



Safetyform Monthly Newsletter - July 2021

Welcome to the latest edition of the Safetyform monthly newsletter, bringing you up to date with all the latest construction health & safety news.

In This Issue

Safety Alerts

- *DSE Safety*
 - *Men's Health Week 2021*
-

Safetyform news

- *CDM Advisors for huge new Lidl project*
-

What's in the News

- *COVID spot checks and inspections continue as lifting of restrictions are delayed*

- *Construction company fined after employee sustains life changing injuries in roof fall*
 - *Construction company fined after worker seriously injured by a mitre saw*
 - *Construction company fined after an employee dies after being run over by a dumper truck*
 - *Gas installer prosecuted for illegal gas work*
 - *Director fined after young worker injured in fall from height*
 - *Construction company fined after excavation collapse*
-

DSE Safety



Everyone who uses use display screen equipment (DSE) such as computers, laptops or tablets as part of their normal work must take short regular breaks. It will protect yourself from the risk of eye strain and musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). Incorrect use of DSE or poorly designed workstations or work environments can lead to pain in necks, shoulders, backs, arms, wrists and hands as well as fatigue and eye strain. The causes may not always be obvious.

Safetyform offer a fantastic DSE eLearning course as part of our suite. For more information visit: <https://safetyform.co.uk/service/training/>

Men's Health Week 2021

MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

Earlier this month was Men's Health Week, which is a time to bring awareness to health issues that affect men disproportionately and focuses on getting men to become aware of problems they may have or could develop, and gain the courage to do something about it.

This year's campaign is centered around Mental Health, and how important it is that men feel comfortable speaking up about their mental health and accepting support where it's available.

Men's Mental Health Facts (UK):

- Just over three out of four suicides (76%) are by men and suicide is the biggest cause of death for men under 35 (Reference: ONS)
- 12.5% of men in the UK are suffering from one of the common mental health disorders
- Men are nearly three times more likely than women to become alcohol dependent (8.7% of men are alcohol dependent compared to 3.3% of women – Health and Social Care Information Centre)
- Men are less likely to access psychological therapies than women.

It can be difficult to encourage our male loved ones to open up and talk about their mental health, due to societal expectations about how men "should" behave and what masculinity is. Some men feel that they must continue to display what have traditionally been perceived as masculine traits like strength, stoicism, dominance, and control.

If you are concerned about somebody, please contact a professional such as the organisations above for advice on how to approach the conversation about their mental health.

Together, we can beat the stigma around mental health and work towards a happier and healthier community.

CDM Advisors for huge new Lidl project



A giant new bottling plant which will supply soft drinks to Lidl is to be built in Derbyshire with work starting in a matter of months, and Safetyform are delighted to be involved as CDM Advisors on this exciting project.

It will be constructed on a 30-acre plot of farmland to the north of the existing buildings on the business park, which is just off the A50.

What's in the News?

COVID spot checks and inspections continue as lifting of restrictions are delayed

The UK Government has delayed the full lifting of COVID restrictions in England by four weeks, at Step 3 of the roadmap. This comes amid rising infection rates as the new Delta COVID variant spreads.

After two weeks, the government will review the data to see if the risks have reduced. It is expected that England will move to Step 4 on 19 July.

The [Scottish](#) and [Welsh](#) Governments are reviewing their planning for the lifting of restrictions, which may also be delayed.

Businesses need to continue to have COVID-secure measures in place that are in line with the latest Government guidance. The latest [GOV.UK guidance](#) includes guidance on going to work. You should continue to work from home if you can. There is also information if you are in an area where a new [COVID-19 variant](#) is spreading

It's vital at this stage that businesses don't become complacent and continue to have measures in place to manage the risk from Coronavirus and ensure workers are following them.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is working with local authorities to carry out spot checks and inspections on businesses. These are taking place in all areas, to check that businesses have COVID-secure measures in place to keep workers, visitors and customers safe.

What happens during spot checks and inspections?

HSE calls and visits businesses to check the COVID-secure measures they have in place and provides guidance and advice if required. Where businesses aren't managing the risk, action will be taken. This can range from the provision of specific advice, issuing enforcement notices and stopping certain work practices until they are made safe. Where businesses fail to comply, this could lead to prosecution.

Angela Storey, Director of Transformation and Operational Services at HSE, said: "The UK government has confirmed a four-week delay to the lifting of restrictions, as the Delta strain of Covid-19 becomes the dominant variant in England, with infection numbers rising across Britain.

"Whilst we recognise that this news will come as a disappointment to a number of businesses, especially those in the hospitality sector, businesses must continue to have measures in place to manage the risks, to help protect the health of local communities as well as to support the local and national UK economy.

We will also continue to work with local authorities, checking that businesses have COVID-secure measures in place, and providing guidance and advice where needed.

As we continue to carry out spot checks and inspections our support of cross-government work remains. We are committed to helping employers and employees as they work through the pandemic."

"All workplaces are in scope for spot checks which means businesses of any size, in any sector can receive an unannounced call or visit to check they are COVID-secure."

