

Welcome to February's Newsletter

Legal – Enforcement and Accident & Incident statistics

Asbestos

Any job, any day of the week, can potentially release lethal asbestos fibres. It is not like dust – you cannot see, smell, or feel the fibres in the air or on your clothes.

Asbestos can be found in any building built or refurbished before the year 2000. Houses built in fifties, sixties and seventies are highly likely to include asbestos. It could be in the house or building you are working on right now.

5000 people a year die from past exposure to asbestos, our aim is to help tradespeople avoid exposure and the risks that involves. Below are a series of guides, advice, and links to guidance to ensure you are aware of the dangers of asbestos.

HSE have an ongoing campagne about the duty to manage asbestos in buildings. **Click on image above for more info regarding "The duty to manage asbestos in buildings" **



*In 2010 Britannia Hotels Ltd was ordered to pay **£200,000** in fines after construction workers and guests were put at risk of exposure to asbestos after the company failed to do a full asbestos assessment before refurbishment of the Grand Burstin Hotel in Folkestone.*

A man has been handed a community order after he admitted removing asbestos from a school when he wasn't licenced to do so.

An unlicensed asbestos removal company has been fined £80k after its director was jailed, after failing to ensure the safe removal of the dangerous product.

(Interactive Click links to action)

ASBESTOS YOUR DUTY



Click on the image above to follow the link for **Asbestos Essentials**



Incidents, January 2024 Stats:

RIDDOR Reportable =0

Near Misses =1

Environmental Impacts=0

Enforcement Action =0

Ensure all incidents are reported to HS&E

[Reporting procedure](#) [Accident/Incident Form](#)



Health and Safety updates

The difference between an inspection and a checklist is the scope of the investigation. Inspections are more thorough and conducted by competent staff whereas a checklist is quicker to complete and should be used more frequently.


REMINDER: Please complete daily, weekly, and monthly site checks, daily diaries, Fire Risk assessments, Permits to Work, Temporary Works and ensuring all risks are as low as reasonably practicable.

Workplace Inspections - burden or benefit?

Regular workplace inspections are a useful way of demonstrating your commitment to achieving a safe working environment for all.

Workplace inspections are a proactive form of monitoring health and safety, and play a vital role in safeguarding employee wellbeing, ensuring legal compliance.

They may take up some resources at the time. Postponing them due to other business pressures may be an expensive mistake!



Conducting workplace inspections is crucial for several reasons:

- Identifying hazards and risks.
- Preventing accidents and injuries.
- Complying with legal requirements.
- Continuous improvement.
- Employee engagement.

ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES

Inclement Weather: How Wind and Stormy Weather Affects You.


Inclement weather includes storm conditions i.e., high winds, and flooding and extreme temperatures causing cold and icy conditions or heat hazards.

The importance of reporting a Near Miss, you may save someone from ill health or fatal injury.

There was an incident at one of our project sites, where a near miss had been raised. After the effects of storm Isha over a weekend in January.

A scaffolding board was found on the ground floor and had caused damage to the smoking shelter. The investigation established the immediate cause was the high winds causing the board to become loose and causing the board to fall from height. Luckily no one was on site at the time, avoiding a serious incident and potentially fatal accident.

REMINDER: Please complete Daily site checks, daily diaries, Permits to Work, Work at Height equipment before use and ensuring all risks are as low as reasonably practicable.



The following areas will require specific attention:

1. If there is a risk of falling objects or collapsing, stop work until the structures have been inspected by a competent person. This may include temporary or partially built structures.
2. A competent person must inspect scaffolding to ensure they are safe to use going forward. Check it is secured and adequately tied, and loose materials are removed or fixed down.
3. W@H and Lifting equipment should be inspected for damage before being brought back into service following the manufacturer's instructions.
4. Excavations and partially completed structures should be inspected for strength and stability.
5. Avoid and prevent access onto platforms and roofs, fragile roofs (corrugated iron, asbestos, PVC skylights, etc.) during inclement weather.

Wellbeing updates

What is Emotional Health?

There is often confusion about the term emotional health and how it is different from emotional wellbeing and mental health. We define our emotional health as our ability to look after ourselves, to manage ourselves in times of challenge, and build and sustain healthy relationships with those around us. This ability provides the foundations for good mental health and wellbeing, as well as resilience, and motivation.


- Self-Awareness.
- Appropriate Expectations.
- Empathy.
- Positive Discipline.

Masterclasses
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- Meditation
- Mindfulness
- Anxiety
- Self Care
- Building Resilience
- Promoting Happiness
- Financial Management
- Work life Balance
- Managing Stress

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February's Awareness

February 2024	 <u>LGBT History Month</u>				
	1 st	4 th	5 th – 11 th	17 th	24 th
	<u>Time to Talk Day</u>	<u>World Cancer Day</u>	<u>Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Week</u>	<u>Random Acts of Kindness Day</u>	<u>Emotional Health Day</u>

Construction Industry Helpline App
0345 605 1956
TIME TO CHANGE YOUR MIND



Health



Challenge yourself!

- Compliment the first three people you see today.
- Know parents who could do with a night out? Offer to baby sit for free.
- Encounter someone in customer service who is especially kind? Take an extra few minutes to tell their manager.
- When you're throwing something away on the street, pick up any litter around you and put that in the bin too.

For further information please contact:

Adele John

Health Safety and Environment Manager

Jamie Parry

HS&E Apprentice