



## New global climate deal struck in Glasgow at COP26



UK / UN

### UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE UK 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

A new global agreement - the Glasgow Climate Pact - was reached at the COP26 summit.

The agreement, although not legally binding, will set the global agenda on climate change for the next decade.

COP stands for "Conference of the Parties", and the one in Glasgow was the 26th annual summit. Ahead of it, 200 countries were asked for their plans to cut emissions by 2030. The goal is to keep cutting emissions until they reach net zero by mid-century.

COP26 gave countries the opportunity to revisit climate pledges made under the 2015 Paris Agreement, where they were asked to make changes to keep global warming "well below" 2C - and to try to aim for 1.5C.

The key outcomes were:

- **On emissions** - countries agreed to meet next year to pledge further cuts to emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). This is to try to keep temperature rises within 1.5C. Current pledges, if met, will only limit global warming to about 2.4C.
- **On coal** - there was an explicit plan to reduce use of coal, which is responsible for 40% of annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. But countries only agreed a weaker commitment to "phase down" rather than "phase out" coal, following a late intervention by China and India.
- **On developing countries** - The agreement pledged to increase money to help poor countries cope with the effects of climate change and help them make the switch to clean energy.
- **On fossil fuel subsidies** – countries agreed to phase-out subsidies that artificially lower the price of coal, oil, or natural gas. But it should be noted that no firm dates were set.
- **On trees** - more than 100 countries, with about 85% of the world's forests, promised to stop deforestation by 2030. This was seen as vital given that trees absorb vast amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- **On methane** – more than 100 countries agreed a scheme to cut 30% of methane emissions by 2030. Methane is currently responsible for a third of human-generated warming. But large emitters China, Russia and India have not joined the scheme.
- **On money** - financial organisations controlling \$130tn agreed to back "clean" technology, such as renewable energy, and direct finance away from fossil fuel-burning industries. The initiative is an attempt to involve private companies in meeting net zero targets.

The full outcomes from COP26 can be viewed at:

<https://ukcop26.org/>

Most commitments made at COP26 will be self-policed, with only a few countries making their pledges legally binding.

There was a surprise announcement of a US-China agreement. The two countries are the world's biggest CO<sub>2</sub> emitters. Together they pledged to cooperate more over the next decade in areas including methane emissions and the switch to clean energy.

Next year's COP27 summit will be in Egypt.

## HAVS failings led to £246k fine

A company that manufactures and sells medical devices for the healthcare industry has been fined for failing to adequately control the risk to its employees from exposure to vibration when using vibrating tools.

Newport Magistrates' Court heard that employees of Frontier Plastics Ltd worked for long periods of time using vibrating tools without suitable controls to reduce the risks. As a result, two employees are suffering ill-health from hand arm vibration.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that before August 2019 the company, failed to; adequately assess the risks of using vibrating tools, put in place measures to control the risk, provide suitable information, instruction and training on the risks to employees and place the employees under suitable health surveillance to monitor their condition.

Frontier Plastics Limited, a subsidiary of Verna Group International Limited, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and has been fined £246,000 and ordered to pay costs of £15,788.

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Sian Donne said: "This was a case of the company completely failing to grasp the importance of managing exposure to vibration. HAVS is a serious, disabling and permanent condition. If the company had put in place suitable controls to reduce exposure and health surveillance to monitor workers' health, then the employees' condition would not have developed to a severe and life altering stage."

## Person killed in a holiday let

A company and an individual have been fined following an incident where one of the occupants of a holiday cottage was found collapsed in a bathroom heated by a portable cabinet propane gas heater.

Forfar Sheriff Court heard that on 28 October 2015, the victim was staying with his girlfriend and her family. They were renting the cottage from the individual, who in turn rented the property from Burghill Farms. The victim was in the bathroom, which was heated by the gas heater. His girlfriend and her family became concerned when he did not appear after an hour. They knocked on the bathroom door and forced entry when they did not receive a response. He was found collapsed next to the bathroom door and later died. A post-mortem confirmed the cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Burghill Farms and the individual did not have a suitable and sufficient system of maintenance in place for the cabinet heaters and the cabinet heaters were placed in rooms which were too small for the heaters to be used safely due to a lack of suitable ventilation.

