

The Lea and Ouse Valleys Safety Association

Formerly the Beds & Herts Occupational Health and Safety Association with the Bedfordshire & Luton Fire Safety Panel

Promoting workplace and community safety in fire, health, security and the environment

Registered Charity No. 286812

Website: www.lovsa.org.uk

LOVSACHAT- July 2011

Dear Members

Welcome to the July newsletter intended to keep you informed of what's happening in the Association. Invoices for the renewal of annual membership subscriptions have been sent out. Please pay these before the beginning of the membership year in October.

Safety News

RIDDOR - New arrangements for online reporting of injuries and incidents

From 12 September 2011, statutory reporting to HSE of work-related injuries and incidents under RIDDOR (the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995) will move to a predominantly on-line system. Businesses will no longer report incidents by post or fax.

HSE also intends to remove the facility to report incidents via email and is currently working with some businesses to explore the impact this may have on electronic Incident Reporting systems that they have in place. Fatal and major injuries and incidents can still be reported to HSE's Incident Contact Centre by telephone, as at present. For more information see: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2011/hse-iccqa.htm>

Legionella Fines and costs totalling nearly £250,000 have been imposed on two firms after workers and members of the public were put at risk of exposure to the potentially fatal water-borne Legionella bacteria.

There was no comprehensive and up-to-date risk assessment in place and neither company had taken reasonable steps to control the potential spread of Legionella by assessing the risk or properly cleaning and maintaining the water cooling system. Employees had not been properly supervised. The management failings by both companies were present over a prolonged period of time.

Red Tape Challenge From 30 June, health and safety regulation became the focus of the Government's Red Tape Challenge, launched by the Prime Minister in April to give people the chance to have their say on regulations that affect their everyday lives. The Challenge is therefore an opportunity for people to directly influence the future of health and safety regulation, to simplify health and safety and to support business growth in Great Britain.

The Government will act on the comments they receive, so it is important that there is a well-informed debate. You can find out more at:

<http://www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/themehome/health-and-safety-spotlight/>

Feeling the Heat - How safe is your barbecue? Barbecues are an important part of summer for millions of people, yet contribute to hundreds of accidents each year, including scalds, severe burns and cuts. Although having a barbecue may be deemed relatively safe by many people, in one year alone, around 1,800 people were admitted to A&E due to a barbecue-related accident.

RoSPA has an extensive range of resources, advice and tips to make sure that you enjoy the barbecue season without ending up in A&E. See: <http://rospaneews.com/EWL-GWNY-2HUALP-6MPGQ-0/c.aspx>

WAIT - (Work At Height access equipment information toolkit) If you don't work at height very often or are unsure about which type of access equipment to use, it's important that you assess the risks

and select the right equipment for the job. WAIT - (Work at height Access equipment Information Toolkit) shows you some possible solutions. See: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/falls/wait/>

MDF Do you work with wood and MDF? Information is available to tell you about the dust risks and how to protect yourself together with a useful video showing how much wood dust you could be breathing when sweeping up.

For wood see: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/woodworking/wooddust.htm>

For MDF see: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/woodworking/faq-mdf.htm>

Watch the video: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/woodworking/wood-dust-exposure.htm#tab2>

Fatal injury statistics 2010/11 New figures show increase in number of workers killed. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has released provisional data for the year April 2010 to March 2011, which shows the number of workers killed was 171 an increase on the previous year, when 147 died - the lowest number on record. The rate of fatal injury is now 0.6 per 100,000 workers, up from 0.5 per 100,000 workers the previous year. See: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2011/hse-fatalstats.htm>

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974: Priorities for enforcement of Section 3 (rev June 2011)

Priorities for enforcement of section 3 HSWA are set out in HSE's priority programmes and HSE's incident selection criteria. HSE will also give priority to areas where there is a high level of risk involved or in the interests of justice, including those of the injured or bereaved.

From 1 April 2011, HSE will follow its Guidance for Field Operations Directorate (and associated situational examples) in responding to (non-construction) public safety incidents where section 3 HSWA applies. See: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/enforce/hswact/priorities.htm>

Asbestos Essentials Asbestos essentials task sheets can be downloaded from the HSE website. A9. Drilling holes in asbestos cement and other highly bonded materials, and many other task sheets are available from: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm>

What happened?

At our **April** meeting we welcomed **Nigel Walker** who spoke to us on behalf of the Suzy Lamplugh Trust on **Personal Safety**. Nigel outlined the benefits of managing personal safety risk to employers.

Communication is the key to the management of safety at work. The perception of risk is much greater than the reality. Any incident in which a person is abused, threatened or assaulted in circumstances related to their work requires a response. Violence is personal, consequently it has a serious effect on the individual and is never acceptable. Verbal abuse can wear people down over a prolonged period.

The Suzy Lamplugh Trust has developed a model for managing personal safety at work. It has communication at its centre. It starts with a formal risk assessment. Gather concerns from the perspective of the staff and management and get feedback from both parties. Look at the core tasks and the sources of risk, take into account People, Environment and Task. The HSE have publications of lone working which can help in developing the risk assessment. From this develop policies, procedures and safer working guidelines. It is no good having policies and procedures if they are not disseminated to all the staff by training and information. Training of lone workers must be recorded. Everyone must know what to do themselves and what colleagues are expected to do to support them. Pro-active strategies should be developed in real life situations including excuses to make an exit in difficult circumstances. Once all is in place it must be monitored to ensure that control measures are working as intended by the use of incident reports and staff questionnaires. Check that policies are followed and find out if there are any issues.

