



GOSHA Newsletter

June 2022

Prevent (and be ready for) things going wrong!

Assess - Prevent - Reduce – Protect – Be Ready (BCP)

Safety & Health at Work Week – Talks 5 to 7 April

The talks were well attended, and we should like to thank our speakers and our sponsor Spring Insure Guernsey for their support and making the whole week possible.

See www.springinsure.co.uk

Health & Safety in the Workplace – A Guernsey Conference **Thursday 13 October 2022 at the Performing Arts Centre, Guernsey**

At our last AGM, members asked us to organize a workplace health and safety conference, which we are currently preparing, and which is to take place on Thursday 13 October 2022 at the Performing Art Centre between 9am and 5pm.

Please add the event to your diary – it would be great to see as many people as possible there. Entry is free.

The format will be a mix of stalls (£50 for a pitch for the day) allowing local health and safety in the workplace businesses to showcase the products and services they provide.

In the auditorium, we will have a number of talks by health and safety experts on a wide range of relevant and helpful topics.

We will publish all the details nearer the time but your support for the event will be greatly appreciated and if you know people and businesses who could benefit from attending, please let them know.

Topics we'll cover will include office safety, fire safety, driving at work, mental health awareness, working at height, asbestos, legionella and more.

We aim to have talks in the auditorium and a range of stalls/displays in the entrance foyer.

If you'd like to be involved, please let us know as soon as you can. It is a great opportunity to inform people in Guernsey, to display and maybe sell expertise and products to those who visit. Taking part will add to your profile and will help to make Guernsey a safer place in which to work.

Slips Trips and Falls

Slips, trips and falls account for a significant percentage of Guernsey reported workplace injuries each year. It is an often-overlooked aspect or an area where insufficient regard is given. In this article, the issue, its importance and the value of good management and housekeeping are highlighted.

The gap in awareness for workplace slips, trips is a business risk – report

by [Mika Pangilinan](#) 15 Jun 2022 from www.insurancebusinessmag.com

Businesses and their employees are exposed to significant risk due to a lack of awareness for workplace slips, trips and falls (STF), new research from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) and insurer [RSA](#) has revealed.

With nearly 3,000 respondents, RSA and RoSPA's report found that 60% of decision makers do not have a dedicated STF prevention programme. Some businesses also reported losing in excess of 100,000 hours, or 4,167 days, working time per year due to STF and separate data from RSA revealed that the average claim for STF is £25,000.

Among the issues examined by RoSPA and RSA's research was the lack of attention given to the risks associated with STF in the workplace. One reason was that many respondents felt it more necessary to focus on wider scale events such as inflation, COVID-19, and the war in Ukraine. "There are real problems and challenges for employers and employees to deal with without making new ones up," said one of the respondents.

"We understand businesses and decision makers are under significant pressure with everything that is happening both inside and outside of their businesses, but workplace slips, trips and falls haven't gone away," said Andy Jones, risk consulting director at RSA. "The research highlights that an increased focus on this type of risk is clearly needed for us to move the dial, enabling businesses to better manage and drive out STF incidents."

The study also asked respondents for their view on what methods are effective and ineffective for preventing STF. Basic housekeeping standards were seen as fundamentally important in preventing workplace accidents along with proper training, which respondents linked with management involvement, workforce ownership, and accountability. The use of posters and signages correlated with the least effective methods of preventing STF, indicating that businesses need to carefully consider how to best communicate their STF prevention messages.

"The results show that there is a significant proportion of business decision makers who really don't see STF as important," said Nathan Davies, executive head of policy and portfolio at RoSPA. "The very fact that inevitability, inaction and blame was prevalent in this report suggests that STF are essentially a hidden issue for many employers. More specific action is clearly needed in many, many workplaces in the UK. The negative perceptions and beliefs portrayed in the report, need to be challenged. Business decision makers need to be educated on the causes and direct and indirect effects of STF. These decision makers would also clearly benefit from support on how to put in place effective prevention strategies."

"Employers need to better understand both the human, as well as financial costs, associated with this type of accident and understand they are not inevitable and can be managed," added Jones. **"We need to move from a 'it's human nature', 'it can't be managed', 'it's unpreventable', type attitude to more of a 'we recognise the cost and importance of preventing STFs and we are taking preventative measures to eliminate this risk from our business.'"**