Construction company fined after employee sustains life changing injuries in roof fall



A construction company based in Chesterfield has been fined after a subcontractor hired to complete work on a roof fell from the roof joists to the concrete floor below, sustaining life changing injuries.

Nottingham Magistrates' Court heard that, on 19 June 2019, Bobby Oldham Construction Limited (BOCL) were contracted to complete work on a domestic extension at Mona Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham. The work was to complete an extension to the rear of the property, which contained a

skylight and wooden joists. Work had progressed to the point where roof joists were being attached. The joists were accessed using a ladder, which then led to an unprotected trestle platform. The subcontractor was sat astride one of the joists when it gave way causing him to fall. He landed on the concrete floor below sustaining serious injuries including brain trauma and a broken neck.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that had the company properly considered the risks associated with this type of work, and planned the work at height more carefully the incident could have been easily avoided. The trestle platforms were missing suitable edge protection, and there was an absence of other suitable fall mitigation measures such as airbags. The work was not supervised, which would have identified the unsafe working methods, which could then be challenged by the company.

Bobby Oldham Construction Limited (BOCL) of Market Street, Staveley, Chesterfield, Derbyshire pleaded guilty of breaching Regulation 4(1) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005. They were fined £8,000 and ordered to pay costs of £3,515.

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Phill Gratton said: "This was a tragic and wholly avoidable incident, caused by the failure of the host company to implement safe systems of work, and failure to ensure that work at height was properly planned and appropriately supervised."

"This risk was further amplified by the company's failure to undertake a number of simple safety measures including conducting pre-start checks on the training of workers, planning work to ensure that working methods were safe, and supervision to ensure that dangerous working methods could be observed and challenged."

Foundry fined after workers exposed to lead dust

John Taylor Bell Foundry (Loughborough) Ltd was sentenced for safety breaches after workers were exposed to harmful lead dust during the repair and refurbishment of church bells at St Peter's church in Barton-Upon-Humber.

Grimsby Magistrates' Court heard that, part of the planned maintenance project on 20 March 2019 involved stripping off rust and old paint from the metal bell frame and fittings. After work had already been underway for some time, the old paint was confirmed to contain lead.

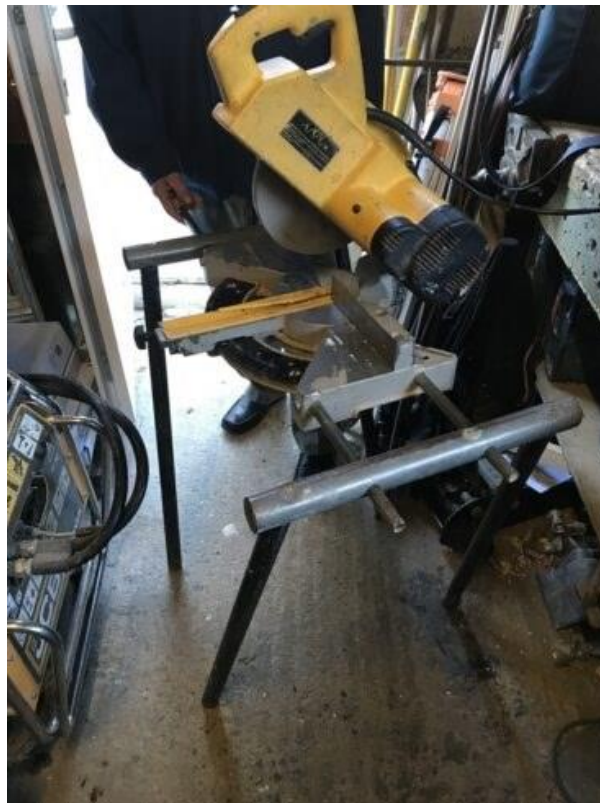
An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the workers who had been stripping the paint had been exposed to harmful lead dust because they had been using power tools (which generate excess levels of dust). The company did not have proper cleaning techniques and personal protective equipment (PPE) in place.

John Taylor Bell Foundry (Loughborough) Ltd of The Bell Foundry Freehold Street Loughborough pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 5(1), of the Control of Lead at Work Regulations 2002. The company has been fined £13,333 and ordered to pay £6,469.90 in costs.

After the hearing HSE inspector, Jennifer Elsgood, commented: "The company's procedures for identifying lead, protecting workers from lead exposure during works and providing information and instructions to workers regarding lead were inadequate and resulted in a real risk to the health of those workers."

“This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices.”

Construction company fined after worker seriously injured by a mitre saw



A construction company has been fined after a worker's hand was severed by an inadequately guarded mitre saw on a construction site in Bolney, Sussex.

Lewes Magistrates' Court heard that, on the 9 January 2019, a worker installing skirting board in a new build house was using a powered mitre saw to cut material to length. The guard of the saw had been propped up, meaning the full front of the sawblade was exposed. During the works, the mitre saw fell forward on to a worker's right-hand causing part of their hand to be severed. This was re-attached in surgery, although he has not regained full use of it.

An investigation by the Health and Safety (HSE), found that there was a systematic failure to ensure the mitre saw was properly guarded, and there was insufficient supervision on site.

