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£72.6M IN FINES

[SAFETY FINES FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY BREACHES HAVE SOARED TO £72.6M.](#)

Annual statistics from the Health and Safety Executive show total penalties have almost doubled since new sentencing guidelines were introduced three years ago.

The £72.6m in fines during 2017/18 followed 493 successful prosecutions across all industries – with an average fine of £147,000.

The figures also show there were 144 fatal injuries at work – with construction accounting for the highest number at 38.

Martin Temple, HSE Chair, said of the findings: “These figures should serve as a reminder to us of the importance to manage risk and undertake good health and safety practice in the work place.

Great Britain’s health and safety record is something we should all be proud of, but there is still much to be done to ensure that every worker goes home at the end of their working day safe and healthy.”



LINKED FIRE ALARMS

CONSTRUCTION SITES OVER MULTIPLE FLOORS

AGA would like to remind all our Contractors of the requirement under the RRFSo to have a linked Fire Alarm System in place if you are working across multiple floors. If the building does not have a fully functioning, existing Fire Alarm system, then a temporary Fire detection system must be installed throughout the works until the permanent system is in place. During the construction phase, the best and cheapest way of achieving this is wireless, battery powered, automatic detectors and alarms that sound on all floors once activated.



WORKER SERIOUSLY INJURED

PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR AND SUBCONTRACTOR FINED

Two companies, Anders Development Limited and J A Ball Limited, have been fined after a worker was found seriously injured in a lift shaft.

South Tyneside Magistrates' Court heard how, on 8 March 2016, Dorin Samson, who was working for Anders Development Limited, had been tasked, along with at least one other worker, to dismantle a lift in the former office block at 50 Fawcett Street, Sunderland. In the early afternoon of 8 March 2016, Mr Samson was working in the lift shaft, suffered devastating life-changing injuries. Examination of the lift by the HSE's specialist inspectors found that it was most likely Mr Samson was struck by the lift's falling counterweight and/or falling lift suspension ropes.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the method of work used by Anders Development Limited to dismantle the lift was unsafe and that the company had failed to take account of the stored energy in the lifts counterweight and ropes. They had also failed to adequately plan the work and the company and its workers did not have the knowledge and experience to plan and dismantle the lift.

The investigation also found the principal contractor for this construction project, J A Ball Limited, had failed to adequately plan and manage the dismantling of the lift and they had engaged a contractor to dismantle the lift who did not have the skills, knowledge and experience to carry out the work.

The sentence was passed by the judge after the hearing on 10 October 2018.

Anders Development Limited of City Lofts St. Pauls, St. Pauls Square, Sheffield, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) and Section 3(1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £100,000 for each offence with £2720 costs.

J A Ball Limited of Unit 2, Telford Way, Stephenson Industrial Estate, Coalville, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 13(1) of The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 and was fined £200,000 with £2744 costs.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Zoe Wood said: "Demolition and dismantling of lifts must be planned by persons with knowledge of the principles and operating modes of the specific lift machine, its related safety features and the means by which it is incorporated into the structure of the building. All of these matters will help determine the most suitable method of work for the dismantling/demolition activity.

Consideration must be given to the effect any work will have on the structure of the building the lift is housed in. The method of work should take into account suspended masses and stored energy in the counterweights, lift cars, ropes etc."



LADDER SAFETY

[DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE LADDER SAFETY PACK](#)

The Ladder Association is urging ladder users - and those responsible for managing the safe use of ladders - to take a fresh approach to ladder training.

Get a grip on ladder safety is a major new campaign with the message: When it's right to use a ladder, use the right ladder and get trained to use it safely.

With falls from height still one of the leading causes of workplace fatalities and injuries - accounting for 35 fatalities in 2017/2018 - and with businesses facing record fines for failing to keep workers safe, the campaign sets out to ensure that everyone using a ladder is fully trained and competent to do so.

Go to www.ladderassociation.org.uk/get-a-grip

EXCITING NEW PROJECT

[AGA ARE PLEASED TO HAVE BEEN APPOINTED ON A NEW PROJECT AT BENHAM PARK](#)

Benham Park is located on the Berkshire Downs near Newbury, in a gorgeous area classified as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a Conservation Area. The interior of the mansion is still much as it was when originally built. The exquisitely carved Bath stone ionic capitals at the front; the magnificent cantilevered staircase in Portland stone in the centre of the house and even the ingeniously designed wine cellar that cools by the process of evaporation, have all stood the test of time. During the Edwardian era, the north side of the house was reconfigured and enriched to create even grander reception rooms. A magnificent pair of Palladian fireplaces was brought from the Duke of Buckingham's state Dining Room at Stowe as well as an outstanding marble fireplace by Giovanni Battista Borra from the Duchess's Drawing Room. The mansion sits in the centre of a magnificent 130 acre park created by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, the celebrated 18th Century Royal landscape designer.

The project comprises the refurbishment of 30,000sqft Grade II listed Georgian house. The works include strip out, new lift shaft and lift, new stair well and back of house stair, all new services, new internal finishes and furniture.





SPOTLIGHT ON MENTAL HEALTH

THREE OUT OF FIVE (61%) EMPLOYEES HAVE EXPERIENCED MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES DUE TO WORK OR WHERE WORK WAS A RELATED FACTOR, NEW REPORT FINDINGS HAVE REVEALED.

One-in-four employees has left a job because of mental health issues, according to an online survey by charity St John Ambulance.

Nearly two thirds also admitted that they would feel uncomfortable asking for a mental health sick day and more than a quarter said bosses did little or nothing to provide support. Six out of ten surveyed said they felt their employer should be doing more to support employees with mental health issues.

The survey of 1,000 employees who mainly work in human resources and administration revealed also that a further 43% had considered leaving a job due to stress or mental health issues.

The handbook, [People Managers' Guide to Mental Health](#), was launched last week by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) and mental health charity Mind. It gives advice on how to identify the warning signs and suggests practical ways to promote good mental health at work. The guide advises people to talk about their mental health. It says that a wellness action plan (WAP) drawn up by employees "opens up a dialogue" between them and their manager and demonstrates the employer's commitment to staff wellbeing.

Mental health is about how we think, feel and behave. Anxiety and depression are the most common mental health problems. They are often a reaction to a difficult life event, such as bereavement, but can also be caused by work-related issues.

Whether work is causing the health issue or aggravating it, employers have a legal responsibility to help their employees. Work-related mental health issues must to be assessed to measure the levels of risk to staff. Where a risk is identified, steps must be taken to remove it or reduce it as far as reasonably practicable.

Work-related stress and mental health problems often go together, and the symptoms can be very similar. Although stress can lead to physical and mental health conditions and can aggravate existing conditions, the good news is that it can be tackled. By taking action to remove or reduce stressors, you can prevent people becoming ill and avoid those with an existing condition becoming less able to control their illness.

HSE's [Management Standards approach](#) to tackling work-related stress establishes a framework to help employers tackle work-related stress and, as a result, also reduce the incidence and negative impact of mental ill health.



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