



News from



Award Health & Safety Ltd

Volume 4 Issue 7

July 2009

Another Award for Award

Award Health & Safety Ltd is pleased to announce that we have now been verified by the United Kingdom Asbestos Training Association (UKATA) for the delivery of our Asbestos Awareness Training Courses.

The process we went through to be a registered member was a rigorous assessment of the training materials by a UKAS verifier and then having our trainer, Chris Ward, present a course in the presence of UKATA verifier, a nerve racking process I am sure you will agree. Chris came through with flying colours and indeed one of the comments from the verifier was "The presenter demonstrated a very good knowledge of Health and Safety Regulations and delivered quality information to the candidates. Hazard and Risk assessment were demonstrated in very good detail. The candidates were given the opportunity to ask questions that were answered by the presenter with good detail."

So all in all a tough process but one which we feel is very worthwhile as it is always a good idea to have someone from outside the organisation to check what we are doing and to act as a 'fresh pair of eyes' as sometimes we can all miss the things that are right under our noses.

As it is a legal requirement for anyone who could come across asbestos during the course of his or her normal working day to have asbestos awareness training then now would be a great time to get in touch with us to find out how we can help you to be compliant with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006.



Miscellaneous – fire protection: Empty premises pose arson risk

As the recession bites and the number of empty buildings inevitably increases, so does the liability of those responsible for these premises if effective measures are not taken to keep them safe and secure.

This is the latest warning from the National Security Inspectorate (NSI), which says owners of unoccupied premises are leaving themselves open to the risk of arson, criminal damage, and even prosecution, should an injury or fatality occur in those premises.



Julian Stanton, a spokesman for the organisation, commented: "Unoccupied premises require a robust risk assessment by an independently-approved contractor, who will be able to recommend and install the most appropriate fire-prevention and security measures. Ensuring your contractor is approved by a recognised approvals body, such as NSI, is the best way to protect against a cowboy installer, and avoid costly mistakes."

For further information, visit www.nsi.org.uk

Firm fined over roof light death

The death of a man who fell 10 metres through a roof light has resulted in a £25,000 fine for CRN Contracts in Birkhead, formerly Concrete Repairs NW.

David Battison was applying anti-corrosion paint to bolts on the corrugated roof of a DIY superstore in Wigan when he fell on 27 May 2005.

He was taken to hospital where he died from his injuries. Manchester Crown Court heard that CRN Contracts hadn't adequately supervised the work. They hadn't used boards to cover the roof lights nor protected the perimeter of the roof, and they had failed to cordon off the area underneath where Battison and his colleague were working to protect members of the public.

CRN Contracts admitted failing to ensure the safety of non-employees, contrary to Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act, and failing to properly plan, supervise and carry out work at height, in breach of Regulation 4 of the Work at Height Regulations.

On 23 July, the company was fined **£25,000** and ordered to pay **£14,086** costs.

Builder left paralysed by fall

Harold Roach fell ten feet through roof joists at a refurbishment site on Gertrude Street in Birkenhead while he was working for Property People (NW) Ltd.

The company, which is based in Bromborough, Wirral, was fined **£92,000** and ordered to pay full costs of **£11,404** at Liverpool Crown Court on 20th July 09 after pleading guilty to two health and safety offences.

Property People admitted contravening Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 by failing to ensure the safety of its employees. **It also pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 3(1) of the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 by failing to report the injury to HSE.**

The court heard that the incident happened on 23 April 2005 while joists were being removed from the ceiling of an archway, and that Property People had failed to provide a safe platform for its employees to use. Mr Roach suffered serious injuries to his back from the fall, resulting in permanent paralysis.

HSE Inspector Ian Betley said The injuries Mr Roach sustained were extremely serious and he will need to use a wheelchair for the rest of his life. Working at height remains the single biggest cause of workplace deaths and one of the main causes of major injury. It should be managed by implementing and enforcing suitable and sufficient control measures.

Companies are required by health and safety legislation to take reasonable measures to ensure the safety of employees and others that may be affected by their work. In this case, a suitable platform should have been used to remove the joints from below, rather than from above. Had such steps been taken, this incident could have been avoided.



The tragic outcome of this incident, and the subsequent fine, must act as a reminder that the results can be serious for businesses that fail to comply with the legislation.

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Health warning after workers catch legionnaires disease

A Wakefield-based butchery processing company Kepak UK Ltd, has been prosecuted after two employees caught the disease at premises in Bamber Bridge, near Preston.

The company was fined **£25,000** and ordered to pay **£20,000** in costs at Preston Crown Court on Monday 27 July. Kepak pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 by failing to protect its employees from the risk of contracting Legionnaires disease.

Following notification of the two cases, an outbreak committee was formed made up of HSE, South Ribble Borough Council Environmental Health Department, Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust, the Health Protection Unit and Lancashire Teaching Hospitals.

Water samples were taken throughout the building and significant levels of legionella were found to be present at three locations: a pressure washer hose point, an apron wash shower point, and a pressure washer header tank. The tank was fed by hot and cold water and supplied water to three pressure washer hose points in and around the process area. Employees used the pressure washer system to clean away meat and fat debris in the various processing areas as and when required. While the investigation was taking place, Kepak closed the Bamber Bridge site and the domestic water system was drained, pumped through, chlorinated and disinfected. Kepak has subsequently not reopened the site, which was one of two the company operated in the Preston area.

Myth of the month

Myth: All office equipment must be tested by a qualified electrician

The reality

No. The law requires employers to assess risks and take appropriate action.

HSE's advice is that for most office electrical equipment, visual checks for obvious signs of damage and perhaps simple tests by a competent member of staff are quite sufficient.

