

E-OSH Newsletter



Welcome to our E-OSH Newsletter. We hope that you find the articles informative and interesting. Where possible we have detailed the relevant links to websites to further your knowledge on a topic or issue. Feedback as ever is important to us to enable us to improve our service.

This document is primarily sent out by e-mail to NISO Members and to interested parties. If you wish to unsubscribe please e-mail us at: info@niso.ie and put "unsubscribe" in subject line.

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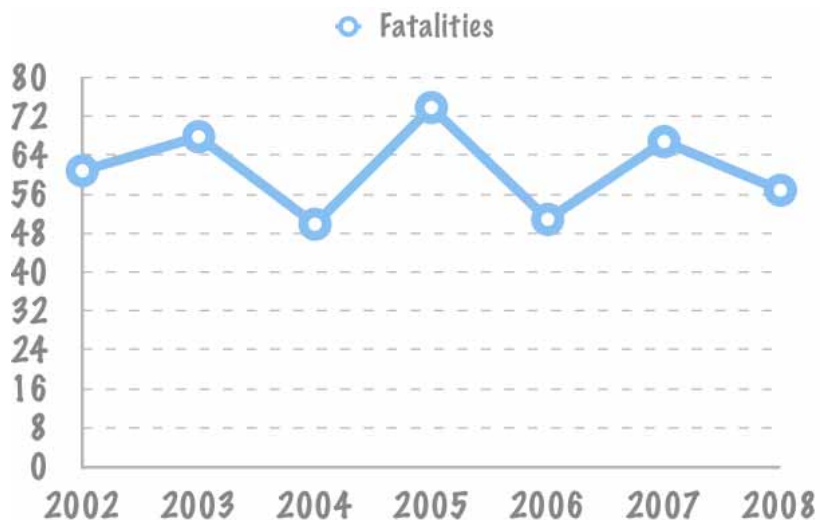
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Workplace Fatalities Down in 2008

A review of 2008 fatality statistics show an improvement over 2007 figures. Last year 57 persons lost their lives through workplace accidents compared with 67 persons in 2007, a fall of nearly 15%.

However, we cannot be complacent. The major differences between both years are:

a significant increase of over 90% in agricultural accidents to 21 fatalities.

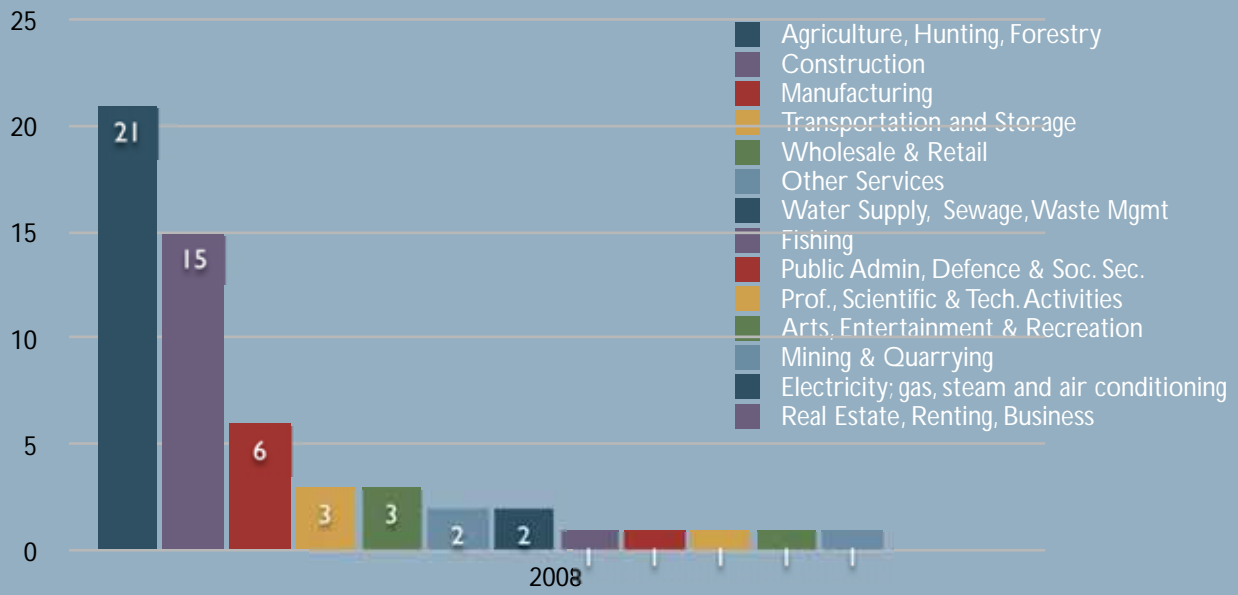
The Minister for Labour Affairs, Billy Kelleher T.D., who himself comes from a farming background, called on all farmers to make safety and health a priority in 2009. "While I am pleased at the overall reduction in workplace deaths, we need to see significant improvements in the sector".

