

McCain Foods fined £800k

McCain Foods (GB) Ltd has been fined £800,000 for safety failings after an employee nearly lost his arm.

Peterborough Crown Court heard how a 34-year-old employee was attempting to check the condition of the head roller on a bypass conveyor. While doing this his arm became entangled in the machinery and his arm was almost severed. Although his arm was saved, he now has limited movement in his hand.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) into the incident, which occurred on the 21 August 2014, found that the conveyor did not have the correct guards fitted. A risk assessment of the machine by the company failed to recognise the danger.

The company pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 11(1) of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 and Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, and was fined £800,000 with costs of £12,831.51.



Worker loses life after fall from roof

A Birmingham maintenance company has been fined after a worker died as a result of falling from the roof of a five-storey building.

Birmingham Crown Court heard how H20 Plumbing Services Limited were contracted to carry out repairs to two motor rooms situated on the roof of a building on Hagley Road, Birmingham.

Two workers set up a station immediately outside of a protected area in which to mix some mortar due to lack of space. The mixing station consisted of a tarpaulin sheet placed on top of the roof with a plasterer's bath placed on top. The corners of the tarpaulin sheet were weighted down with bags of rubble.

At the end of the working day, the employees were cleaning up and as they moved the mixing bath, the sheet of tarpaulin blew open due to the wind and landed over the edge of the building. As one of the workers attempted to retrieve the sheet he stepped off the side of the building, falling 14 metres, suffering fatal injuries.

An investigation by the HSE found that H20 Plumbing Services Limited failed to ensure the safety of its employees during the external repair work.

After the incident, HSE Inspector Amy Kalay commented: "This incident was obviously foreseeable. The employees of H20 working at the site were effectively left to their own devices with equipment and a system that was not wholly suited for the task at hand.

H20 Plumbing Services Limited pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and was fined £100,000 and ordered to pay costs of £25,000.

IOSH Managing safely online course



Key features:

- The industry-standard health and safety course for managers and supervisors in the UK
- Meets the latest IOSH Managing safely syllabus (version 4.0) – fully approved by IOSH
- Course is fully online, including the exam and project, so no need to attend a training centre or pay the associated overheads
- Interactive content will keep you engaged
- Works on PC, tablet or mobile

Prices:

- 1 to 4 students £175 +VAT per licence
- 5 to 9 students £165 +VAT per licence
- 10 to 49 students £145 +VAT per licence
- 50+ students £125 +VAT per licence

You will learn:

- The reasons for managing safely
- What risk is
- How to conduct risk assessments
- How to control risks effectively
- Basic legal responsibilities of managers and supervisors
- How health and safety law works
- Key parts of a health and safety management system
- Common hazards encountered in the workplace and how to control the risks they present
- How to report and investigate incidents
- How to measure health and safety performance
- How to prevent pollution and waste
- The key parts of an environmental management system

More info:

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Company fined after worker falls through skylight

A roofing company has been fined after an employee fell through a skylight whilst replacing them within a fragile roof. The worker suffered a badly broken wrist.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) into the incident which occurred on 24 April 2015 found that the company failed to implement effective control measures, and the work was not carried out safely

AES (Roofing Contractors) Limited pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4(1) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005, and was fined £66,000 and ordered to pay costs of £1,825.

HSE inspector Edward Fryer said after the hearing: "The company fell far below the expected standard.

"Edge protection was not installed at the perimeter of the roof and should have been. The arrangements for preventing falls through the fragile roof relied solely on inadequately specified personal fall protection equipment. If collective protection, such as nets and guardrails, had been provided the risk of a fall would have been greatly reduced for all the employees working on the roof."



Travis Perkins fined £2m

Travis Perkins, a builders' retailer, has been fined £2 million after the death of a customer in Milton Keynes.

Mark John Pointer was crushed by a company vehicle at Travis Perkins Trading Company Limited in Old Wolverton in November 2012. Mr Pointer, 44, was loading planks of wood onto the roof rack of his Land Rover when he fell backwards onto the yard surface.

He was then run over by a company vehicle operating in the yard. Mr Pointer died from crushing injuries.

Travis Perkins pleaded guilty to two offences under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The company initially denied the causal link between the offences and the death but subsequently conceded that point.

Travis Perkins appeared at Amersham Crown Court and was fined £2 million and ordered to pay prosecution costs of £114,812.76.





