

# 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](mailto:info@niso.ie) and put "unsubscribe" in subject line.

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### NISO Update Events and Courses

## NISO News



The National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) is delighted to announce Ireland's premier health and safety event, the NISO Annual Conference this Autumn entitled "Risky Business - Your Employees' Health", in conjunction with the Safety Awards Presentation Dinner, Golf and Trade Exhibition on 17 October 2008, in Trim.

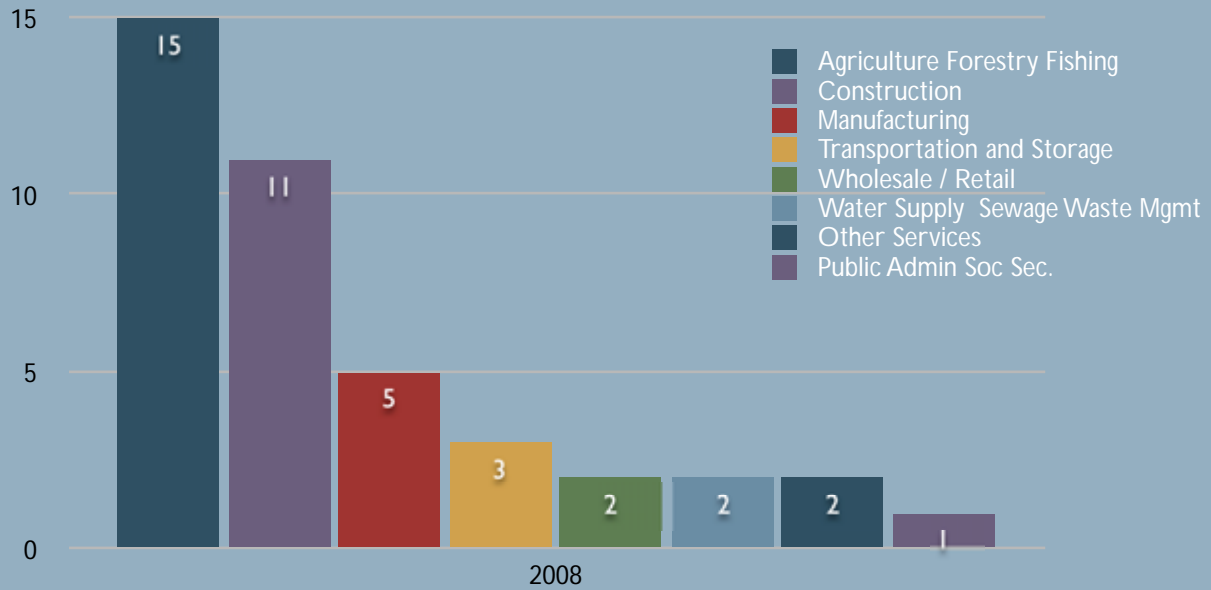
A key speaker at one of the Conference events, the Pre Conference Dinner, on 16 October 2008 will be Dr Jukka Takala, Director, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work.

The Annual Health and Safety Trade Exhibition will be held in the Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co Meath on 17 October 2008 in conjunction with the Health and Safety Conference.

Places are filling quickly, so contact NISO for a brochure with exhibition plans.

The NISO Annual Golf Outing will now be held in the Knightsbrook Golf Course on 16 October 2008. The Knightsbrook, a 72, par golf course, designed by Christy O'Connor, Jnr., is set in the beautiful countryside of Trim, Co Meath, under one hour from Dublin. This golf course provides a most enjoyable experience for golfers of all standards. See website for further details.

The Eastern Region of the National Irish Safety Organisation is organising a First Aid Competition in the Civil Defence Headquarters, Wolfe Tone Quay, Dublin 8, on Saturday, 27 September 2008. Register with NISO for further information.



## Workplace Fatalities 2008

(41 fatalities to 11 August 2008)

### National News

#### Child (4) dies in fall from dad's tractor

Irish Independent reported that on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2008 that a four-year-old boy was killed when he fell from a tractor he was travelling on with his father at Derryrin, north Abbeydorney, in Co Kerry, just before lunchtime. The little boy, Johnny Nolan, was the eldest of two children from nearby Lixnaw.

For more information:

<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/child-4-dies-in-fall-from-dads-tractor-1430501.html>

#### Minister calls for renewed vigilance on farm safety

On 28<sup>th</sup> July 2008 the Minister for Labour Affairs, Billy Kelleher, TD, appealed to all those engaged in the agriculture sector to put safety at the very top of the agenda as we enter one of the busiest times of the year for farmers. He noted that the number of deaths in agriculture to date this year have already passed last year's total. So far, 13 people have sadly lost their lives on farms to date this year, including 3 under the age of 15 and 4 farmers aged 65 and over. This compares to a total of 11 farm fatalities for the whole of 2007.

