

E-OSH Newsletter



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NISO Update

Events and Courses

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.

NISO News



*Pauric Corrigan, President,
National Irish Safety Organisation*

Going forward for the rest of 2008, the National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) will, as planned, be holding Ireland's premier health and safety event, the NISO Annual Conference this Autumn entitled "Risky Business - Your Employees' Health", in conjunction with the Awards Presentation Dinner and Trade Exhibition on 17 October 2008.

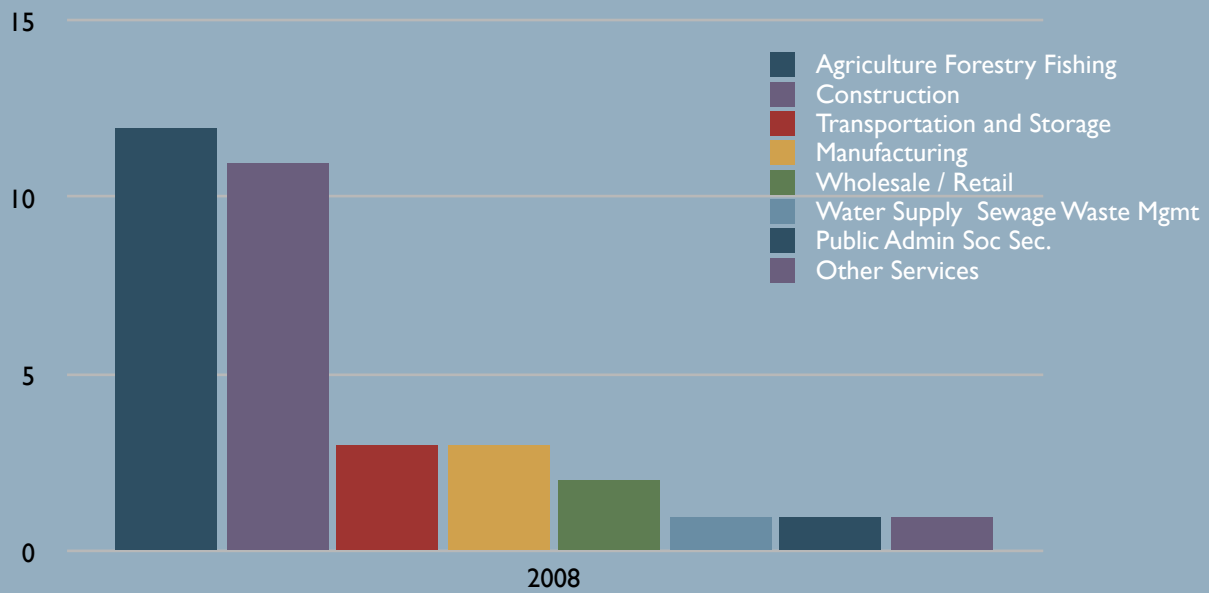
The Annual Health and Safety Conference, Trade Exhibition and Awards Presentation will be held in the Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co Meath on 17 October 2008. A key speaker at one of the Conference events will be Dr Jukka Takala, Director, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work.

This year, the conference will focus on occupational health issues. Given the recent publication of the HSA's new Workplace Health and Well-Being Strategy, this year's conference will be of the utmost relevance. The conference will, in the NISO tradition, be held in tandem with the NISO and Northern Ireland Safety Group Awards.

Going forward NISO - which organised the NISO Health and Safety Week in the 1990s, that was the forerunner of what became the HSA's Health and Safety Week and ultimately the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work's Safety Week - is currently considering launching a new National Safety Quiz for schools. This quiz, which will be implemented with the assistance of the NISO regions, will cover workplace health and safety issues, road safety, intoxicants (drugs and alcohol) and dietary issues.

NISO will be reaching out and offering to work with and seeking the support of the HSA, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, the Department of Education and Science and the Irish Insurance Federation, for this initiative.

