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## INCIDENT INVESTIGATION

Our Associate Director, Anna Plater, was lucky enough to spend a day at the HSE's Health & Safety Laboratory in Buxton, Derbyshire in August.

The HSE and NEBOSH have recently teamed up to offer the Introduction to Incident Investigation course to Health & Safety Specialists. The NEBOSH HSE Introduction to Incident Investigation course is designed to enable learners to carry out accident and incident investigations and produce action plans based on their findings.

The course was hosted by retired HSE Principal Inspector Chris Taylor and covered the legalities, processes and benefits of Incident Investigations.

Whilst we will always hope that accidents and incidents don't occur in the first place, we are happy to say that we have the correct tools, skills and knowledge to carry out a full investigation if they do.

By learning lessons and making improvements, organisations can avoid similar incidents occurring in the future.

# WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY 2019



This year, **World Suicide Prevention Day** will be taking place **Tuesday 10 September**.

World Suicide Prevention Day is an annual awareness day established to raise awareness of how to prevent suicide.

## Why is it important?

We know that in 2017, there were 5,821 suicides registered in the UK, with men accounting for three-quarters of this number<sup>1</sup>. We also know that workers in construction were at some of the highest risk of suicide in the country, with a risk more than 3 times higher than the national average. But they are not alone- in many other occupations in the UK, professionals are also vulnerable.

As the [Office of National Statistics report \(2017\)](#) stated: attempting to explain suicide is complex as it is likely that a number of factors act together to increase risk, including some job-related features. We believe employers can play a critical role in helping to prevent suicides.

There is a moral case, but also a growing awareness of a strong business case which demonstrates that prevention needs to be at the heart of changes to company culture which employers wish to make.

## World Suicide Prevention Day 2019 pack

This is why Mates in Mind is driving meaningful and long-lasting change across UK workplaces. They work with employers, supporting them to understand how they can take action and use a joined-up strategy to improve mental health within the wider business agenda.

We know it can be difficult to begin taking action. Where do you start? What do you say? Who do you talk to? How do you make it more than a one-off?

Attached with this Newsletter is a pack which is part of the growing suite of Mates in Mind resources which can be used by workplaces like yours to raise awareness and to begin moving towards a more inclusive and engaged workforce, whether they are direct employees or contractors.

Wherever your organisation has begun its mental health conversation, Mates in Mind is here to support you.

**Together we are improving the way we work.**

## WHAT IS A HEALTH & SAFETY FILE?

During the pre-construction phase, the principal designer must prepare a health and safety file appropriate to the characteristics of the project. **The health and safety file is only required for projects involving more than one contractor.** It must contain relevant information about the project which should be taken into account when any construction work is carried out on the building **after** the current project has finished, specifically Residual Risk Assessments relating to Health & Safety issues with the on-going use, cleaning & maintenance of the building. Information included should only be that which is needed to plan and carry out future work safely and without risks to health. If the principal designer's appointment concludes before the end of the project, the principal designer must pass the health and safety file to the principal contractor. At the end of the project, the principal designer, or where there is no principal designer the principal contractor, must pass the health and safety file to the client.

Any Questions? Call one of our consultants today on 03300 886585.

# COMPANY & EMPLOYEE SENTENCED AFTER WORKER STRUCK BY EXCAVATOR & KILLED

A CONSTRUCTION COMPANY AND ONE OF ITS EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN SENTENCED FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY BREACHES AFTER ANOTHER WORKER WAS STRUCK BY AN EXCAVATOR AND WAS KILLED.



Southwark Crown Court heard how, on 2 March 2014, during night work at a construction site in Stratford a site operative, Kevin Campbell, was struck by an excavator mounted vibrator (EMV) attached to a 35-tonne excavator that he was working in close proximity to. Mr Campbell had been disconnecting lifting accessories from a metal pile that had just been extracted from the ground when he was crushed against a concrete wall a short distance away. Mr Campbell died from his injuries. Another site operative who was directly next to him also faced a risk of being struck.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive found the construction company which was the principal contractor; Clancy Docwra Limited, failed to ensure the safety so far as is reasonably practicable of its employees and of others who were not their employees working on the site. The investigation also found that Daniel Walsh, who was the site supervisor for the site and the person operating the excavator at the time, failed to take reasonable care for other persons on site at the time.

Clancy Docwra Limited of Coppermill Lane, Harefield, Middlesex pleaded not guilty to breaching Section 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £1,000,000 and ordered to pay costs of £108,502.30.

Daniel Walsh of Eastcote, Orpington, Kent pleaded not guilty to breaching Section 7(a) of the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was given a 6 month custodial sentence, suspended for 12 months and ordered to pay costs of £15,000.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Darren Alldis said:

“This death was wholly preventable and serves as a reminder as to why it is so important for companies and individuals to take their responsibilities to protect others seriously and to take the simple actions necessary to eliminate and minimise risks.