However, on a positive note there was a significant decrease in fishing deaths albeit from a high in 2007 which saw 12 fishing fatalities, 4 times higher than the worst year in the last seven years. Other

changes include a 300% decrease in the transport and storage sector from 9 fatalities in 2007 to 3 in 2008.

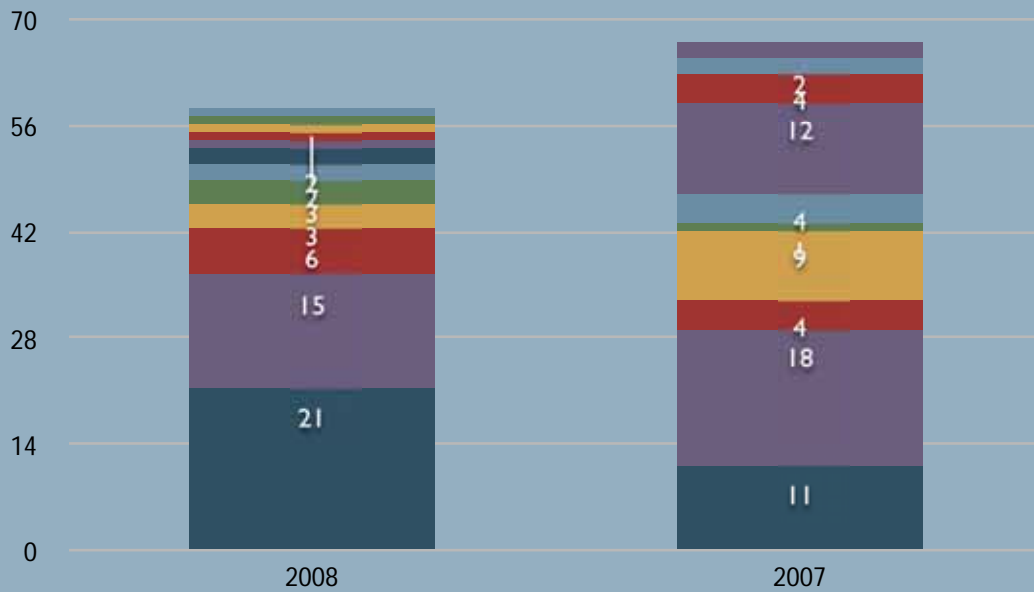
There were 299 deaths in the workplace over the last five years [2004 - 2008], an average of 60 per year. 2008 was a little better than average but on a more pragmatic note, it was 57 deaths too many. It is time to look forward to 2009 where we hope fatalities and injuries will be reduced significantly.

According to the Health and Safety Authority, the types of accidents occurring in workplaces are similar in pattern to previous years and are primarily related to 'handling, lifting and carrying' and 'slips, trips and falls.'



Workplace Fatalities 2008

(57 fatalities - updated 14 January 2009)



Workplace Fatalities 2007 / 2008

(67 / 57 fatalities - updated 14 January 2009)

National News

Workplace Fatalities 2008

In their Press Release HSA made the following comments - ten fewer people lost their lives in workplace accidents in 2008, compared to 2007. Fifty-seven people died in workplace accidents in 2008, compared to 67 in 2007. While the overall number of fatalities is down by 15% on the previous year, the number of fatalities in the agriculture sector nearly doubled from 11 to 21. Fifteen people were killed in construction sector accidents, compared to 18 in 2007. Manufacturing fatalities were up from four to six. Over the last five years 299 persons have lost their lives in Irish workplaces.