Occupational health and safety is a most important national issue. It is as important today, as it was when the late President of Ireland, Dr Patrick Hillery, when he was Minister for Labour, supported the founding of the National Irish Safety Organisation in 1963. Today, as then, NISO's members throughout Ireland are here to serve the nation, hopefully with the same support as was offered in those now distant days, when the foundations of NISO will continue with the tried and tested schemes to promote health and safety and, as in the past with Safety Week, the launching of new initiatives that will reach an ever wider audience.



Workplace Fatalities 2008

(34 fatalities to 10 July 2008)

National News

Navan Bus Crash Fines

Bus Eireann was fined €2m and Meath County Council and Keltank were each fined €100,000. Bus Eireann, Meath County Council and Keltank Ltd have pleaded guilty to various charges in relation to the crash which included the ABS brakes not working and “communications difficulties” within Meath County Council re the management of the road works at the site of the crash. The Health and Safety Authority welcomed the conclusion of the court case and the judgement handed down by the court in relation to the Navan school bus tragedy in which 5 young school girls lost their lives. These prosecutions were taken under 1989 Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 1989 where fines were unlimited. Interestingly no single individual was prosecuted in any of the organizations.

For more information:

<http://www.rte.ie/news/2008/0606/navan.html>

HSA Publishes Annual Report 2007

The annual report, as always, contains a range of important information and facts – here is just an extract of some of them:

- ★Deaths in 2007: Total of 67 – see chart on next page showing all deaths in NACE Economic Sectors since 2002
- ★Fatalities increasing in Fishing and Construction sectors
- ★Reported >3 day absences is 7,800
- ★Major Legislation enacted
- ★General Application Regulations 2007 – 8 parts, 15 topics, 175 individual regulations and 10 Schedules

★Inspections Carried out - 13,631

★Enforcement action taken in 12% of companies inspected

★Safety Statements: 70% of those inspected had them in place

★Workplace Contact Unit: Almost 40,000 calls handled

★REACH helpdesk is fully operational

★Guidance Produced

★Responsibilities of Directors, Senior Managers

★Code of Practice on Agriculture

★REACH Regulations

★Decentralisation: Kilkenny office now has 27 staff in position

HSA Publishes Summary of Workplace Injury, Illness and Fatality Statistics 2006-2007

This Summary, as in previous years, contains a whole range of important statistics and other information and facts – here is just an extract of some of them:

- ★Work-related injury estimates from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) indicate little change in the annual injury rate since 2003. The rate of work-related illness is increasing, according to CSO estimates. Data from the CSO also suggests that illness rather than injury now causes more days' absence from work.
- ★Injury rate causing 4+ days lost from work
- ★Between 11 and 12 cases per 1000 workers
- ★Illness rate causing 4+ days lost from work

Economic Activity	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
A - Agriculture, hunting and forestry	14	20	13	18	18	11
B - Fishing	3	0	3	2	2	12
C - Mining and quarrying	3	1	0	6	2	2
D - Manufacturing	7	7	3	7	4	4
E - Electricity / gas / water	1	2	0	0	0	0
F - Construction	21	20	16	23	13	18
G - Wholesale/retail trade; repair of goods	1	4	4	8	3	1
H - Hotels and restaurants	0	2	0	0	0	0
I - Transport, storage and communication	7	9	6	5	4	9
J - Financial intermediation	0	0	1	0	0	0
K - Real estate, renting, business	0	0	0	1	2	2
L - Public Admin / Defence	3	1	0	2	1	4
M - Education	0	0	1	0	0	0
N - Health / social work	0	0	1	0	1	0
O - Other community, social and personal services	1	4	2	2	1	4
Total	61	68	50	74	51	67

Fatal Injuries 2002-2007 (NACE Revision I)

★In 2003 - 10 cases per 1000 in 2003

★In 2006 - 13 cases per 1000 workers

★Days lost due to work-related injury/illness In 2005 - 1.5 million in 2005 In 2006 - over 1.7 million

★Sectors with highest illness rate Agriculture/Fishing
Public Administration Defence and Health and Social Work

★Non-Irish National injuries reported 14% of total reported

★Non-Irish Nationals as % of workforce is estimated at 15%

★Male workers continue to experience higher rates of injury and illness than female workers. The female injury rate has decreased slightly since 2002 while male injury rates have increased in the same period. Both male and female illness rates have increased since 2002.