If you are unfortunate enough to have an incident this will require after-care of those involved, investigation of the incident, identification of any weakness in the policy. Management responsibility amounts to improving confidence, relieving stress ensuring any medical attention is received and reporting to the authorities. Managers play a critical role and must be trained to respond correctly. Finally they should make sure that any changes in procedure are rolled out.

In **May**, **Nigel Briggenshaw** from **Cleenwater Ltd.** spoke to us on the subject of **Legionella – what do we need to do?** Legionnaires Disease (and Pontiac fever) is caused by a bacteria *Legionella pneumophila* of which there are 45 serogroups. Serogroup 1 of *L. pneumophila* is the main cause of disease. There are between 200 and 300 cases of Legionella infection reported each year and it can cause death in the elderly of those with compromised immune systems. Infection with Legionella is by inhaling water droplets containing the bacteria, it is not normally transmitted by contact between people, incubation time ranges from 2 to 10 days. The bacteria thrive in warm dirty water systems and become infective by generating a spray or mist which can be inhaled. Legionnaires disease is quite a rare disease and is difficult to catch. The aerosol containing the bacteria must contain droplets of the correct size and concentration to penetrate and deposit in the lungs. The most susceptible are male, over 45 years, a heavy smoker and immunosuppressed.

The favoured temperature for growth is 20-45°C, between 40-50°C they grow slowly and over 60°C they die. They grow best where there are corrosion products – dissolved iron, require oxygen and hide in debris.

Control of Legionella is given in the HSE publication, L8 'The control of legionella bacteria in water systems' Approved Code of Practice and guidance, which has legal standing. Legionella are found in cooling towers, hot and cold water systems, spa's and hot tubs.

Control requires the identifying of high risk areas. For hot water – storage, distribution and temperature at outlet. For cold water – storage, dead legs in the system and showers, especially drench showers which are used infrequently. Hard water generates scale and sludge this can be minimised by use of a water softener. You need to decide what is wrong and what needs to be done. When actions have been completed a log book of actions taken needs to be kept.

Proper control requires a written scheme giving the frequency of sampling and testing. Actions should be taken at monthly, 6 monthly and annually. Shower heads should be cleaned and disinfected quarterly and little used services should be purged. Keep records. The HSE publication, L8 'Legionnaire's Disease - the control of legionella bacteria in water systems' Approved Code of Practice and guidance, L8, is available on the HSE Website.

Our **June** meeting outlined the changes in the **1st amendment of the 17th Edition of the Wiring Regulations** and was given by our Chairman **David Webb** from **NICEIC**. The meeting was well attended, numbers increased by representatives of local Electrical Contractors.

The amended version of the Wiring Regulations has now been published, it has a Green cover to distinguish it from the Red covered 2008 edition. Both editions can be used from 1st July 2011 and 31st December 2011, but only the green covered edition after that. The Wiring Regulations are a Code of Practice so do have weight in a court of law. Regulation numbers ending in 100 are UK only regulations.
Aspects which have not changed.

Domestic vs. Industrial installations. Reg. 411.3.3 Domestic installations need RCD protection but in Industrial installations the requirement for RCD protection depends on the risk assessment. Part P of the building Regs will be overhauled in 2013.

Changes.

444 Means against electromagnetic disturbances. No problem if good practice used, but, run audio, data and power together then problem.

534 Devices for protection of over voltage (surge protection). Type 1, Lightning – power input board. Type 2, Surge arrester. Type 3, On device or appliance.

S710 Medical Locations (Hospitals, Doctors, Dentist, Vet) Group 0, no medical instruments. Group 1, some medical devices. Group 2, vulnerable equipment (much bonding needed), must carry out testing annually – no more than 2Ω.

S729 Operating or maintenance gangways – now have distances specified – 700mm minimum.

Major changes to periodic inspection and reporting.

Electrical conduit orange – now removed

Periodic Inspection Report – now renamed – Electrical Inspection Condition Report.

Changes to Recommendation Codes

C1 – Danger present, Risk of injury – immediate remedial action required.

C2 – Potential Danger – urgent remedial action required

C3 – Improvement Recommended – i.e. doesn't comply

Customer information report form – leave with customer. C1 & C2 codes should be acted on as a matter of urgency.

Inspection Schedules. Take you through the installation looking for various codes. Also make sure polarity is correct at the intake. Many changes in the recording forms – larger, more pages.

What's happening?

The Association is run by the committee for the benefit of its members, we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our meetings, you can be assured of an interesting talk and a chance to network with colleagues. If you have ideas for future topics we might cover please note them on the list provided on the handouts table. Don't forget you can bring colleagues, safety reps or friends who may have an interest.

LOVSA Website Remember that the most up-to-date information on Association news and the meeting programme can be found on our website <http://www.lovsa.org.uk>.

Meeting programme for 2011-12:

All meetings start at 14:00 unless stated otherwise.

2011

- 14th July Cassel Memorial Hall, Lilley. Household and Business Fire and Security Installations - Brian Hogg, CAMS Fire and Security
- 8th September Cassel Memorial Hall, Lilley. Chemical Substances - what is permissible under REACH and ADR without resorting to specialist dangerous goods advice. - Cliff Brookes, Rothamsted Research.
- 13th October Cassel Memorial Hall, Lilley. Confined Spaces. - Adrian Ball, Bee Safe Training
- 10th November Barnfield South Academy, Luton. - AGM and Technical Visit - Ian Hardwick

2012

- 12th January Cassel Memorial Hall, Lilley. Health Surveillance, *Speaker to be confirmed*
- 9th February Cassel Memorial Hall, Lilley. Provision and use of Work Equipment - Workshop Guarding, *Speaker to be confirmed*
- 8th March Cassel Memorial Hall, Lilley. Construction, CDM for Domestic Projects. - Philip Poynter, PP Construction Safety Ltd.

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