Burghill Farms pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 36(2)(a) of The Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 and Section 33(1)(c) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £120,000.

The individual pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 35 of The Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998, and Section 33(1)(c) the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. He was fined £2,000.

## Worker sustains serious burn injuries

A company has been fined after a worker suffered serious injuries following an explosion at its factory.

Chelmsford Magistrates' Court heard how, on the 24 September 2019, employees at Fabric Flare Solutions Limited were treating fabrics with a hydrophobic coating that gave off flammable vapours both during the application process and when subsequently drying in the spray room. The flammable vapours ignited causing an explosion just as a 51-year-old employee was walking past the spray room. The blast threw him several metres across the factory and he suffered serious burn injuries to 15 per cent of his body.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Fabric Flare Solutions Ltd failed to ensure the safety of its employees by not eliminating several sources of ignition in the spray room, including liquid petroleum gas space heaters, domestic light fittings, and other electrical equipment. The company had ignored the clear instruction on the safety data sheet for the substance to be kept away from sources of heat, hot surfaces, sparks, open flames, and other ignition sources.

Fabric Flare Solutions Ltd pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. The company was fined £26,000 and ordered to pay costs of £7,196.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Tim Underwood said: "Employers who handle, store or use flammable substances must consider the potential risk of fire and explosion and ensure they have robust procedures in place to assess and control risk at all times."

## Landlord prosecuted for gas breaches

A landlord has been fined and sentenced to a 12-month community order for failing to maintain gas appliances at a rental property.

Colchester Magistrates' Court heard how the landlord failed in her duty to have the gas appliances at her rental property in Tendring, Essex, regularly inspected and maintained and failed to provide a Landlord Gas Safety Record, all of which are legal requirements.

She also failed to comply with an Improvement Notice issued by an HSE inspector which required her to take action to deal with these issues.

The landlord from Loughborough, pleaded guilty to breaching the Gas Safety Installation and Use Regulations 1998, Regulation 36(3)(a), Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, Section 21 and Section 20(2)(j).

She was sentenced to a 12-month community order and 100 hours of unpaid work. She also was ordered to pay costs of £3,292.05 and a victim surcharge of £85.

After the hearing HSE inspector Carla Barron said: "Landlords must ensure gas appliances at their tenanted properties are maintained in a safe condition and are checked by a Gas Safe Register engineer at least every 12 months. "HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards."



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## Galvanizing company prosecuted

Hereford Galvanizers Limited, a company that undertakes hot dip galvanizing for the corrosion protection of steelwork, has been fined after an employee was fatally injured.

Kidderminster Magistrates' Court heard that on 2 February 2019, an employee was operating an overhead crane adjacent to the molten zinc bath, when a tubular steel brace exploded during galvanizing, causing it to 'rocket' across the workshop floor, fatally striking the employee who was standing in its path. The steel brace failed due to the absence of vent holes to prevent the build-up of pressure inside the hollow steel brace during the galvanizing process.

A quantity of liquid entered the brace during earlier stages of the galvanizing process; when immersed into the 450°C zinc bath, the trapped liquid turned rapidly into steam generating very high internal pressures sufficient to cause failure of the brace. This resulted in a violent explosion which propelled the steel brace across the workshop floor.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the company had failed to adequately assess the risk and devise and implement suitable safe systems and methods of work for venting checks. In addition, employees were not adequately trained or supervised when completing venting checks.

Hereford Galvanizers Limited, which operates under the trading umbrella name 'Hereford and Shropshire Galvanizers', pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and have been fined £266,000 and ordered to pay costs of £14,635.29 plus a victim surcharge £170.

## Tyre explosion caused a fatality

A concrete supplier has been fined after an agency worker contracted to work at its site suffered fatal injuries following a tyre explosion.