For more information: <http://publications.hsa.ie/index.asp?locID=32&docID=-1>

Extremely dangerous levels of radon gas found in Kerry home

The Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) announced in May 2008 that it has found a house in north Kerry with extremely high concentrations of radon gas. The house had radon levels which were nearly 26 times above the acceptable level. The RPII believes it is very likely that there are more houses in the area with similarly high radon levels. The home, which was located between Castleisland and Tralee, had a measurement of over 5000 becquerels of radon per cubic metre (Bq/m³). At these radon levels the radiation dose to the householder would be equivalent to receiving over 6000 chest X-rays a year

For more information: <http://www.rpii.ie/press/pr200804.htm>

Road Safety Authority Campaign – Girls you are more likely to be killed by a male driver

1,444 females were killed or seriously injured in cars driven by males over the 10 year period, 1997-2006. These are the shocking statistics revealed on 30th June, at the launch of 'He Drives, She Dies', a new initiative jointly developed by the Road Safety Authority (RSA) and the cross-border health services partnership CAWT (Co-Operation and Working Together), financed by the European Union. The research shows that between 1997 and 2006, 345 female passengers have been killed in road collisions. 68% (234) of the female passenger deaths were in cars driven by males. The Campaign is designed to empower females to say no to getting into a car with a guy who drives dangerously. **For more information:** http://www.rsa.ie/NEWS/News/He_Drives_She_Dies.html

U.K. News

HSE Fatality Statistics for 2007/2008

The provisional figure for the number of workers fatally injured in 2007/08 is 228, and corresponds to a rate of fatal injury of 0.75 per 100 000 workers. In 2006/07, the finalised figures were 247 and 0.82 respectively. Of the main industrial sectors, agriculture and construction have the highest rates of fatal injury. Together these two sectors account for nearly half of fatal injuries to workers. There were 71 members of the public fatally injured in 2007/08 (excluding railways-related incidents). This compares to an average of 90 per year, over the past five years.

For more information: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/fatals.htm?ebul=hsegen/07-jul-2008&cr=6>

More people suffering from RSI in UK

More than two thirds of workers now suffer from repetitive strain injury (RSI), according to research by Microsoft. In a survey of 1,000 people, the company found that cases of RSI had risen by a third in the past year. It said that this was partly because more and more people were working from home or on the move and using notebooks and mobiles for an hour more per day than two years ago. The most common symptoms included back ache, shoulder pain and pains in hands and wrists as a result of working on trains or in cramped or awkward positions.

For more information: <http://www.computeractive.co.uk:80/computeractive/news/2218355/people-suffering-rsi>

Unsafe Conditions for Migrant agricultural workers in Scotland

An investigation last year revealed that more than 2,000 workers in Angus, picking fruit, were living in uncertified accommodation. In one case, ten people had been squeezed into a single room; in another, an old chicken shed had been used as a communal lounge for up to 160 workers. Exploitation by gangmasters in the agricultural sector included a Lithuanian woman whose wages for one week, after deductions, amounted to minus £1.92 with some workers receiving less than £1 an hour over a full working week. In some cases unlicensed and dangerous minibuses are used to take them to farms. Vans fitted with benches, and with no seatbelts, are being driven by unqualified drivers. Other issues were: a communal facility housed in a chicken shed, no roadways, paths or lighting on portable building sites, no proper drainage for the showers and power cables left exposed on surface of ground. **For more information:** <http://news.scotsman.com/latestnews/-The-high-human-cost.4138829.jp>

Man suffers burns from acetone

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has warned companies to protect employees from flammable cleaning liquids after a Leicester man suffered burns to his hands and legs after some acetone caught fire. In October 2007, the employee was using acetone to clean components at the factory. He poured some acetone into a one litre plastic jug, and used a small brush to clean debris and oil from transformers. At this point, a fire occurred. Parmeko Plc was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay £1,910 costs after pleading guilty to contravening Sections of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 by failing to ensure the safety of an employee whilst he was handling acetone, a flammable liquid.