“If the risks had been properly considered by the company, and simple and appropriate control measures were put in place, then the likelihood of such an incident occurring would have been significantly reduced. Informing all site operatives of the specific risks they face when carrying out such tasks and the control measures required of exclusion zones, the importance of communication and the mandatory use of excavator safety levers were simple actions that should have been put in place and their effectiveness monitored.

“All those with legal responsibilities must be clear that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action including where appropriate prosecution against those that fall below the required standards”.

# WORKING AT HEIGHT MYTHS!

## TEN WORKING AT HEIGHT MYTHS DEBUNKED

With an average of 37 worker fatalities every year due to a fall from height, it is imperative that regulations are always followed by people working at height (WAH) and when working in hazardous environments. However, ruling out several myths surrounding WAH is the first step.

### 1. IT'S ONLY A TWO-MINUTE JOB, I DON'T NEED FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT.

No matter how short or long the task, the time personnel spend WAH does not have any influence on requirements specified by the Work at Height Regulations.

Employers are required to ensure compliant fall protection equipment; a risk assessment and a rescue plan are all in place prior to personnel conducting any work at height activities. Whether personnel are conducting activities for two minutes, 20 minutes or two hours, the fall risk is equally the same.

Fall protection equipment, including PPE, saves worker lives and aids in preventing injuries, should a fall occur.

### 2. THE WORK ENVIRONMENT IS ONLY A FEW FEET OFF THE GROUND, SO I DON'T NEED FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT.

Most falls from height occur from relatively low heights, due to people underestimating risk. As specified by the Health and Safety Executive, "Work at Height means work in any place where, if precautions were not taken, a person could fall a distance liable to cause personal injury."

Even though personnel may only be working a few metres above the ground, a fall could still result in serious injury should appropriate measures of protection not be in place. This is required by law.

### 3. FALL PROTECTION BREAKS THE BANK.

It is a common misconception that fall protection is expensive however, costs are all relative. Prevention of accidents should be a number one priority for employers of personnel working in high risk environments, such as at height. An investment into specialist fall protection equipment, regular compliance testing, as well as associated personnel training, will prevent accidents with potentially fatal or life-changing injuries.

Consider how accident investigations fees, HSE fines, compensation costs, negative press and potential down time for your business, as well as potential imprisonment of owners, will cost much more than installing and maintaining a fall protection system. It is also worth bearing in mind that witnessing an accident or fatality can have a major negative impact on other personnel at work – resulting in a loss of productivity.



### 4. WEARING A HARNESS AND ATTACHING A LANYARD TO AN ANCHOR POINT MEANS THAT I'M SAFE.

Simply attaching to a safety line does not mean personnel are protected safely – fall clearance should be of key focus, as this will ensure that personnel are prevented from coming into contact with anything if a fall were to occur; for example, a lower roof level or a roof access system.

To calculate the fall clearance, specialists use the following method: free fall distance + arrest distance + harness stretch + safety factor = fall clearance.

## 5. FALL PROTECTION IS COMMON SENSE.

It is certainly not common sense – common sense differs from person to person and indeed from site to site. Preventing falls from height is not only using compliant fall protection equipment, but also through an adequately trained workforce who are competent to undertake the required tasks while WAH.

## 6. MY PPE WAS INSPECTED LAST WEEK; I DON'T HAVE TO CHECK IT AGAIN.

When using PPE for work at height, or for any other activities, a pre-use check should always be completed. That is generally a visual inspection, checking for any signs of damage or deterioration. If any irregularities are found, the equipment should not be used until marked as compliant by a competent specialist.



It is recommended having all PPE used for work at height visually inspected every six months, and fully tested for compliance every 12 months. It is important to remember that each piece of PPE has a specified life span and, once the PPE kit has reached its life span, it will need to be replaced, regardless of how many times it has been used.

TIP: dangers may be existing under excessive dirt – ensure the PPE and fall protection equipment is clean at all times.

## 7. EMERGENCY SERVICES WILL RESCUE PERSONNEL WHO HAVE FALLEN FROM HEIGHT.

Emergency services may not be equipped to perform a specialist rescue that has occurred due to a fall from height. Besides, a fall could take place in an area where the emergency services may not be able to reach you quickly enough. Suspension trauma (also known as orthostatic intolerance or suspension syncope), is highly likely after any fall from height when a person is suspended upright in a harness. If a rescue has not been achieved within 10 minutes, blood can begin to pool in the legs, resulting in the heart, lungs and eventually the brain being starved of blood and oxygen.

## 8. I CAN MINIMISE INJURIES BY REACTING QUICKLY IN THE EVENT OF A FALL.

It takes approximately six metres before your brain will be fully aware that you have fallen, and at this time, it will be almost physically impossible to stop your fall, assuming you are conscious when you fall.

## 9. HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS DO NOT BENEFIT ME.

Health and safety regulations do in fact benefit everyone, as they command safe working environments and safe measures of protection for personnel working in hazardous environments.

Regulations continue to make work environments safer and help to mitigate risks posed for people WAH. In the UK alone, it is estimated that 225 more people per year now go home safely at the end of the working day due to clearer health and safety requirements

## 10. FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT IS SUITABLE FOR ALL WORK ACTIVITIES.

Roof build ups vary massively from site to site, so it is imperative that an appropriate personal or collective measure of protection is selected to suit required activities. All sites should be surveyed by a competent specialist to ensure that the most effective fall protection equipment is in place to protect personnel WAH.

