Guernsey Occupational Safety & Health Association – www.gosha.org.gg

 January 2014

**GOSHA News**

**Annual Awards – to be presented 23.1.14 at OGH**

Please come along to the OGH on Thursday 23 January to enjoy a special evening, the highlight being our annual awards dponsored by Insurance Corporation and idependently judged by UK members of IOSH. Details from our website or our secretary, Jon Coyde.

This year’s categories are:

* Large Organisation
* Individual
* Team
* Small Organisation
* Service to Community
* Construction Award
* Lifetime achievement

We are delighted that the prizes will be presented by Deputy Kevin Stewart, Minister Commerce & Employment and Frances Outram of the UK HSE Board has very kindly agreed to attend and will speak after dinner.

**Guernsey’s Safety & Health in the Workplace Week – 20.1.14 to 26.1.14**

We are fortunate to again have very good speakers and topics which we hope you will find of interest.

The breakfast talks are:

* Tuesday 21 January 2014 –Sprinklers at Work and in the Home – C I Sprinklers
* Wednesday 22 January 2014 – Managing Asbestos – Angus McLellan
* Friday 24 January 2014 – Electricity at Work – Tom Woodford

Would you be prepared to spnsor a breakfast – we aim to provide food and free attendance plus a mention in the Guernsey Press H&S Supplement on 20 January – cost £250.

If you’d like to attend, please register on our website.

**HSE News**

**Guernsey Legionella Control Approved Code of Practice**

Are you familiar with the requirements of the Guernsey Approved Code of Practice which was issued 23 April 2013?

See [www.hse.gg/PDFs/ACOP\_Legionella.pdf](http://www.hse.gg/PDFs/ACOP_Legionella.pdf)

We remain concerned that some Guernsey businesses are not following the requirements of the Approved Code of Practice with potentially lethal consequences.

**Example Risk Assessments for Small & Medium Sized Businesses – here’s the link:** [**www.hse.gov.uk/risk/casestudies/index.htm**](http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/casestudies/index.htm)

On this webpage you will find example risk assessments which show the kind of approach HSE expects a small business or workplace to take.

The examples show how other small and medium-sized businesses have approached risk assessment.

If you can't find your industry listed, pick the one closest to it and adapt it for your own workplace. Use it as a guide to think about:

* some of the hazards in your business
* the steps you need to take to control the risks.

Don't just copy it and put your company name to it as that would not satisfy the law - and would not protect your employees. Every business is different - you need to think about the hazards and controls your business needs.

**Even where the hazards are the same, the control measures you adopt may have to be different from those in the examples to meet the particular conditions in your workplace.**

If you work in a low risk office-based environment or a shop, you can complete your risk assessment quickly and easily by using [HSE’s web-based tools](http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/assessment.htm)[1].

Remember

A risk assessment is only effective if you and your staff act on it. You must follow through with any actions required and review it on a regular basis.

**Reminder for employers**

The Health and Safety Executive is urging businesses to focus on their legal responsibility to ensure lives are not put at risk and serious injuries are avoided by makng the safety of workers their top priority for 2014.

The fresh appeal comes as new figures show that 12 people lost their lives while at work across the South West in 2012/13 and 1,876 suffered a major injury. In Guernsey, There were 340 serious workplace injuries in Guernsey in 2012, a small increase over 2011.

The latest provisional figures show that the number of deaths across Great Britain has fallen in the last year, with 148 people killed at work, compared to 171 deaths during 2011/12. More than 20,600 workers also suffered a major injury in 2012/13, representing a 10.8 percent drop on the previous year. Five in every million workers were killed while at work between April 2012 and March 2013.

High-risk industries include construction which had 39 deaths last year, agriculture with 29 deaths, manufacturing with 20 deaths and waste and recycling with 10 deaths – making up over two-thirds of all workplace deaths in Great Britain during 2012/13.

Samantha Peace, HSE Regional Director for the South West said:

“The families of those workers in the South West who lost their lives last year had to face Christmas without them and hundreds of other workers have had their lives changed forever by a major injury.

“Whilst the number of workplace deaths and major injuries has decreased nationally, these statistics highlight why we still need good health and safety in workplaces. I therefore urge employers to spend their time tackling the real dangers that workers face and stop worrying about trivial matters or pointless paperwork.

“It’s important to remember that while we still have one of the lowest rates of workplace deaths in Europe, one death is still one too many. I would urge businesses to focus on helping to cut the number of deaths further in 2014.”

# **Builder sentenced over colleague’s fall**

A building worker suffered life-changing injuries in a fall after a colleague loosened a scaffolding guardrail which later gave way, a court has heard today (9 Dec).

The 42-year-old self-employed labourer from Bristol, who does not wish to be named, broke his back after falling nearly three metres to the ground at the building site in Cheddar.  He remains unable to work and may never be to carry out manual labour again.

Taunton Magistrates’ Court was told that a fellow builder, David Dix, 52, was also working on the construction site at a care home in Tweentown on 30 January 2013. Mr Dix loosened ascaffold guardrail to try and resolve a problem he had encountered. However Mr Dix failed to tighten it up properly again.

Shortly afterwards, the other worker was emptying a muck bin when the guardrail gave way and he fell 2.8 metres to the ground. David John Dix, of Cambrook Close, Camerton, near Bath, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 8 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. He was ordered to pay £700 compensation to the injured party.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Sue Adsett, said: “What happened that day could easily have been avoided and will affect the injured man for the rest of his life. Scaffolding should only be altered by scaffolders, but David Dix took it upon himself to adjust some scaffolding when he was not authorised to do so, with disastrous consequences: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/>

**Happy New Year from**

GOSHA Committee