For more information:

<http://www.entemp.ie/press/2008/20080728.htm>

#### NUI Galway Students Design Safety Plan For Ocean Race

Two NUI Galway students have played a key part in planning for the Volvo Ocean Race, which is expected to attract over 140,000 visitors to Galway next year. Research undertaken by Edel Gallagher and Daithi Evans is contributing to the design of a comprehensive safety management plan for the event. Both

students have a primary degree from NUI Galway and are now studying a Higher Diploma in Applied Science focusing on in Occupational Health and Safety, and Hygiene.

For more information:

<http://www.galwaynews.ie:80/4258-students-design-safety-plan-ocean-race>

#### Injuries Board publishes 2007 Annual Report

During 2007, assessments were made by the Injuries Boards (formerly Personal Injuries Assessment Board - PIAB) totaling €181 million were made in respect of 8,208 claims. Claims were assessed 4 times faster, knocking over two years off the average assessment time.

During this period, 30,000 personal injury claims arose in the country; 7,000 were of a non complex nature and resolved between the parties; 23,000 formally registered with the Board, of which 7,000 were found to be outside the Board's remit (e.g. medical negligence, disputed cases, etc). Of the 16,000 cases remaining, 81% were resolved within the Injuries Board. or by securing formal awards within 9 months or less.

For more information:

[http://www.injuriesboard.ie/eng/News\\_Press\\_Releases/](http://www.injuriesboard.ie/eng/News_Press_Releases/)

#### HSA to host Transport Safety Seminars

Three workplace transport safety seminars are due to take place in Cork, Meath and Galway. The Seminars are particularly relevant to any employer or person in control of workplaces where vehicles and mobile machinery operate. Attendance costs €100 per person and includes continental breakfast.

For more information:

[http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Sectors/Transport/Workplace%20Transport%20Seminars/Transport\\_Seminar\\_Flyer.pdf](http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Sectors/Transport/Workplace%20Transport%20Seminars/Transport_Seminar_Flyer.pdf)

### **Irish exposed to higher radiation levels**

Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) published detailed assessment of radiation doses on 28th July 2008: The most recent estimate of the radiation dose received by the Irish population shows a 9 per cent increase over previous estimates. Some of the principal conclusions of the report are:

1. Approximately 86 per cent of the average radiation dose in Ireland comes from natural sources of radiation
2. Medical (patient) exposures account for the bulk of the exposure from artificial sources of radiation
3. Radiation doses attributable to the routine discharges of radioactivity from Sellafield contribute very much less than 1 per cent of the average radiation dose in Ireland
4. Over 95 per cent of all radiation exposure in the workplace is due to radon

For more information:

<http://www.rpii.ie/press/pr200805.htm>

### **Chronic disease set to hit profits**

A universal epidemic of chronic disease will need to be tackled immediately or businesses will face increased health and labour costs, writes Theresa Judge in Irish Times.

It warns that over the next 25 years, chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and respiratory illness will reduce available labour supply, savings and investments. The report stresses the need for companies to make the health of employees a core objective.

For more information:

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/health/2008/0805/1217628544664.html>

## **U.K. News**

### **Crown Prosecution Service decides no prosecution over death of ITN's Terry Lloyd in Iraq**

"It is not possible to say who fired the fatal shot which killed ITN journalist Terry Lloyd and so the CPS has advised the police there is insufficient evidence for any prosecution over his death in Iraq", Sue Hemming, head of the Crown Prosecution Service's Counter Terrorism Division, announced recently. She also stated "It is clear from the forensic evidence that Mr. Lloyd received injuries from both Iraqi and American bullets and the forensic evidence suggests that the injury which caused his death was fired from a US weapon.

For more information:

[http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/pressreleases/149\\_08.html](http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/pressreleases/149_08.html)

### **CIPD calls for tax breaks to encourage take-up of occupational health**

Government efforts to get the long-term sick off benefits and back to work risk being undermined by low levels of rehabilitation support in the workplace, according to the

Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD's) Annual Absence Management Survey 2008. CIPD Adviser, Ben Wilmott, said: "The government could make a real difference by providing tax incentives to encourage more employers to occupational health and vocational rehabilitation services. The survey finds nearly four in ten (36%) employers offer no rehabilitation support to help employees make successful and long-lasting returns to work. In the public sector, 84% of employers offer them, this falls to 48% in private sector services, and just 25% in organisations employing fewer than 50 people. It can take more than two months before the employee is referred, by which time chances of a successful return may already have diminished significantly.