Dudley Magistrates' Court heard how the contractor suffered fatal injuries when using an air hose/compressed air to inflate the tyre of an articulated wheel loader.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) into the incident, on 28 March 2019, found that the company failed to have in place a safe system of work for inflation of the multi-piece split rim assembly wheels on the articulated wheel loader.

The compressed air system had not been subject to regular and thorough examination and testing by a competent person.

Anytime Concrete (GB) Ltd pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.

The company has been fined £6,666.00 and ordered to pay costs of £4,522.40.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Karen Sweeney said: "This tragic incident led to the death of a worker. This could easily have been prevented if the company had acted to identify and manage the risks involved, and to put a safe system of work in place."

## Fined after a fatality at quarry

A company has been fined after an employee was struck by an excavator and fatally crushed.

The Sheriff Court heard that in May 2017 a crusher was being prepared for use. The employee was struck by a quick hitch on the dipper arm of an excavator and crushed between the quick hitch and side of the feed hopper of a mobile crusher.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks to employees had not been made and that a safe system of work was not in place for erecting the hinged crusher feed hopper side plates, which required being lifted into position and secured with wedges and pins, along with the fitting of a cross brace beam in the feeder. Work at height in the feeder had not been properly assessed and insufficient information, instruction and training for the tasks had been provided.

Leiths Scotland Ltd pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The company was fined £130,000. The Crown accepted that the failings detailed in the charge did not cause the death of the employee and the plea came before the court on a non-causal basis.

A HSE representative said: "This case should serve as a reminder of the need for employers and quarry operators, as duty holders, to review their activities to ensure that a suitable and sufficient assessment of risk has been made and recorded, that the necessary equipment and controls are in place and sufficient information, instruction and training has been provided, especially when excavators are being used as lifting equipment."

## Workers fell from height

A waste management company has been sentenced for safety breaches after an employee and an agency worker both fell from height.

Leeds Crown Court heard that, on the 4 September 2018, an employee of Associated Waste Management Limited was walking across a first-floor gantry when one of the metal mesh panels gave way beneath his feet. He fell approximately four metres into the bay below and sustained a double break to the left leg, a break to the right leg and a broken ankle. An agency worker came to assist him, but he also fell through the missing floor panel and sustained a dislocated and fractured shoulder.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the mesh panel gave way because the clips, which held it in position had become dislodged after a shovel loader, working in the bay beneath the gantry, struck the frame of the gantry. Due to the height of the gantry, when the shovel loader raised its bucket it came into contact with the gantry. Repeated striking of the gantry resulted in a number of clips, which held the gantry panels in place, becoming loose or dislodged.

Associated Waste Management Limited pleaded guilty to breaching Sections 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The company was fined £760,000 and ordered to pay costs of £16,170.

Speaking after the hearing, a HSE inspector said: "The company did not have a suitable inspection regime in place. This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices."

## Company director fined after fatality

The Managing Director of a scaffolding company has been fined after an employee died when he was struck from behind by a forklift truck.

Leicester Magistrate's Court heard how on 20 June 2016, the injured person had just finished loading a lorry in the yard of Boss Scaffolding (Northampton) Limited when he was struck from behind by the raised forks of a moving forklift truck. He subsequently died from his injuries.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Boss Scaffolding director and an employee of the company failed to take reasonable care for the health and safety of others who might be affected by the poor management of risks arising from the use of a counterbalance forklift truck in a state of disrepair.

The company director pleaded guilty of breaching Section 7 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. He was sentenced to 10 weeks imprisonment suspended for eighteen months and ordered to pay £7,000 fine and £45,000 costs.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Jenna McDade said: "This case highlights the importance of regular pro-active maintenance and inspection of work equipment, to ensure equipment does not deteriorate to the extent that it puts people at risk. Sadly the tragic death of Mr Flynn could have been prevented.

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

## HSEs Working Minds Campaign

Work-related stress and poor mental health risk is becoming a health and safety crisis for Great Britain's workplaces, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has warned.

Last year more than 17 million working days were lost as a result of stress, anxiety, or depression. A recent survey by the charity Mind suggests that two in five employees' mental health had worsened during the pandemic. In response, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has launched a new campaign called 'Working Minds'.