For more information:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2008/hseem667.htm>

Rolls Royce fined after Sunderland worker trapped in machinery

Rolls Royce has been fined after a health and safety breach at its Sunderland base saw a worker trapped in heavy machinery. The worker was cleaning the computer-controlled lathe when part of the machine caught him by the knees. Fellow workers used a crowbar in a failed bid to free him before the lathe could be switched off. HSE investigation revealed that a safety device had been overridden, which should have prevented workers accessing dangerous parts of the lathe.

For more information: <http://www.sunderlandecho.com/news/Rolls-Royce-fined-after-Sunderland.4164673.jp>

U.S. News

Teen Farmworker dies from heat stroke in California

Maria Isabel Vasquez Jimenez was tying grape vines at a farm east of Stockton, California in May, when the temperature soared well above 95 degrees. The nearest water cooler was a 10-minute walk away, and workers say the strict foreman didn't allow them a long enough break to stop and get a drink. She collapsed from heat exhaustion and died two days later. The Hospital discovered she was 2 months pregnant after her death.

For more information:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=91240378>

Electrician electrocuted while working on Dallas Cowboys Stadium

An electrician working at the new [Dallas Cowboys](#) stadium died when he touched a high-voltage line. The man was standing on a ladder and performing an electrical test when he touched the power line. He became wedged between the ladder and the stadium wall. The death came two days after a crane accident at the construction site that sent three workers to the hospital. The \$1 billion plus retractable-roof stadium has been under construction for two years and is scheduled to open for the 2009 season and host the 2011 Super Bowl.

For more information: <http://www.sportingnews.com:80/yourturn/viewtopic.php?t=423589>

Illinois County Reports 2 Legionnaires' Disease Cases from Hotel Hot Tub

The McHenry County Department of Health in Woodstock, Ill reported early in June that two people have been diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease after staying at a Hampton Inn in the county. "Initial information would suggest the illness may be associated with using or sitting by a hot tub at this facility on the same day. Both were hospitalized; one has since been released. Legionnaires' disease is caused by a type of bacteria common in the environment that can thrive under certain conditions; people can get Legionnaires' by breathing in a mist or vapor, such as

from a hot tub or large plumbing systems that has been contaminated with the bacteria.

For more information: <http://www.ohsonline.com:80/articles/63955/>

International News

Australia – Fines for Ammonia Leak and Explosion

An Australian Soda company has been fined a total of \$47,000 for an ammonia leak and a pressure vessel explosion in 2005. During the incident, three contractors suffered the ill effects of exposure to ammonia gas as they were cleaning steelwork in the distillation section. During their operations, ammonia-filled liquid escaped from a nearby tower because of a failed maintenance procedure earlier. Two of the workers were overcome by the fumes and were unable to properly use the respirators supplied. The company had failed to tell them they had to remove plastic strips from the filters to make them function. They recovered, but there was psychological injury caused.

For more information: http://www.safetowork.com.au:80/articles/Fines-for-ammonia-leak-and-explosion_z174359.htm

Canada - Sixteen year old killed as forklift topples

Police and workplace safety officials are investigating after a 16-year-old yard labourer was crushed and killed by a forklift this weekend at a Rona Building Centre in St. Albert. The teenager was hanging on to the side of the moving forklift Saturday when the machine tipped over and crushed him, said Workplace Health and Safety spokeswoman Katrina Bluetchen. Friends have identified the teen as Mitchell Tanner, who had recently started working at the company.