HSA will announce their Programme of Work for 2009 at their own offices on 3rd February 2009.

56% of Annual Radiation Dose from Radon

In a December 2008 Press Release, Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) have stated that Radon contributes more than half the radiation dose received by Irish people and greatly exceeds the dose due to either medical exposure at 13.7 per cent or artificial sources of radiation (including discharges from Sellafield) of 0.4 per cent. Some 86 per cent of the average person's dose comes from natural radiation sources in the environment, such as radon, thoron and cosmic radiation.

For more information:

<http://www.rpii.ie/press/pr200807.htm>

Changes in ADR 2009

From 1 January 2009, instructions in writing must be carried by the driver, to provide advice in the event of an accident during their journey. Key changes can be summarised as: The driver / carrier has to provide the instructions in writing. The instructions are only required in a language that the vehicle crew can understand. There will be one set of instructions to cover all dangerous goods. The complete instructions in writing text will be included in the ADR 2009 text. What does this mean now?

For more information:

<http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Sectors/ADR>

InjuriesBoard.ie - Supreme Court decision

On 19 December 2008, the Supreme Court rejected an appeal by InjuriesBoard.ie to a High Court decision made in January 2005 that the Board could not communicate directly with a Claimant who had instructed a Solicitor to handle a claim on his behalf (Solicitors were copied with correspondence). The judgement held that the Injuries Board must, if a claimant wants, correspond with the claimant's solicitor. The Court has held that the "right to legal representation is a fundamental right". The Supreme Court indicated that InjuriesBoard.ie was entitled to keep a Claimant informed of the process by, for example, sending him/her a copy of any letter sent to his/her Solicitor at the same time as sending that letter.

For more information:

http://www.injuriesboard.ie/eng/News_Press_Releases/

Over 22,000 calls, interviews and inspections by NERA in 2008

National Employment Rights Authority have revealed the level of activity during 2008. The Authority inspects workplaces to ensure compliance with four main employment areas: minimum wage, payment of wages, working hours and protection of young persons. Breaches were detected in 16% of inspections and 62 cases have been referred to Chief State Solicitor's Office.

For more information:

<http://www.employmentrights.ie/en/media/NERA%20Quarterly%20Issue%204.pdf>

New Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulations published

On December 31st of 2008 the new 'CLP' Regulation; Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 was published as an official journal of the European Union. It comes into force on 20th January 2009. It introduces to Ireland and the rest of Europe a new global classification and labelling scheme developed within the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of classification and labelling of chemicals (GHS) known commonly as the 'Purple Book'.

For more information:

http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Sectors/Chemicals/GHS_CLP/

Influenza Vaccine – Advice from HPSC

As influenza-like illness rates are increasing and influenza A is circulating, Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) makes the point that it is also important that persons in at-risk groups for influenza are vaccinated as these groups are at higher risk of developing complications from influenza. There are 10 specified groups that should be vaccinated.

For more information:

<http://www.ndsc.ie/hpsc/News/MainBody,3384,en.html>

U.K. News

Co-op compensates tiny till worker for strain injury

A petite checkout worker has received a payout from her employer after sustaining an arm injury while trying to reach for the chip and pin machine. The woman who stands at 4ft 9ins, developed a [repetitive strain injury](#) in her right arm after constantly stretching to reach for the card machine at her till while working at the Co-op. The readers were installed in 2005, but no measures had been taken to ensure all workers could comfortably reach them. When she complained, the Co-op refused to alter the till. The Co-op denied liability, but agreed to pay a "significant financial settlement".

For more information:

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/article2026109.ece>

Northern Ireland Company fined £25,000

Charles Brand Limited & Gerard Martin McMullan were fined a total of £25,000 At Coleraine Crown Court on 20th November 2008 after pleading guilty to breaches of health and safety legislation. The court case followed an incident that took place in Ballymena in July 2003. Shuttering panels were being lifted over construction workers when they fell and injured two workers, one of whom was very seriously injured and is confined to a wheelchair.

