



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

July 2013

GOSHA News

Forthcoming Events Talks – see our website for more details

- ⌚ 5 September 2013 – visit to Guernsey Fire & Rescue Service with business related fire safety talk and station tour.
- ⌚ October (date tbc) – London Olympics talk (Ros Seal)
- ⌚ 14 November 2013 – Sandy Carmichael (UK HSE) – Construction Safety followed by our AGM

Business Brief

We have in fact been booked space in July's Business Brief, please look out for our article.

Annual Dinner

Frances Outram from the UK HSE Board and Paddy Guyomard of JOSHA will be two special guests at our annual dinner on 23 January 2014 during our safety & health at work week.

Insurance Institute of Guernsey

Our talk to the Insurance Institute of Guernsey lunch on 17 July was to an audience of 30 people.

Alderney States fined £20,000 for an unsafe crane

You may have seen the press reports. There are a number of lessons learned including allocating clear responsibilities for the maintenance of equipment. No-one was hurt but the incident could have had catastrophic consequences.

HSE News

Low Risk businesses – what should they do?

Read this! www.hse.gov.uk/getting-started/index.htm

Health & Safety Policies – employ more than 4 people, you must have one

They don't need to be complicated. Here is some guidance : www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/write.htm

Roof Work

Working on roofs is a high-risk activity because it involves working at height.

Roofers make up nearly a quarter of all workers killed in falls from height at work in the UK. Falls through fragile materials, such as roof lights and asbestos cement roofing sheets, account for more of these deaths than any other single cause. Not all those who are killed while working on roofs are trained roofers: many people accessing roofs are maintenance workers. There are also many serious injuries, often resulting in permanent disabilities.

www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg33.pdf contains guidance on how to plan and work safely on roofs. It covers new buildings, repair, maintenance, cleaning work and demolition. It also includes some guidance for those not directly carrying out work on a roof, such as clients, designers and specifiers.

Roof work is not just an issue for construction companies. This guidance will be useful to anyone planning, arranging or supervising roof work, including:

- ⌚ **directors and partners of companies who carry out roof work**
- ⌚ **clients of projects involving roof work**
- ⌚ **designers and specifiers of buildings and components**
- ⌚ **co-ordinators**
- ⌚ **principal contractors for projects that include roof work**
- ⌚ **owners of buildings where roof work may take place**
- ⌚ **trade union safety representatives and employees' safety representatives**
- ⌚ **anyone carrying out roof work, including employees and the self-employed**
- ⌚ **safety consultants and advisers**

Planning an event

Don't cancel it, plan and prepare – this local Guernsey guide will help to make it successful

[www.hse.gg/PDFs/Guides Information/Guide To Event Safety.pdf](http://www.hse.gg/PDFs/Guides%20Information/Guide%20To%20Event%20Safety.pdf)

Food hygiene – Guernsey

Guernsey has such a good reputation for the quality of its food. Not taking care of food hygiene is not only irresponsible, it's illegal.

It is a legal requirement to ensure that all food handlers engaged in a food business are adequately supervised, instructed and/or trained in food hygiene matters to a level appropriate to their work activity.

The Food Law Update 2007 leaflet www.gov.gg/foodsafety provides guidelines on what level of training is appropriate to ensure that all staff are appropriately trained.

Guernsey H&S Guide for the Self-Employed

It is worth thinking about health & safety if you are self employed. Many people may depend on you, you may work with others or you may work alone. This is a helpful guide which sets out some of your duties.

[www.hse.gg/PDFs/Guides Information/Guide For The Self Employed.pdf](http://www.hse.gg/PDFs/Guides%20Information/Guide%20For%20The%20Self%20Employed.pdf)

Lessons Learned - Safety warning after ten-year-old spotted on scaffolding

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) issued the warning after a boy was photographed with his dad on Merseyside while he carried out repairs to the roof of a three-bedroom semi-detached house up to six metres above the ground.

Liverpool Magistrates' Court heard the man had taken his son to work with him during the spring half term holiday, and had allowed him to climb the scaffolding while he fitted edging - known as barge boards - to the edge of the pitched roof.

His son was seen shimmying along a narrow plank on the scaffolding, gripping to the frame to prevent him falling, as he made his way towards the top of a ladder where his dad was waiting for him.

The ladder was not tall enough to reach the lowest working platform on the scaffolding - missing it by around 30cm. The builder therefore had to hold his son's ankles and place his feet onto the rungs of the ladder to make sure he did not fall or miss his footing.

He was spotted by a passing HSE inspector who issued an immediate Prohibition Notice ordering the builder to dismantle the scaffolding as it was unsafe to use.

The court was told the scaffolding and ladder were not secure, there were missing hand rails to prevent people falling, and no boards had been fitted around the edge of the scaffolding to stop tools or materials falling to the ground below.

"We understand it can be difficult to find things to keep children occupied during the school holidays but taking them into potentially dangerous workplaces isn't the answer. "The ten-year-old boy could easily have been seriously injured or even killed if he had slipped and fallen from the scaffolding but he trusted that his dad knew what he was doing.

GOSHA Committee