Australia – expected rise in Asbestos related deaths

One in 10 retired carpenters in Australia and the UK will die of asbestos related cancers according to visiting cancer expert Professor Julian Peto, Head of the Cancer Research UK Epidemiology and Genetics Group, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Using World Health Organization mortality statistics Professor Peto reveals that Australia and UK have the highest rate of asbestos-related cancer deaths in the world. Rising trends show the death-rate in men who are now 40 will be 100 times higher by age 80. The hazards in manufacturing, lagging and shipbuilding were recognised, but the much larger workforce in construction went on being heavily exposed with no effective regulation at all. Australian builders, particularly carpenters, often had to cut asbestos cement board with power tools, which caused very high dust levels," Professor Peto says.

For more information: <http://www.sciencealert.com.au:80/features/20081206-17481.html>

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

Noise Measurement Course

Course Length: 4 days (2 days on week 1 and 2 days on week 2)
September 29th, 30th and October 6th & 7th

Safety Representative Course

Course Length: 3 days; August 20th, 21th, 22th

Seminar - Health & Safety for Directors & Senior Managers

Course Length: Half day (0830-1230) ; Date TBC

Health & Safety for the Non-Safety Specialist Course

Course Length: 2 days (0900-1600 hrs) Date TBC

Risk Assessment & Safety Statement Course

Course Length: 2 days (0900-1600 hrs) Date TBC

Manual Handling Instructor & Assessor Course

Course Length: 5 days (3 days on week 1 and 2 days on week 2)
July 21st, 22nd, 23rd & 28th and 29th - Marino Institute of Education, Dublin 9
August 11th, 12th, 13th & 18th & 19th - NISO, Ballymount, Dublin 12.

Manual Handling Instructor & Assessor Refresher Course

Course Length: 2 days
July 22nd, 23rd - Marino Institute of Education, Dublin
August 12th, 13th - NISO, Ballymount, Dublin 12

Basic Manual Handling Course

Course Length: Half day
July 9th / August 19th

Safe Pass Course

Course Length: 1 day
Every Friday

Occupational First Aid Course

Course Length: 3 days
July 15th - 17th; August 25th - 27th;

Occupational First Aid Refresher/Re-Certification Course

Course Length: 1 day
July 17th; August 27th.

VDU/DSE Assessors Course

Course Length: 2 days
September 8th & 9th

NISO Occupational Safety & Health Certificate

Marino Institute of Education, Dublin 9
Course Length: 8 weeks (one day per week)
Commencing September 1st -

NISO Training Centre, Ballymount, Dublin 12
Commencing October 7th

Cork Institute of Technology
Commencing 18 September 2008 for 12 weeks

Institute of Technology, Tralee

Commencing 17 September 2008 for 12 weeks

Galway Mayo Institute of Technology

Commencing 23 September 2008 from 19:00 to 21:00 for 12 weeks

Limerick Institute of Technology

Commencing 23 September 2008 for 12 weeks

Limerick Institute of Technology

Advanced course

Commencing 7 October 2008 until May 2009

Other Venues

Some venues and dates to be confirmed

Seminar - Workings of PIAB and the Civil Liability and Courts Act 2004

Scheduled Autumn 2008 from 07:30 to 11:00

Speakers: PIAB Speaker on the Workings of PIAB Lennon

Header Solicitors speaker on the Civil Liability and Courts Act 2004

Information on www.niso.ie soon

First Aid Competition

rescheduled for 27 September 2008 at 09:00

Location: To be confirmed

Information on www.niso.ie soon

NISO Annual Conference, Safety Exhibition & Awards Presentation Dinner

17 October 2008

RISKY BUSINESS - YOUR EMPLOYEES HEALTH

Location: Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co Meath

Editor: Mary Darlington - BSc OSHM, CFIOSH, MIES, FCIPD

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NATIONAL IRISH SAFETY ORGANISATION,
A11 CALMOUNT PARK, BALLYMOUNT, DUBLIN 12.

T 01 465 9760 F 01 465 9765 E info@niso.ie W www.niso.ie

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