6 Nov: Fitter sentenced for unregistered gas work  
<https://press.hse.gov.uk/2019/11/06/fitter-sentenced-for-unregistered-gas-work/>

1 Nov: Farm equipment manufacturer fined as employee's arm pulled into lathe  
<https://press.hse.gov.uk/2019/11/01/farm-equipment-manufacturer-fined-after-employees-arm-pulled-into-lathe/>

15 Nov: Roofer sentenced after dangerous carbon monoxide release  
<https://press.hse.gov.uk/2019/11/15/roofer-sentenced-after-dangerous-carbon-monoxide-release/>

6 Nov: Unregistered gas fitter sentenced for carrying out gas work  
<https://press.hse.gov.uk/2019/11/06/unregistered-gas-engineer-sentenced-for-carrying-out-gas-work/>

1 Nov: Haulage company fined after worker injured by moving vehicle  
<https://press.hse.gov.uk/2019/11/01/haulage-company-fined-after-worker-injured-by-moving-vehicle/>

15 Nov: Construction company fined after dumper truck overturns and fatally injures worker  
<https://press.hse.gov.uk/2019/11/15/construction-company-fined-after-dumper-truck-overturns-and-fatally-injures-worker/>

6 Nov: Building company fined after staircase collapse seriously injures worker  
<https://press.hse.gov.uk/2019/11/06/building-company-fined-after-staircase-collapse-seriously-injures-worker/>

31 Oct: Two people sentenced after failing to control the risk of Legionella bacteria  
<https://press.hse.gov.uk/2019/10/31/two-people-sentenced-after-failing-to-control-the-risk-of-legionella-bacteria/>

12 Nov: Places for People Homes fined after five employees developed Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome  
<https://press.hse.gov.uk/2019/11/12/places-for-people-homes-fined-after-five-employees-developed-hand-arm-vibration-syndrome-havs/>

5 Nov: Registered charity fined after resident of care home fell down a set of stairs and was fatally injured  
<https://press.hse.gov.uk/2019/11/05/registered-charity-fined-after-resident-of-care-home-fell-down-a-set-of-stairs-and-was-fatally-injured/>

31 Oct: Forging company fined after worker loses fingers and thumb  
<https://press.hse.gov.uk/2019/10/31/forging-company-fined-after-worker-loses-fingers-and-thumb/>

## Company director sentenced after repeated serious safety failings

**The director of a waste transfer company was found guilty and banned from being a company director after knowingly exposing employees to serious unsafe working conditions.**

Preston Crown Court heard that, in November 2018, despite a conviction for transport related health and safety offences following a fatal accident in 2013, and further enforcement action in 2017 for using a poorly maintained and damaged telehandler, Zarif Mohammed allowed the continued use of the same seriously damaged machine on the waste transfer site in Kensulate Park, Blackburn.

An investigation by the HSE found the telehandler was being used without reversing lights, a camera or mirrors, which presented a serious risk of people being struck and seriously injured as the driver would not be able to see adequately when reversing the vehicle.

Zarif Mohammed of Angela Street, Blackburn, pleaded guilty under Section 37 to breaching section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. Mr Mohammed was sentenced to six months imprisonment suspended for 18 months, and 190 hours of unpaid work with a further six rehabilitation days. He was also struck off from working as a company director for five years.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Steven Boyd said

*“Mr Mohammed has been previously convicted by HSE following a fatality at a previous company of which he was a director and then was served additional enforcement by HSE on a visit to a new company of which he was a director. Despite this, Mr Mohammed allowed serious unsafe conditions to prevail, presenting a high risk of persons being killed or seriously injured. Workplace transport incidents remain a major cause of fatal and serious injuries in the waste and recycling industry. It is important that vehicles are maintained in a safe condition.”*



## Consultative Documents

The HSE provide an opportunity for you to help influence health and safety policy, by participating in public consultations and discussions.

Consultation Questionnaire on the amendments to Mines Regulations (MR2014)

This Consultation relates to proposed amendments to the Mines Regulations 2014 (MR2014) to apply a new binding limit for respirable crystalline silica (RCS) of 0.1mg/m<sup>3</sup> below ground in coal mines.

To contribute, visit <https://consultations.hse.gov.uk/hse/mines-regulations-2014/>

## Do you have warehouse steps or wheeled stepladders?

Whilst carryout a routine safety inspection recently I noticed a set of aluminium warehouse style steps. I say warehouse style as they had the handrails on the stiles, wheels on one end, and what appears to be a working platform with a handrail. However the handrail height was incorrect being only 600mm high. This is more like the height of a handrail on a stepladder.