Working Minds is aimed specifically at supporting small businesses by providing employers and workers with easy to implement advice, including simple steps in its '5 R's' to Reach out, Recognise, Respond, Reflect, and make it Routine.

Find out more at:

<https://workright.campaign.gov.uk/workingminds/>



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## Worker lost sight after accident

A Bradford-based construction company has been fined after an employee was injured at work leading to significant sight loss in his right eye.

Manchester Magistrates' Court heard how Pearl Services UK Ltd had been contracted to carry out refurbishment of a retail store. On the 23 February 2020, employees were erecting a PVC hoarding within the store to separate the refurbishment work area from members of the public. An apprentice decorator who was helping joiners set up the hoarding, struck one of the PVC panels using a mallet causing it to splinter. A fragment penetrated their right eye, causing serious injury and loss of sight. The incident has resulted in a life-changing injury to the person who will not regain full sight in his right eye, despite a number of post-accident operations

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Pearl Services UK Ltd had failed to suitably plan, manage and monitor the project. Risk assessments and method statements had not fully identified the need to wear safety eyewear during the erection of the hoarding. In addition to this, the supervisor had failed to ensure that the documentation available on-site was communicated to the operatives before commencing work. Although safety eyewear was available on site, the wearing of it had not been made mandatory, neither were checks carried out to ensure it was worn.

Pearl Services UK Limited pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £16,500 and ordered to pay costs of £5,778.40.

## Construction worker fell from height

Trevor Cook Construction Ltd has been fined after a roof worker fell six metres through a fragile roof sheet whilst working on a barn.

Swindon Magistrates' Court heard how, on 22 May 2019, the employee was replacing broken roof sheets using a mobile elevating working platform (MEWP) to gain access to the roof of the barn and crawling boards to traverse the roof. The employee's foot slipped from one of the crawling boards and he subsequently fell through the fragile roof material, sustaining serious injuries.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Trevor Cook Construction Limited failed to plan the work appropriately. The company was aware of the risks and often used netting when undertaking large re-roofing projects, but made a conscious decision not to install nets for smaller jobs, which involved the replacement of individual roof sheets. The chances of falling whilst working on fragile roofs are very high and the company should have had the appropriate safeguards in place.

Trevor Cook Construction Limited pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4(1) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005. The company was fined £63,278 and ordered to pay costs of £6,721.

HSE inspector Stephan Axt-Simmonds said: "Falls through fragile roof materials are not inevitable. They can be prevented by careful planning, using trained and experienced workers with suitable equipment, and employing a high level of supervision."

## Luxury motor yacht manufacturer fined

A luxury motor yacht manufacturer has been fined after a worker suffered serious crushing injuries to his right hand during a lifting operation.

Leicester Magistrates' Court heard how on 3 December 2018, an employee suffered serious crushing injuries to his right hand during the lifting of a storage cage at Fairline Yachts manufacturing facility. As there was no goods lift in the manufacturing unit, an overhead crane was used. As the cage was lifted it began to tip and fall in the direction of the employee. The cage trapped his hand against a boat trolley causing serious crushing injuries to the employee's dominant right hand.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) into the incident found that the lifting operation was not properly planned by a competent person, appropriately supervised or carried out in a safe manner.

Fairline Yachts Limited pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £230,000 and ordered to pay costs of £7,410.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Aaron Butel said: "When undertaking lifting operations involving lifting equipment companies should ensure that they are always properly planned by a competent person, appropriately supervised and carried out in a safe manner. "Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards".

## Worker injured finger in machinery

A handrail manufacturing company has been fined after an employee's hand was drawn into a roller and crushed.

Manchester Magistrates' Court heard how, on the 27 March 2019, an employee of Dealercast Ltd was being trained by the company director to use a rolling machine to bend pieces of steel tube. While the employee was feeding the tubing between the rollers of the machine, the heavy-duty gloves he was wearing caught between the tubing and one of the rollers. His hand was drawn into the machine injuring his little finger, which later had to be amputated from the second knuckle.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the company had not performed a machine specific risk assessment so the risk of entanglement in moving parts had not been highlighted. The employee had no previous experience of working on this type of machine and had not completed training. The company failed to recognise the dangers of using gloves when working with machinery, which was standard practice, as the company had not provided instruction on the correct procedures.