For more information:

<http://www.cipd.co.uk/pressoffice/articles/140708AnnualAbsenceSurvey.htm>

### **Rolls Royce PLC fined £120,000 after five workers exposed to hazardous substances**

Between July and October 2005, five agency workers, employed by Rolls Royce plc, suffered skin rashes and chest problems as a result of being exposed to hazardous materials, including potassium fluorosilicate, fume from hot metal cutting, and oxides of sulphur. Rolls Royce plc of Derby was fined £120,000 and ordered to pay £ 12,122.53 costs, at Derby Crown Court for failing to ensure, as far as was reasonably practical, that employees were not exposed to hazardous substances. They worked on the decommissioning of the light alloy foundry which involved the removal of plant and materials and work with hot cutting equipment.

For more information:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2008/hseem722.htm>

### **Garage failed to foresee risk posed by myriad sources of ignition –fined £20,000**

In a repair and service in Twickenham, a garage mechanic was set alight and subsequently died from pneumonia as a result of his injuries. He had been instructed to change part of a car's leaking fuel line, a task that involved the removal of a back wheel. "Petrol should have been removed from the car before it was done," Andrew Withers, HSE inspector said. "There were several highly-foreseeable sources of ignition in the vicinity, and instead of storing petrol in proper containers, it had been drained into an open bucket," he added. The mechanic was found engulfed in flames, although it is not known exactly how he was set alight, as he was alone at the time of the incident.

For more information:

[http://www.shponline.co.uk/article.asp?pagename=incourt&article\\_id=7791](http://www.shponline.co.uk/article.asp?pagename=incourt&article_id=7791)

## **European News**

### **Sweden – Anxiety in men can lead to Diabetes**

Research by experts from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm has shown that anxiety can increase the risk of diabetes in men.

The researchers found that a range of symptoms like anxiety, sleeping disorders which are basically connected to psychological distress can double a man's risk of developing diabetes. The researchers analysed the data collected from 2,127 middle-aged men in Sweden for eight to 10 years. The researchers also studied data collected from 3,100 women.

For more information:

<http://www.topnews.in:80/swedish-study-says-stress-can-make-men-diabetics-255138>

### **Switzerland, Geneva - ILO to emphasize workplace role in HIV prevention**

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is to host a series of events at the 17th International AIDS Conference in Mexico City, which opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, designed to illustrate the growing importance of the workplace in responding to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Of the estimated 33 million people now living with HIV, over 30 million are of working age.

"Workplaces are vitally important for HIV/AIDS information, prevention, non-discrimination and access to treatment," said Dr. Sophia Kisting, Director of ILO/AIDS. "At the same time, we are seeing increasing evidence that the workplace literally 'works' as a vital entry point for a whole range of responses to issues raised by the pandemic."

For more information:

[http://www.ilo.org/global/About\\_the\\_ILO/Media\\_and\\_public\\_information/Press\\_releases/lang-en/WCMS\\_097803/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/About_the_ILO/Media_and_public_information/Press_releases/lang-en/WCMS_097803/index.htm)

## **U.S. News**

### **OSHA Seeks \$8.7 Million Fine against Sugar Company**

Imperial Sugar, the owner of a refinery near Savannah, Atlanta, where 13 workers died in a sugar dust explosion in February, knew of safety hazards at the plant as early as 2002 but did nothing, and should pay more than \$8.7 million for safety violations, the head of OSHA said in July. The fire, which burned for a week, started when sugar dust, which is highly combustible, was ignited in the plant by a large bucket that broke loose in a storage silo and struck a metal siding, causing a spark, according to OSHA's investigation.

For more information:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/26/us/26sugar.html?\\_r=1&sq=Fine%20Against%20Sugar%20Company&st=cse&adxnnl=1&scp=1&adxnnlx=1217250029-fmNnyu9G8aX/riOC0NM5RQ&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/26/us/26sugar.html?_r=1&sq=Fine%20Against%20Sugar%20Company&st=cse&adxnnl=1&scp=1&adxnnlx=1217250029-fmNnyu9G8aX/riOC0NM5RQ&oref=slogin)

### **Convenience stores have one of the highest annual homicide rates in US**

In Houston, Police have begun enforcing new regulations this summer that require convenience stores to register with law enforcement, provide employees with safety training and install equipment like drop safes, panic buttons and cameras. If they do not comply, police can fine them up to \$500. According to OSHA, working in a convenience store has one of the highest

annual homicide rates among retail industries. Houston averages about 1,000 robberies and 10 homicides at such stores annually. There were 12 murders at Houston convenience stores in 2007 and so far in 2008, the police department has recorded at least four murders at convenience stores.