For more information:

<http://www.hseni.gov.uk/>

[charles_brand_g_mcmullan_prosecution.doc](http://www.hseni.gov.uk/charles_brand_g_mcmullan_prosecution.doc)

European News**ECHA – pre-registered substances now stand at 150,000**

On 19th December 2008 ECHA has published on its website a list of pre-registered substances. The list contains about 150,000 substances (made up of 2.75 million pre-registrations) which were pre-registered by 65,000 companies between 1 June and 1 December 2008. ECHA has been screening part of the information submitted and due to the high number of pre-registrations ECHA will continue to check the information into the New Year. The fully screened list will be published at a later date.

For more information:

http://echa.europa.eu/doc/press/pr_08_59_publication_pre-registered_substances_list_20081219.pdf

European Foundation Report re Technology and Working Conditions

This research report discusses the links between technology and working conditions and makes some interesting findings including: users of machinery have less favourable conditions than those using computers and those who do not use technology at work at all and working in autonomous teams and high task autonomy eases the negative effects of machine use at work.

For more information:

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/pubdocs/2008/63/en/1/EF0863EN.pdf>

U.S. News**Stress affects female police officers most**

Female police officers suffer more from the stress of their jobs than their male counterparts, though male officers aren't getting off easy, according to research led by the University at Buffalo. One out of every four female officers assigned to a shift has thought about suicide, and women also report greater instances of post traumatic stress disorder and symptoms of depression, a recent study has found.

For more information:

<http://www.buffalonews.com:80/cityregion/story/534938.html>

International**Australia - Two men who set apprentice alight fined \$5000**

Two diesel mechanics who set an apprentice alight as a workplace prank have each been fined \$5,000. As part of the workplace fun diesel the two mechanics, aged 19 and 20, mucked around with flammable brake cleaner setting themselves, their work benches and each other on fire at their workplace in January 2008. Both employees had received several stern warnings about their dangerous behaviour but continued to use the chemical to set things alight. On January 9 the workers "saturated" a 17 year-old apprentice and set him alight.

For more information:

<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,24745092-661,00.html>

China - country issues bird flu alert after death of 19-year-old woman.

The woman died after she came into contact with poultry in a market in central Hebei province. Since the outbreak of bird flu in 2003, 21 people in China have died, worldwide, 247 people have died. This is China's first bird flu death in almost a year, and the authorities here have reacted by declaring a bird flu alert.

For more information:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7815872.stm>

Canada – Ferrero fined \$65,000 for workplace mishap

Chocolate maker Ferrero Canada Limited was fined \$65,000 in December 2008 for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in injury to a worker. The worker was trying to clear a jam in the machine when their hand contacted a moving auger in a hopper used to bag cocoa and they lost a portion of one finger.. There was no guard covering the opening of the hopper to prevent access to the pinch point in the machine. The company pleaded guilty to the charge.

For more information:

<http://www.brantfordexpositor.ca:80/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1334562>

Nigeria - Airport malaria risk rising

Global warming is raising the risk for infection with so-called "airport malaria" in malaria-free zones of the United States and Europe, researchers warn. Scientists explain how it happens: mosquitoes make their way on to planes in tropical regions, and at the end of a flight can escape into the increasingly warmer climates of developed countries, where they now have a better chance of surviving and proliferating. Malaria kills over 12 million people per year, and they're probably 300 to 500 million cases in the world every year. And the malaria-endemic areas of the world are themselves growing as the world warms.

For more information:

<http://www.punchng.com:80/Articl.aspx?theartic=Art200812280392562>

NISO Update - Events Diary

All courses are held at NISO's Training Centre, Ballymount, Dublin 12 unless otherwise stated. To book any of these course, please phone 01 465 9760 or book online at www.niso.ie

NISO OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY CERTIFICATE 2009

Limerick Institute of Technology

Commencing 27th January 2009; Contact: midwest@niso.ie

Athlone Institute of Technology

Commencing 2nd February 2009; Contact: midland@niso.ie

Tullamore

Commencing 3rd February 2009; Contact: midland@niso.ie

Longford

Commencing 4th February 2009; Contact: midland@niso.ie

Dundalk Institute of Technology

Commencing 10 February 2009, Registration 20 January 2009
Contact: northeast@niso.ie