### So what is the big issue?

On warehouse steps the platform at the top is designed to be a working platform with



Wheeled stepladder

edge protection comprising a top and intermediate rail to prevent falls.

The top rail should be 950mm high. On a step ladder, the platform is essentially a shelf for tools and materials that are being used and the rail at the top is a handrail not edge protection.

On a step ladder the top 2 steps and the shelf should not be climbed. If you try standing on the top platform of a stepladder the handrail is knee height and does not provide protection from falls.

It would appear that there has been some sort of error by the manufacturer and they have produced a range wheeled stepladders. I notified the

manufacturers concerned but did get much in the way of a response.

To make the mobile steps identified in the inspection safe, we blanked off the top 2 steps and posted a sign stating the top platform should not be used as a working platform.

Let me know if you want more details of the modification or if you want a copy of the sign emailed over.



Warehouse steps

## HSE Myth Busters Panel - Is it really 'elf n safety gone mad'?

### Myth: Workers are banned from putting up Christmas decorations in the office

**The Reality** - Bah Humbug! Each year we hear of companies banning their workers from putting up Christmas decorations in their offices for 'health and safety' reasons, or requiring the work to be done by a 'qualified' person. Most organisations including HSE and local councils manage to put up their decorations, celebrating the spirit of Christmas without a fuss. They just sensibly provide their staff with suitable step ladders to put up decorations rather than expecting them to balance on wheelie chairs.



### Myth: Children are banned from throwing snowballs

**The Reality** - Every year we hear inaccurate stories about children who aren't allowed to throw snowballs, and swimmers who can't take their traditional winter dip in the local lake. All this in the name of health and safety. If we spend time on the trivial risks there's a chance we'll miss the most important ones. We need to focus on finding ways for things to happen, not reasons to stop them—a sensible approach to managing risk focuses on practical action to tackle risks that cause real harm and suffering.



Experienced a silly safety decision?  
Report it to the myth busters at the HSE:  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/contact/contact-myth-busting.htm>

## WHO DIDN'T MAKE IT HOME FROM WORK SAFELY?

In October 2016, David Scott Green was manoeuvring a 9T front tipping dumper truck on a spoil heap in Colchester, Essex. He lost control of the truck which toppled forward and came to rest upside down at the base of the spoil heap. A colleague noticed the overturned truck and ran over to assist, but Mr Green had sustained a serious head injury and died on the scene.

**If you have health and safety concern report it – let's assess the risk not investigate the accident.**

### Elf and Safety Wordsearch

**It's time for our festive wordsearch! One of the words cannot be found, but which one? Send the answer to**

Health & Safety Solutions Ltd,  
The Studio Office,  
Church Walk,  
St Neots,  
PE19 1JH

Or email us at  
hssolutions@btconnect.com

*Remember to include your name, company name and contact details when submitting entries.*

#### WINNER OF LAST MONTH'S COMPETITION

The Football Injuries wordsearch competition was won by an employee from Team Building Systems. The prize of £50 worth of Love 2 Shop vouchers will be sent shortly.

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| V | F | A | E | N | J | A | A | S | O | E | A | L | G | Q |
| G | I | T | K | I | R | M | E | C | T | R | X | O | F | Y |
| X | H | I | R | K | X | B | C | D | W | H | S | I | Y | F |
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|         |         |          |          |          |
|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| Advent  | Festive | King     | Prancer  | Unwrap   |
| Blitzen | Grinch  | Lights   | Quality  | Vixen    |
| Carol   | Holly   | Merry    | Reindeer | Winter   |
| Dasher  | Ice     | Nativity | Santa    | Xmas     |
| Elf     | Jingle  | Occasion | Turkey   | Yuletide |

## Training Schedule

| Course                           | Date                  | Spaces | Price |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|-------|
| SPA Food & Drink (Refresher)     | 14 Jan 2020           | 7      | £175  |
| IOSH Managing Safely (Full)      | 21-22, 28-29 Jan 2020 | 4      | £700  |
| IOSH Working Safely              | 4 Feb 2020            | 5      | £175  |
| SPA Food & Drink (Full)          | 4-5 Feb 2020          | 5      | £350  |
| IOSH Managing Safely (Refresher) | 11 Feb 2020           | 6      | £175  |

**Call 01480 391022 or visit the website to book now**