



STACS of News

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HSE Health campaign - #Dustbuster

HSE inspectors will be visiting construction sites across Great Britain throughout October to see if businesses have measures in place to protect their workers' lungs from the likes of asbestos, silica and wood dust. They will specifically be looking for evidence of construction workers knowing the risk, planning their work and using the right controls.

Become a #DustBuster and show your support to the campaign by downloading their free selfie cards and sending them your photos via the #DustBuster and #WorkRight hashtags on Twitter at @H_S_E, or on Facebook via @hsegovuk and @SaferSites. They will retweet and repost the best ones so get involved!

HSE investigating supply to schools of metal gauze mats which contain asbestos

The HSE has been made aware that two UK laboratory supply companies have supplied schools and potentially other users with gauze mats which contain asbestos. The metal gauze mats are designed for use over Bunsen burners. HSE has served enforcement notices on both companies.

A HSE spokesperson said:

"Although the risk of exposure is low, we took action as soon as we were informed. HSE Inspectors ensured supply of the asbestos-containing gauze mats stopped immediately. We got the message out as soon as possible and alerted schools, colleges and others to the issue, providing precautionary advice on how to check if they are affected and if so what to do next.

"Our investigation into the circumstances that led to these particular gauze mats coming into circulation is on-going. As part of this, HSE inspectors have served enforcement notices on both companies to ensure that all affected mats are disposed of safely."



Woman trapped under lorry

A charity has been fined after a member of the public lost her leg when she became trapped under a lorry carrying a fairground ride.

Peterborough Magistrates Court heard that a member of the public was struck by a lorry during the set up for a Bonfire Night Event on. She suffered extensive injuries including a crush injury of her right leg which resulted in in amputation above the knee, a degloving injury to her lower abdomen and right leg, with open fractures of the right leg, fractured ribs and a collapsed lung.

An investigation by the HSE found that Cambridge Live failed to put in place suitable controls to prevent members of the public from being struck by large vehicles.

The company failed to organise safe workplace transport whilst setting up for the event, this meant that appropriate controls such as such as temporary barriers were not put in place to segregate vehicles and pedestrians.

Cambridge Live pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and Regulation 3 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999. The charity was fined £30,000 and ordered to pay costs of £6,654.37.

The risk assessment carried out by Cambridge Live prior to the event had identified the risks involved with a collision between pedestrians and large vehicles, but failed to set out suitable measures to prevent this from happening. On this occasion segregation between pedestrians and vehicles could have been achieved by using temporary barriers.

Logistics company fined after death of worker

A logistics company has been fined after a worker died when he was trapped between a trailer and his vehicle.

The court heard how, a Tuffnells Parcels Express Limited employee was fatally injured whilst attempting to attach a trailer to his vehicle. The trailer was parked upon a slight slope, which was enough to allow it to roll forward trapping the employee.

An investigation by the HSE into the incident found safety management arrangements for coupling trailers to vehicles failed to take account of the slope.

Tuffnells Parcels Express Limited pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and has been fined £1.5 million and ordered to pay costs of £32,823.35

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