Dealercast Ltd pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £20,000 and ordered to pay costs of £3,661.

Director Christopher Ellor of Arncliffe Road, Bury, Greater Manchester pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, by virtue of 37(1) of the Act. He was fined £1,280 and ordered to pay costs of £3,461.

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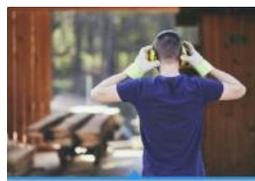
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## Site supervisor fined after accident

A site supervisor has been sentenced for safety breaches after a 46-year-old worker became entangled in a conveyor belt sustaining serious injuries to his hand and arm.

Leeds' Crown Court heard that, on 20 October 2016, an operative was working on a conveyor belt on an automated waste picking line at Associated Waste Management (AWM) Ltd when it became damaged and needed repair. Whilst the operative was working to repair the conveyor line, it started moving and his arm became entangled, which caused muscle and tissue damage.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that AWM site supervisor, who had control of the site in the absence of the site manager, was responsible for completing a permit for the repair work and isolating the line. However, on his way to complete the permit he became distracted with another matter and the permit to work and isolation were not completed. This meant that the conveyor belt restarted during the repair work injuring the employee.

The site supervisor pleaded guilty to breaching Section 7 (1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974. He was given a four-month prison sentence suspended for 12 months and ordered to pay costs of £1,000.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Darian Dundas said: "Mr Hughes failed to implement company policy and procedure in respect of permits to work and isolation. "This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices."

## Worker suffered crush injuries

A car manufacturing company has been fined after an employee became trapped and suffered crush injuries whilst unloading a chassis from a delivery vehicle.

Kidderminster Magistrates' Court heard that the employee became trapped between the trolley holding the chassis and a parked vehicle when the delivery vehicle moved.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) into the incident, which occurred on 18 April 2018, found that the company did not have a safe system of work for unloading chassis.

The risks should have been controlled by offloading the chassis using a forklift truck or implementing a formalised system of work to safely unload them by hand.

Morgan Motor Company Manufacturing Limited pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.

The company was fined £60,000.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Elizabeth Thomas said: "A safe system of work should have been in place and this shows that even large, well-established companies can get things wrong".

## Crane operator electrocuted



A company has been fined after a worker was fatally electrocuted whilst operating a lorry mounted crane.

Cardiff Crown Court heard how on 17 May 2016, an ASL Access Scaffold Limited employee was fatally electrocuted when the crane he was operating struck an overhead powerline whilst

he was unloading materials in a field at Cowbridge, South Glamorgan.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that no risk assessment had been carried out in the field where the incident happened, and no control measures were put in place to prevent contact with the overhead powerlines.

ASL Access Scaffold Limited was found guilty of breaching Sections 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and LOLER Regulation 8 (1). The company was fined £160,000 and ordered to pay costs of £45,000.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Damian Corbett said: "This death was easily preventable, and the risk should have been identified. Employers should make sure they properly assess and apply effective control measures to minimise the risk from striking overhead powerlines. This death would have been preventable had an effective system for managing unloading materials been in place."

## Worker crushed in cooking machine

A Lincolnshire-based food manufacturer has been fined after one of its employees sustained two broken ribs having been crushed within an industrial cooking machine whilst working to clear a blocked water inlet.

Lincoln Magistrates' Court heard how the employee was crushed in the machine after its safety systems were over-ridden and the machine worked on whilst it was live. It should have been isolated before work on it began.

An investigation carried out by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the task was carried out by the employees in this fashion on a regular basis and that the company should have been aware. No risk assessment of the task had been completed and employees had not been provided with a safe system of work to carry it out. The lack of a safe system of work for the task and the company's failure to monitor how the work was done, led employees to devise their own way of conducting the procedure which included over-riding the safety systems and using unsafe working practices.

