



GOSHA Newsletter January and February 2019

New Year – reflect on 2018’s workplace injuries, accidents and ill-health & let’s make 2019 a much better year

We begin a New Year often in hope that it will be a better year than the year just ended. And for you, we hope it is.

The latest Guernsey workplaces accident and injury statistics, show the number up by about 10% on 2017. That is 10% more people significantly affected by a Guernsey workplace accident, injury or illness. And still the Finance Industry records at least one serious incident each month – why is this?

Have a look at the Guernsey HSE website (gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=106453&p=0) for the statistics. We want the number to reduce year on year and we have seen a downward trend since we began in 2004 but the statistics are still far too high. How would you feel if you were left permanently injured or disabled or died through the negligence of those who give you work, of your colleagues, of yourself? GOSHA wants to see the numbers of people who suffer from workplace accidents and injuries reduce each year. Please do your bit to ensure that 2019 is a record low year – we have all the tools, training and protective equipment we need in Guernsey these days – please make good use of it.

Our keynote speaker of 2018, Jason Anker, who suffered the most horrendous injuries when he fell from an incorrectly secured ladder on a worksite while the site manager was trying to hurriedly finish a job, was the best example of why safety & health in the workplace deserves proactive and sensible attention. His life has been ruined by the failings of others and you cannot be unaffected, hearing a story such as his, nor could you not want to do your bit to ensure your workplace is a safe place in which to work.

GOSHA Events in January and February

We will soon be advertising Guernsey Workplaces Safety and Health Week (kindly sponsored by **Rossborough Insurance**) with breakfast talks by excellent speakers on 22, 23 and 24 January at La Villette Hotel. Just register at www.gosha.org.gg. Bacon rolls served 7.30 to 8am then talks between 8am to 9am. They are all relevant to Guernsey workplaces. Please register and attend.

And in February we begin a series of free breakfast time talks (7.45 to 8.45 am), which consider the management and corporate social responsibility elements of safety & health at work. We will advertise these talks as part of Safety and Health week – they are made possible thanks to the generosity of Chris Minta, our speaker, and sponsors, the Aviva Community Fund.

Guernsey HSE

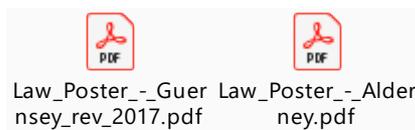
A useful reminder from our HSE:

- *All employers and self-employed people have legal duties under Guernsey health and safety legislation, this extends to all businesses and housing landlords.*
- *Employees also have legal duties to cooperate with their employer and to use provided health and safety equipment correctly.*
- *If you need advice on workplace health and safety, please [follow this link for guidance applicable in Guernsey and Alderney](#).*
- *If there is no specific Guernsey legislation applicable, HSE Guernsey will use [UK legislation](#), [approved codes of practice and guidance](#) as the appropriate standard to benchmark health and safety compliance.*

The fundamental principle of Guernsey's health and safety legislation is that [those who create the risks are best placed to manage them](#). This involves assessing the risks and putting measures in place to reduce or control the risks in the workplace.

And a reminder that we will continue to focus on making people better aware of the dangers of asbestos and its good management (you will have seen a number of recent news reports concerning this topic on the local tv recently and we feel huge sympathy for the victims of this terrible and avoidable material, which leads to premature death) and the effects of the escape of the legionella bacterium, so often poorly controlled by businesses in Guernsey (and a topic of our third breakfast talk in January). We have local Approved Codes of Practice – know them and follow them!

Finally, please remember to put up the Guernsey or Alderney H&SatW posters. It is compulsory and it is surprising how many businesses do not display the poster, display the UK's version or display something completely different!



UK HSE

As noted above, the HSE will consider UK best practice as applicable here where there is no guidance published locally. So it's a good idea to check the UK HSE website from time to time – it has some helpful support material (see also the Guernsey HSE webpage www.gov.gg/hse).

Here are some guides you may find helpful:

- www.hse.gov.uk/gohomehealthy/index.htm topics covered include work related stress, work-related lung disease and work related MSD.
- www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/essentials/index.htm - a good guide to managing workplace substances harmful to health.
- www.hse.gov.uk/slips/index.htm - one of the main causes of injury in Guernsey
- www.gov.gg/asbestos – recording, managing, controlling, disposal in Guernsey
- www.gov.gg/legionella - a helpful resume of Guernsey's approach with a link to the ACoP

Myth: HSE bans this, that and the other

The reality from HSE - HSE has banned very little outright, apart from a very few high-risk exceptions (e.g. asbestos which kills over 5,000 individuals in the UK each year). HSE believes that health and safety should be about taking practical steps to manage real risks, not bureaucracy leading to the banning of everyday activities. Next time you hear of a 'ban', if in doubt check it out.