More info:

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Working at height online course



Key features:

- For anyone that works at height, or is responsible for people that work at height
- Explains the dangers associated with heights and the practical steps that should be taken to manage the risk it presents
- Also covers key legal requirements, risk assessment and the issues associated with commonly used access equipment
- Works on PC, tablet or mobile

Prices:

- 1 to 4 students £15.00 +VAT per licence
- 5 to 9 students £12.50 +VAT per licence
- 10 to 49 students £10.00 +VAT per licence
- 50+ students £7.50 +VAT per licence

Ladder safety online course



Key features:

- For anyone that uses ladders, or is responsible for people that use ladders
- Explains the dangers associated with the range of ladders and the practical steps that should be taken to manage the risk they present
- Also covers ladder components, the key legal requirements, risk assessment and basic ladder inspection and maintenance
- Works on PC, tablet or mobile

Prices:

- 1 to 4 students £15.00 +VAT per licence
- 5 to 9 students £12.50 +VAT per licence
- 10 to 49 students £10.00 +VAT per licence
- 50+ students £7.50 +VAT per licence

British Telecommunications PLC fined £600,000 after workers injured

British Telecommunications PLC has been fined after two of its employees were seriously injured in falls from height while working in a telephone exchange.

One of the engineers was installing a cable through a hole on the first floor along a ceiling level cable tray to the Main Distribution Frame (MDF) on the ground floor. In order to carry out this work he was working on a stepladder in amongst the lighting system. He felt a pain in his right arm and fell from the step ladder. He was taken to hospital with head and back injuries.

The accident was not properly investigated and later that day the work was allowed to continue. The second engineer continued with the work from a different ladder. However he too fell to the ground and was taken to hospital with serious skull and back injuries.

A year after the accident, the first engineer returned to work for BT. However he had lost his sense of smell and taste and required physiotherapy for a number of years. The second engineer received serious multiple fractures of the skull and spine, his sense of smell and taste had been affected, he was blinded in one eye, and has long term memory problems.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) into both incidents found that the work had not been properly assessed or planned, despite workers being exposed to such serious risks as working at height close to an electrical system. Serious failings were also found within the electrical lighting system in that area, where workers were exposed to live metal parts, some at 240 volts. The system was poorly constructed and had not been properly maintained or tested. It is most likely that both engineers received electric shocks which threw them from the ladders.

British Telecommunication PLC, of Newgate Street, London, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and was fined £600,000 and ordered to pay costs of £60,000.

BUPA Care Homes fined £400,000 over bedrail failures

BUPA Care Homes (CFC Homes) Ltd has been fined over the inappropriate management of bedrails at one of its care homes.

The HSE told the court that at Beacon Edge Specialist Nursing Home in Penrith, CFC Homes Ltd failed to ensure it managed the risk of bedrails through appropriate assessment and review of bedrail arrangements, and failed to train staff in the assessment of and safe use of bedrails.

The use of bedrails is common in care homes to help prevent vulnerable residents from falling from bed, but they should to be used appropriately, and staff must be trained in both their use and the process of assessment to identify suitable measures to protect individual patients from falls.

The court was told the company had a policy on bedrail management but it was not fully implemented as staff were not trained and assessments not conducted or reviewed when required.

The case related to the management of bedrails in relation to a vulnerable resident who died at the home. The company failed to ensure the patient's bedrail assessment was suitable and sufficient, reviewed following falls and deterioration in health and that staff were trained in bedrail risk assessment.

The reviews of the bedrail assessment should have identified further measures to prevent the risk of falls, but staff that carried out the initial assessment and reviews were not adequately trained. Furthermore, measures identified to protect the resident where not implemented correctly and increased checks on the resident were not carried out as instructed by a medical professional.

At the hearing CFC Homes Ltd admitted breaching Section 3 (1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974; Regulation 9 of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998. CFC Homes Ltd was fined £400,000 with £15,206 costs.

Asbestos awareness for designers online course



Key features:

- Meets the category A training requirements for asbestos awareness in the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012
- For designers, architects and anyone that needs a more in-depth understanding of the risks associated with asbestos
- Independently audited and approved by the IATP
- Works on PC or tablet

Prices:

- 1 to 4 students £15.00 +VAT per licence
- 5 to 9 students £12.50 +VAT per licence
- 10 to 49 students £10.00 +VAT per licence
- 50+ students £7.50 +VAT per licence

Asbestos awareness (cat A) online course



Key features:

- Meets the category A training requirements for asbestos awareness in the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012
- For managers, supervisors and trades people that could be exposed to asbestos, so that they can avoid the risks it presents
- Independently audited and approved by the IATP
- Works on PC or tablet

Prices:

- 1 to 4 students £15.00 +VAT per licence
- 5 to 9 students £12.50 +VAT per licence
- 10 to 49 students £10.00 +VAT per licence
- 50+ students £7.50 +VAT per licence

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Crane collapse in central London

This month a crane collapsed in Charlotte Street, central London.