For more information:

<http://www.chron.com:80/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/5921828.html>

## **International News**

### **Australia – Fatigue – prevention in the workplace**

Fatigue affects a person's health, increases the chance of workplace injuries

occurring, and reduces performance and productivity within the workplace.

This publication contains general information for employers and employees (including volunteers) in any job or industry. The guide can also be used by suppliers, importers, manufacturers and independent contractors.

For more information:

[http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/resources/file/eb87fc08b727473/vwa\\_fatigue\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/resources/file/eb87fc08b727473/vwa_fatigue_handbook.pdf)

### **Canada – Destroy the Pests not your health – safe use of Pesticides**

Pesticides are used to kill or control organisms that can cause damage to crops, people or animals. Pesticides used to destroy, or control pests such as insects, weeds, rodents, fungi, bacteria and viruses can be dangerous substances and can pose a threat to people who work with them. Workers may be exposed to pesticides in many ways including and may be at risk

of exposure through their skin, eyes, and mouth and by breathing into the lungs. This document provides handy tips about the safe use of Pesticides – be aware that legislation in Canada may be different to Ireland.

For more information:

<http://www.ccohs.ca/newsletters/hsreport/issues/2008/07/ezone.html?id=18221&link=3#oshanswers>

### **Australia – Apprentice Cabinet Maker killed by MDF sheets**

An employee was killed when he and another employee were holding a stack of medium density fibreboard (MDF) panels while trying to access a panel further back in the stack.

The panels were stacked leaning against a wall of the workshop, unsecured with either racking or strapping. Both employees attempted to balance a stack of nine to ten MDF panels vertically while reaching behind the stack to access another panel. This document also points out the key factors in the case and makes recommendations to prevent it happening again.

For more information:

[http://www.docep.wa.gov.au/WorkSafe/PDF/Safety\\_alerts/2008/08-08\\_Apprentice\\_cab.pdf](http://www.docep.wa.gov.au/WorkSafe/PDF/Safety_alerts/2008/08-08_Apprentice_cab.pdf)

## NISO Update - Events Diary

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

### Noise Measurement Course

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

### Safety Representative Course

Course Length: 3 days; August 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### 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; September 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Risk Assessment & Safety Statement Course

Course Length: 2 days; September 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Manual Handling Instructor & Assessor Course

Course Length: 5 days (3 days on week 1 and 2 days on week 2) September 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### Manual Handling Instructor & Assessor Refresher Course

Course Length: 2 days  
September 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Basic Manual Handling Course

Course Length: Half day  
August 19<sup>th</sup> / September 9<sup>th</sup> / September 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Safe Pass Course

Course Length: 1 day  
August 29<sup>th</sup> / September 12<sup>th</sup> / September 26<sup>th</sup>.

### Occupational First Aid Course

Course Length: 3 days  
August 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> / September 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Occupational First Aid Refresher/Re-Certification Course

Course Length: 1 day  
August 27<sup>th</sup> / September 19<sup>th</sup>

### VDU/DSE Assessors Course

Course Length: 2 days  
September 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>.

### NISO Occupational Safety & Health Certificate

*NISO Training Centre, Ballymount, Dublin 12*  
Commencing October 7<sup>th</sup>

*Cork Institute of Technology*  
Commencing 18 September 2008 for 12 weeks

*Institute of Technology, Tralee*  
Commencing 17 September 2008 for 12 weeks

*Athlone Institute of Technology*  
Commencing 22 September for 12 weeks

*Galway Mayo Institute of Technology*  
Commencing 23 September 2008 for 12 weeks

*Limerick Institute of Technology*  
Commencing 23 September 2008 for 12 weeks

#### *Tullamore*

Commencing 23 September for 12 weeks

#### *Longford*

Commencing 24 September for 12 weeks

#### *Limerick Institute of Technology*

Advanced course: Commencing 7 October 2008 until May 2009

#### *Dundalk Institute of Technology*

Commencing 7 October 2008 for 12 weeks

#### *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](http://www.niso.ie) soon

### First Aid Competition

rescheduled for 27 September 2008 at 09:00  
Location: To be confirmed  
Information on [www.niso.ie](http://www.niso.ie) soon

### NISO Annual Conference, Safety Exhibition & Awards Presentation Dinner, Golf and Pre Conference Dinner

16 & 17 October 2008  
RISKY BUSINESS - YOUR EMPLOYEES HEALTH  
Location: Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co Meath  
Pre Conference Dinner: Special Guest - Jukka Takala

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