



GOSHA Newsletter **September 2020**

Prepare for Coronavirus!

Assess - Prevent - Reduce – Protect

COVID-19

COVID-19 has continued to be a key part of the daily news headlines, especially in the UK.

Here in Guernsey, we have been fortunate to be able to live relatively free of restrictions (other than travel to and from the Bailiwick, of course) and having to wear nose and mouth coverings in shops and other enclosed spaces has been something we have not needed to do.

Much of our good fortune has arisen from the proactive and effective leadership given by the States of Guernsey, from limited opportunities for travel to and from the Bailiwick of Guernsey and from our relative isolation. But much of the isolation has been overcome by people using effective communications media to keep in touch and continue to do business around the world.

The challenges of COVID-19 have shown how resilient people can be. Of how good, proactive and effective management can prevent illness and injury and how effective business contingency plans and resilience can ensure that business can continue to operate productively and well.

There is no room for complacency as we see second waves of the virus and spread arising from carelessness reported on our TV and radio news bulletins from reporters around the world.

Guernsey is in a privileged position because, so far, the disease spread has been restricted and controlled by a willing population and we hope that position continues. But being prepared is so important. There really is no reason to think COVID-19 will not reappear in Guernsey and, being ready if it does (by having contingency plans in place, refined as necessary from past experience) will help many of our businesses to reduce its effects.

Whilst using internet purchasing has been helpful, there is so much value personally and for our community in “buying local”. Let’s continue to support one another and to be ready for COVID-19 and whatever else the winter has in store for us.

Keep up-to-date by reference to :

www.covid19.gov.gg/

and, specifically in relation to workplace safety:

www.gov.gg/hse

Our AGM and the New Guernsey Construction ACoP – **7am, Thursday 22 October 2020 at La Villette Hotel**

Our AGM is a good opportunity for us to reflect on what we do, what we can do and to bring in new ideas and approaches to keep GOSHA relevant, helpful, fresh and effectively communicate messages of good practice to businesses, charities and other organisations in Guernsey.

Can you attend? Are you willing to stand as a member of our friendly, knowledge sharing committee?

Please put forward your name. You don't need to be an expert, just willing to help Guernsey to be a safe and healthy place in which to work. Please send your name by email to Jon Coyde, our Secretary.

The meeting is also a great opportunity to hear from our Health and Safety Executive about Guernsey's new Construction Approved Code of Practice, which will apply to ALL construction projects and businesses in Guernsey in the future. So, if you work in construction, allied trades and suppliers, own property, manage it or use it, you should know about this important update to Guernsey law, how it may affect you and your organisation and know of the good practices which will be expected when it is introduced.

We are very grateful to the HSE for delivering this presentation to those who attend. It has been set at a time conducive to attendance by the construction industry and we hope you will find it valuable guidance. A flyer with more details, will be sent out soon.

Our AGM will start at 7am and the ACoP presentation will begin once the AGM is concluded (around 7.30am). There will be free tea, coffee and bacon rolls for all who attend. And there is no charge for attendance.

Managing Mental Health

This topic has received quite a bit of COVID-19 related attention in the UK press.

It is one of those issues that affects more people than we think and we are fortunate to have the support of very good health professionals in Guernsey and an effective Guernsey MIND charity. Here is some text Guernsey MIND has produced:

Support, advice and training

We offer local businesses support, advice and training to manage the mental health of employees at work. We can provide guidance and help to develop simple, strategic and practical tools which focus on adopting a mentally supportive workplace culture and enable businesses to manage mental health at work proactively.

Options include adopting policies on managing mental health at work, providing training to build confidence and skills for managers when supporting staff with mental health concerns, and encouraging staff to have an informed approach to managing their own stress levels and knowing when and how to ask for help.

Contact them at www.guernseymind.org.gg/contact

Asbestos Related Conditions – Compensation and Awareness

We are very pleased that Deputy Matt Fallaize's request to introduce compensation for those affected by these life ending conditions has been approved by the States of Guernsey.

Asbestos related conditions are horrible. They are avoidable but often the carelessness of people results in the development and prevalence of these conditions.

Complacency and a lack of training and awareness add to the dangers. There is a Guernsey Asbestos Approved Code of Practice. Know it and act upon it and save lives. Asbestos is Guernsey's biggest workplace killer and has been used in buildings and other facilities all over the island in the past, til it was banned in 1999. Know what's in your building and if you have asbestos in it, make sure contractors and others who may need to be aware of it, have access to the plan before works begin.

Secretary, Jon Coyde at Secretary@gosha.org.gg
www.gosha.org.gg