Borrowdale Construction Homes Limited of Lancaster House Sopwith Crescent, Hurricane Way Wickford, Essex pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work Etc Act 1974. They were fined £21,000 and ordered to pay costs of £11,567.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Leah Sullivan said: "This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply ensuring that the correct control measures were in place and that safe working practices were being followed."

“Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards.”

Construction company fined after an employee dies after being run over by a dumper truck



BAM Nuttall Limited has been fined after an employee was run over by a dumper vehicle.

Inverness Sheriff Court heard that on 28 October 2016, at Blackhillock Substation, Keith, then under construction, Mr John Cameron was changing over a blade on a piece of work equipment at the side of a roadway when he was run over by a six-tonne dumper truck. Mr Cameron sustained serious pelvic injuries and died as a result.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Bam Nuttall Limited failed to adequately assess the risks to their employees whilst they were repairing and replacing equipment. They failed to provide a system of work in relation to this task which defined a place or places where such work could be carried out safely and which segregated people from vehicles.

BAM Nuttall Limited of St James House, Knoll Road, Camberley, Surrey, pleaded guilty to breaching Sections 2 and 33(1)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £700,000.

After the hearing, HSE inspector, Penny Falconer said: “This tragic incident led to the avoidable death of a man.”

“This death could easily have been prevented if his employer had acted to identify and manage the risks involved, and to put a safe system of work in place.”

Gas installer prosecuted for illegal gas work

A gas installer has been fined after carrying out gas work whilst falsely claiming to be gas safe registered.

Manchester Magistrates’ Court heard how, between 1 October 2018 and the 25 November 2018, Mr Paul Chappells carried out gas work at two domestic properties in Hyde and Poynton but did not hold the necessary registration to complete this work. Mr Chappells replaced a gas fire and capped

off the supply at the property in Poynton and replaced a boiler at the property in Hyde. The work on the boiler was later found to be of a poor standard and was identified as “at risk” by a Gas Safe Inspector.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Mr Chappells was not registered with Gas Safe at the time the work was undertaken at both properties, despite advertising as gas safe registered on his social media account resulting in him illegally carrying out the gas work.

Mr Paul Chappells of Withington, Manchester, pleaded guilty to breaching regulation 3(7), 26(1) and two counts of regulation 3(3) of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998. He was sentenced to a community order of 250 hours unpaid work of eighteen months duration, fifteen rehabilitation activity days and ordered to pay costs of £1,000.

HSE inspector Lorna Sherlock said after the hearing: “Paul Chappells undertook gas work which he knew he was not registered to do. Householders should check that the engineer carrying out gas work in their home is registered with Gas Safe.

“All gas work must be done by registered Gas Safe engineers to ensure the highest standards are met to prevent injury and loss of life.”

Director fined after young worker injured in fall from height



Wayne McKnight (trading as RJE Construction) has been fined for safety breaches after a 17-year-old worker fell from a mezzanine floor to the ground below.

Sheffield Magistrates’ Court heard that, on 28th February 2019, the worker and two others were building the mezzanine floor at a site in Neepsend Lane, Sheffield. The injured person stepped on a loose board and fell 2.8 metres to the ground below, sustaining cuts and bruises.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that safety nets had not been put in place before boarding commenced. No other fall from height protection was present to prevent or mitigate falls through the mezzanine floor.

Wayne McKnight (trading as RJE Construction) Park Crescent, Sunning Dale, Ascot Berkshire pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 6(3) of the Work at Height Regulations 2015. Mr McKnight has been fined £500 and ordered to pay costs of £1,300

After the hearing, HSE inspector Sarah Robinson commented: “Falls from height often result in life-changing or fatal injuries, which thankfully did not eventuate here. In most cases, these incidents are needless and could be prevented by properly planning the work to ensure that effective preventative and protective measures are in place.

“This incident could have easily been prevented if the company had installed safety nets prior to work starting on the mezzanine.”

Construction company fined after excavation collapse



Harlands Builders Limited has been fined for safety breaches after a ground worker was trapped having entered a two-metre-deep excavation.

Bridlington Magistrates’ Court heard that on 26 June 2019, the company was undertaking groundworks at West Farm Stone, Creek Sunk Island, East Riding. The worker had entered an excavation in order to measure the depth when part of it collapsed on him.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the excavation had three sheer unsupported sides and was not battered back. The worker was trapped by the collapse and sustained a broken tibia and fibula on his left leg. Other workers were also put at risk as they went into the excavation to free the trapped man.

Harlands Builders Limited of Medina House, Station Avenue Bridlington, East Yorkshire pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 22 (1) of the Construction Design Management Regulations 2015. The company has been fined £12,000 and ordered to pay costs of £1,139.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Sarah Robinson, said: “The excavation should have been supported or battered back, and no individuals should have been asked to go into the excavation whilst it was unsafe.

“This incident could have led to the death of the worker. The case highlights the importance of identifying and following any risk assessment that was set in place.”

Contact Us

Safetyform

Britannia House

Caerphilly Business Park

Caerphilly

CF83 3GG

T: 02922 677 182

E: info@safetyform.co.uk

W: www.safetyform.co.uk