Bakkavor Fresh Cook Ltd pleaded guilty of one breach of Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and were fined £130,000 and ordered to pay costs of £2607.10.

A HSE inspector said: "Those in control of work have a responsibility to devise safe methods of working and to provide the necessary information, instruction and training to their workers. If a suitable safe system of work had been in place prior to this incident, alongside good monitoring of the way the work was done, the injuries sustained by the employee could have been prevented."

## Gas fitter carried out illegal work

A self-employed gas fitter from Burnley has received a 15-month community order after carrying out gas work without being Gas Safe registered.

Preston Crown Court heard that the man carried out work at two properties in Burnley in December 2018 and January 2019, whilst falsely claiming to be Gas Safe registered.

Following notification of installation defects by the occupiers of the properties, Gas Safe inspectors visited one of the properties and found the work to be of a poor standard. It was classed as 'At Risk' and 'Not to Current Standards'. An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the fitter was not registered with the Gas Safe Register and was also found to have falsely pretended to be Gas Safe Registered.

The man pleaded guilty to breaches of Regulations 3(3), 26(1) and 3(7) of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998. He was sentenced to a 15-month community order and 100 hours of unpaid work. He was also ordered to pay £400 compensation and to pay costs of £6000.

Speaking after the hearing, a HSE inspector said: "Adam Kilbride undertook gas work which he knew he was not registered to do. All gas work must be done by registered Gas Safe engineers to ensure the highest standards are met in order to prevent injury and loss of life. Installers will be prosecuted if they carry out gas work without the proper qualifications. We would advise all householders to check that anyone they allow to work on the gas supply is gas safe registered. This can be done at the Gas Safe Register website".

## Unregistered gas worker jailed

A self-employed fitter has been jailed after carrying out unsafe gas work on four domestic boilers whilst unregistered, leaving them in a dangerous condition.

Southampton Crown Court heard how the man was contracted to install boilers at four residential addresses in Southampton, Hampshire between 2016 and 2018. On two occasions he provided falsified safety certificates on which he gave a false Gas Safe registration number. The boilers were later found to be unsafe by Gas Safe Engineers who had to carry out repairs.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found he had carried out dangerous gas work previously without being Gas Safe registered. He had been served with an HSE Prohibition Notice in July 2016 requiring him not to carry out any further gas work until he had been appropriately trained and was Gas Safe registered.

The man pleaded guilty to breaching Regulations 3(1) and 3(3) of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 and Section 33(1) of the Health and Safety At Work Act 1974. He was sentenced to 21 months in prison.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Andrew Moore said: "Sam Jordan undertook gas work, which he knew he was not registered to do and for which he had been prohibited from carrying out by the HSE in 2016. His work was dangerous and put people at the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. It was very fortunate that no one was harmed. "HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate action against rogue gas fitters who disregard the law and place lives at risk."

## Company fined after worker sustains serious injuries in fall from height



A North-East manufacturer of artificial trees, plants and flowers has been sentenced after an employee suffered serious injuries when he fell from height.

Newcastle Magistrates' Court heard how a warehouse operative was gathering products from shelf racking. The products were stored in boxes, unwrapped on pallets up to four bays high. Access to the racking was gained by using a ladder and then either dropping the items or carrying them down to the ground. During this work, the operative slipped from the ladder and fell approximately five metres, striking his head on a pallet as he fell and sustaining a head injury.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Treelocate (Europe) Limited had failed to properly plan the work and had failed to ensure there was safe access to the area and that measures were taken to prevent and/or mitigate a fall from height.

Treelocate (Europe) Limited pleaded guilty to breaching Section 4(1) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 and was fined £40,000 with £1,620.40 costs by Newcastle Magistrates Court.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Phil Chester said: "Treelocate (Europe) Ltd failed to suitably plan and carry out work at height in its warehouse to reduce the risk from working at height to as far as is reasonably practicable. Ladders should not just be the go-to piece of equipment for working at height and suitable planning should be done in order to remove the risk where possible."

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