Galway Mayo Institute of Technology, Galway Campus

Commencing 10th February 2009; Contact: west@niso.ie

NISO Training Centre, Ballymount, Dublin 12

Commencing 10th February 2009 – daytime for 8 weeks
Contact: info@niso.ie

Galway Mayo Institute of Technology, Castlebar Campus

Commencing 11th February 2009; Contact: west@niso.ie

NISO Training Centre, Ballymount, Dublin 12

Commencing 24th February 2009 – evening time for 14 weeks
Contact: info@niso.ie

Other Venues

Some venues and dates to be confirmed

PUBLIC COURSES

Safety Representative Course

Course Length: 3 days; 2 - 4 February 2009

Risk Assessment & Safety Statement Course

Course Length: 2 days; 11th and 18th February 2009

Manual Handling Instructor & Assessor Course

Course Length: 5 days (3 days on week 1 and 2 days on week 2)
Date: 19 - 21, 26 - 27 January 2009

Manual Handling Instructor & Assessor Refresher Course

Course Length: 2 days; 20 - 21 January 2009

Basic Manual Handling Course

Course Length: Half day
Date: 28th January 2009

Safe Pass Course

Course Length: 1 day; 23 January, 6 February 2009

Occupational First Aid Course FETAC Level 5

Course Length: 3 days; 28 - 30 January 2009

Occupational First Aid Refresher/Re-Certification Course FETAC Level 5

Course Length: 1 day; 30 January 2009

VDU/DSE Assessors Course

Course Length: 2 days; 16 - 17 February 2009

Noise Assessment Course

Course Length: 4 days; 18, 19, 25, 26 February 2009

Health and Safety for the Non Safety Specialist

Course Length: 2 days
30 - 31 March 2009

AGMs

NISO North West Region AGM

Originally 19 January 2009; rescheduled due to weather

NISO South East Region AGM

Date to be confirmed.

NISO National AGM

Date: 25th April 2009

Venue: Brandon Hotel, Tralee

SAFETY AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

Western Region

26th February; 8.00pm, Oranmore Lodge Hotel, Oranmore, Co Galway. Email: west@niso.ie

Northern Ireland

27th February; 7.30pm, Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast
Email: info@niso.org.uk

North West Region

5th March ; 8.00pm, Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim. Email: northwest@niso.ie

Midland Region

5 March; 8.00pm, Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore.
Email: midland@niso.ie

North East Region

25 March 2009; 7.30 pm, Fairways Hotel, Dundalk, Co Louth . Email: northeast@niso.ie

Eastern Region

26 March; 7.30pm Green Isle Hotel, Newland's Cross, Dublin 22. Email: east@niso.ie

Mid West Region

27 March; 8.00pm, Greenhills Hotel, Limerick
Email: Midwest@niso.ie

Southern Region

3 April ; 7.30pm, Oriel House Hotel, Ballincollig, Co Cork. Email: south@niso.ie

South East Region

TBC. Email: southeast@niso.ie

SEMINARS

Signing, Guarding and Lighting Requirements

29 January 2009, 14.00 hrs – 16.45 hrs ; Green Isle Hotel, Newland's Cross, Dublin 22

Speakers: Martin O'Dea, Health and Safety Authority and Robert Butler, Safety and Environment Services, Construction Industry Federation.

Further Information: <http://www.niso.ie/Events/SigningGuardingLightingRequirements/tabid/263/Default.aspx>

Bookings: <http://www.niso.ie/Events/SigningGuardingLightingRequirements/BookSeminar/tabid/264/Default.aspx>
Email: east@niso.ie

Low Level Access

26 February 2009; 14.00 hrs – 16.45 hrs

Green Isle Hotel, Newland's Cross, Dublin 22

Speaker: Dave Dagger, Access Consultancy & Training

Email: east@niso.ie

Corrections and Clarifications

A paragraph on page 1 of the last edition of E-OSH (December 2008) stated that "their [UK] fatality rate is approximately 4 times greater than the Republic of Ireland's. This should have read "that the Republic of Ireland's fatality rate is approximately 4 times greater than the UK's.

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