TIP: working in fall restraint (i.e. preventing falls from happening with guardrails, handrails and edge protection) requires a different type of equipment than working in fall arrest (i.e. arresting a fall should it occur with personal fall protection safety lines and specialist PPE).

Faced with multiple hazards at any one time, it is important to ensure that people WAH are not misinformed on the regulations designed to protect them. By ensuring that workers are appropriately trained to undertake the activities required, employers can have peace of mind knowing that their employees are able to identify hazards, use equipment correctly and are equipped to separate truth from myths.

# AGA BABY NEWS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO EMILY, OUR PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR,  
ON THE BIRTH OF BABY RALPHIE

AGA would like to announce the arrival of a brand-new member of Team AGA! Our Project Administrator, Emily Fildes gave birth to Ralphie on 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 02.55am and weighed 7lbs 6oz.

We were all very excited to get a visit in the office from Emily and Ralphie, who was very well behaved and slept through all of his cuddles with the team.

Welcome to the world baby Ralphie! We wish all the best to Emily and her family!



# WAVENDON PROJECT PROGRESS

A recent visit to our project at Glebe Farm in Milton Keynes showed great progress on site



- Client - L&Q Developments
- Address - Glebe Farm, Wavendon, Milton Keynes.
- Designer - Hester Architects
- AGA Appointment – Principal Designer Advisor
- Scope – Construction of 162 Detached and semidetached houses and 62 apartments
- Construction - Timber frame construction

## DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:

A Fire consultant was appointed early on in the design phase to provide guidance in order to comply with the STA Guidance. Financial implications were reduced following an amendment to sequencing of construction which eliminated the necessity for special fire precautions during the construction programme, should a fire break out. All balconies have been designed to reduce the spread of flame externally with potentially intumescent painted surfaces to soffits and fascia boards on the apartment blocks. The necessity for hot works within the skeleton of the timber frame was eliminated during the design. Welding of lead joints for flashing etc, are carried out at ground level in a location away from the timber frame and lifted by fork lift truck to the location of installation. This action reduces hot work in the immediate vicinity of the exposed timber frame and manual handling operations.

As the designs includes large windows, these are supplied to site fully integrated into the façade panels and craned into position, therefore reducing the health risks associated with manual handling.

# A reminder that the HSE can issue fines even if an accident hasn't occurred yet....

## TWO COMPANIES HAVE BEEN FINED AFTER PUTTING WORKERS AT RISK OF FALLING WHILST ACCESSING A ROOF TO REPAIR PIPEWORK.

In April 2016, contractors who worked for Kingswinford Engineering Co Limited had been hired to repair a section of pipework on the roof of a warehouse in Bilston owned by James Durrans & Sons' Limited.

The court heard how workers had climbed onto the roof from a 'man-cage' lifted into position by a fork lift truck. The 'man-cage' fell short of the roof level by about three feet and there was a gap between the cage and the roof which workers needed to climb across. Once the workers were on the roof, it was slippery and wet, with no barrier in place to prevent a fall.

Investigating, the HSE identified failings in relation to how the work, specifically access to the roof, was planned, managed and monitored. In particular, neither company had undertaken a suitable and sufficient risk assessment, nor had they agreed a safe system of work for the repair of the pipework which required access to the roof. Instead each company had assumed that the other had put into place systems that would protect workers from the risks of working at height.

Kingswinford Engineering Co Limited of Shaw Road, Dudley pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and was fined £18,000 and ordered to pay costs of £9,000.

James Durrans & Sons Limited of Anchor Road, Bilston pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and was fined £100,000 with costs of £20,000.

Speaking after the case, HSE Inspector Edward Fryer commented: "This incident highlights the need for contractors to be managed properly. Both the contractors and those engaging them must assess the risks of the site and the specific work to ensure it can be done safely. In this case, no risk assessment was carried out and arrangements made to access the roof put workers at significant risk of falling from height."



### CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR OUR WHOLE RANGE OF NEW ONLINE COURSES

Whether you're looking to improve your own knowledge, or provide training to employees, AGA Ltd.'s new e-Learning portal will allow you to book easy to follow e-learning courses in a number of areas. Each course is followed by a short test to clarify your understanding regarding that topic, which after successful completion, you will be issued with a certificate. Get up to date, specialist training in Control of Substances Hazardous to Health, Fall Prevention, the Construction Design & Management Regulations 2015, Risk Assessments Manual Handling, Fire Safety and many more.

### CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL

Do you need help understanding the CDM Regulations 2015? Not sure if you are complying with your duties correctly? We offer a free CPD consultation to keep you up to date. One of our experienced CDM Consultants will attend your offices or a location of your choosing and provide up to the minute, competent advice. We cover everything from Duty Holders to Design Risk Management and welcome any questions or scenarios you need help with.

Please get in touch if this would be of interest to you.



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