There were no reported injuries.



Blacklisting' victory sees £10M pay-out

The biggest 'blacklisting' scandal in UK construction industry history has seen the court case end in victory for 256 workers, now set to receive more than £10 million in compensation.

Unite, the country's biggest union, said today (9 May) that the pay-outs could range from £25,000 up to £200,000 per claimant, depending on such factors as the loss of income and the seriousness of the defamation.

This brings to an end a long battle between workers and construction firms over 'blacklisting' which included details of worker's political views, competence, and trade union activities. The list had been used by dozens of construction firms to vet those applying for work on building sites.

Unite's determined legal stance last week resulted in a further £4 million for 97 of the 256 claimants, whose original compensation offers the union deemed inadequate. This brought the total compensation package to £10,435,000. Last month, the GMB and Ucat unions and a law firm reached a separate settlement with construction companies.

60ft bridge collapse beside Manchester Ship Canal

Investigations are continuing following the collapse of the deck of a major vertical lifting bridge beside the Manchester Ship Canal, which fell suddenly from four supporting concrete towers during construction.

The huge concrete platform, next to the Barton Bridge on the M60, which is part of a new lifting bridge beside the canal, fell around 60 feet to the ground. No one is reported as being injured.



Pipe manufacturing company fined for safety failings

A pipe manufacturing company based in Newport has been fined for safety failings after seven reported cases of Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) or Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (CTS) between April 2014 and July 2015. The court heard that employees of Asset International Limited used vibrating tools without proper training or practical controls to reduce vibration risk.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found no sufficient risk assessment or health surveillance had been carried out.

Asset International Limited, of Stevenson Street, Newport, was fined a total of £200,000 and ordered to pay costs of £27,724 after pleading guilty to offences under Regulations 5,6,7, and 8 of the Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005.

HSE inspector Joanne Carter said after the hearing: "The serious and irreversible risks from Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome caused by work with vibrating tools are well known and guidance has been in place since the early 1990s. This case shows there is no excuse for not putting in place a management system which includes risk assessment, control measures, health surveillance and information and training to reduce these risks to as low a level as is reasonably practicable."



Roofing contractor fined

A Cambridgeshire based roofing contractor has been fined for safety failings which put three workers at risk.

Work on the roof was stopped by the client after they were informed by the HSE of unsafe working methods following a site visit. The HSE found that workers were being put at risk by working on the fragile

roof without adequate controls and using inappropriate equipment. The company had failed to adequately plan, manage and supervise the work.

The company pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 13(2) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007, and Regulation 9 (2) of the Work at

Height Regulation 2005. It was fined £2,500 and ordered to pay costs of £1,459.

HSE inspector Rauf Ahmed said after the hearing: "Work on fragile asbestos cement sheet roofs is a high risk activity with a history of fatal injuries. Workers are at risk of falling through the roof or from open edges if protections are not in place."



Health and safety myth busters from the HSE

[Supermarket cafe refused to sell customer a packet of untoasted fruit bread](#)

Supermarket cafe refused to sell customer a packet of fruit bread for health and safety reasons as he didn't want it toasted before taking it home.

Panel opinion

There is nothing in health and safety at work legislation that prevents the sale of fruit bread nor should there have been a food labelling issue here. It is a pity that a "health and safety" excuse was used to refuse such a simple request. This appears to be a case of poor staff training resulting in a very disappointed customer.

[A gym reduced it's 24/7 opening hours, closing overnight for health and safety reasons](#)

A gym reduced it's 24/7 opening hours, closing overnight for health and safety reasons.

Panel opinion

Whilst there may be some additional health and safety considerations in operating the gym 24/7, they are all easily manageable as thousands of businesses demonstrate in providing round the clock opening. This facility chose to trump all of the other reasons behind their decision to curtail their opening hours with the health and safety card when they should have had the courage to reveal their full hand.

[Council banned refuse collection workers from wearing Christmas hats](#)

Refuse collection workers in Colchester have been banned from wearing Christmas hats or anything Christmassy on the grounds of health and safety. The council have stated drivers and other road users could be distracted.

Panel opinion

There is no health and safety legislation that prevents refuse collectors wearing Santa hats or entering the festive spirit with other modest decorations. Excessive displays which might impede the driver's vision or cause a distraction are another matter, but that doesn't seem to be the case here. Being sensible about health and safety can still allow everyone to have some fun too!



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