

ARTICLES:-MAN LOSSES ARM IN UNGAURDED DRILL

A construction products manufacturer has been fined £40,000 after a worker's arm was pulled into an unguarded rotating drill. Steve Jones worked for Romtech Ltd in Cannock as a welder. Whilst operating the drill his right handed glove became entangled in the rotating drill bit and his arm was pulled into the drill. He used his left arm to push the emergency stop button but his clothing was drawn into the machine to such an extent that he had to be cut free by the emergency services.

A prohibition notice was issued on the company requiring guarding to be installed on the machine. The company was also given an improvement notice to revise its risk assessments for using the machine.

The HSE inspector said "Fixed guards that enclose drill tips and the spindle would have provided the highest standard of protection for the operative".

GROUNDWORKER TRAPPED IN COLLAPSED TRENCH

Workers at a construction site used an excavator to rescue one of their colleagues who was buried under falling debris when the trench he was working in collapsed. Mark Miller was laying a French drain inside a trench on 22 October 2007. The walls of the three metre deep trench were not supported, and one of the sides collapsed, trapping Mr Miller's leg.

Earth fallen around him made it impossible for him to breathe, as colleagues scrambled to remove earth from his face before the other sides later collapsed. He was taken to hospital and suffered a broken leg.

The HSE issued a Prohibition Notice against the excavations until a safe method of work was introduced. The HSE inspector said "Groundwork is extremely dangerous and companies must make sure that excavations are properly supported to avoid serious injury or even death. The company was fined £3,500 and ordered to pay costs of £2,000

2.2 T UNSTABLE LOAD FALLS ON WORKER

A lorry trailer firm did not have suitable control measures in place to protect workers using forklift trucks to transport heavy loads. On 13th March 2008 a worker at S Cartwright and Sons Ltd in Broadheath, was seriously injured when a stack of metal beams fell off forks of the forklift truck and landed on him.

The strips weighed 2.2 tonnes and had not been secured to the forklift. As the load approached Mr Jones they became unbalanced and slid off the forks. He suffered multiple fractures to his back and shoulder and a punctured lung.

The HSE issued a Prohibition Notice instructing the company to put in place procedures for safe loading and securing onto forklift trucks. Employees had not received any training regarding securing loads and there was not written guidance in place. The company was fined £145,000 and ordered to pay £16,315 costs.

CHECK YOUR ARRANGEMENTS FOR:-FIRST AID

REGULATIONS

The Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981 require you to provide adequate and appropriate first aid equipment, facilities and people so your employees can be given immediate help if they are injured or taken ill at work.

What is 'adequate and appropriate' will depend on the circumstances in your workplace and you should assess what your first aid needs are.

PROVISIONS

The minimum first aid provision on any work site is:

- A suitable stocked first aid kit
- An appointed person to take charge of first aid arrangements
- Information for employees about first aid arrangements

TRAINED FIRST AIDERS

A first-aider is someone who has undertaken training and has a qualification that HSE approves. This means that they must hold a valid certificate of competence in either:

- First aid at work (FAW), issued by a training organisation approved by HSE; or
- emergency first aid at work (EFAW), issued by a training organisation approved by HSE

There are no hard and fast rules on numbers of trained personnel. This depends on circumstances of your workplace, ie, risks, number of employees, shift work and locality to nearest A&E Hospital / doctor. You also need to consider cover for absences.

CONSULTATION

You must have written procedures and inform your employees of the first aid arrangements. Putting up notices telling staff who and where the first-aiders or appointed persons are and where the first aid box is located, will usually be enough. You will need to make special arrangements to give first aid information to employees with reading or language difficulties.

WE OFFER:- REVIEW OF YOUR FIRST AID ARRANGEMENTS

Northants Risk Management Solutions can review your existing arrangements to ensure that your company is compliant with the First Aid at Work Regulations. This is available as a separate service or can be incorporated into your Risk Management Package as part of your policy review.

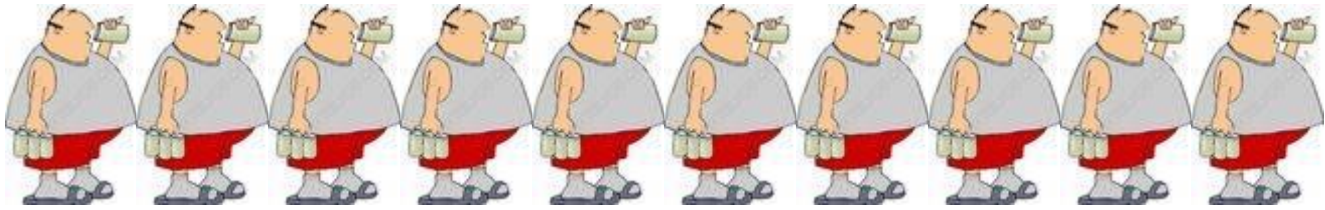
UP DATE: - FIRST CORPORATE MANSLAUGHTER PROSECUTION POSTPONED



The trial of the first UK company to be charged under the 2007 Corporate Manslaughter Act has been adjourned for 18 weeks. Cotswold Geotechnical Holdings is accused over the death of 27-year-old employee Alex Wright of Cheltenham. The geologist died in September 2008 when a trench collapsed on him as he collected soil samples in Brimscombe.

Company director Peter Eaton, 60, of Stroud, also faces a charge of gross negligence manslaughter. The trial was due to start on 23 February but trial has been adjourned and is due to resume in October. This decision was made due to Mr Eaton being requiring urgent medical treatment of a character which would render it unfair and oppressive for him to have to participate in the trial at that time.

TOOL BOX TALK OF THE MONTH: –ALCOHOL & YOUR JOB



Working under the influence of alcohol is strictly prohibited. This means more than just not drinking on the job. Tests have shown that alcohol can still have an effect on your body up to 18 hours after you have stopped drinking. Alcohol use is a legitimate on-the-job safety issue - and not just an attempt to control off-the-clock lifestyles.

Alcohol is a sedative. Drinking any quantity of alcohol impairs a person's judgment, thinking ability, and coordination to some degree. Some people can "handle" alcohol better than others, but it is a fact that any alcohol consumed has some effect. Other factors which influence your body's ability to metabolize alcohol include your weight, medications, and previous medical conditions. You may not feel it right away, but remember, alcohol affects judgment.

After drinking, you are no longer in a position to assess your own capabilities. You don't have to be drunk to have some impairment. If you can't make it through the day without a drink, you could have a problem and should seek professional help.

What should you do about a co-worker who is drinking on the job? Should you ignore the situation or report it?

Most people would ignore the situation because they do not want to cause problems on the job or do not want to get involved. People would prefer to avoid conflict at almost any cost. But look at it this way - the drinker, no matter how nice a co-worker, is not doing you any favours. It's a fact that the drinker is less productive. Who has to pick up the slack? You do. It is a fact that the drinker is more likely to be involved in accidents. Who else is he or she placing at risk?You!

Are you allowing the drinking to continue?

- You are - if you cover for the drinker's poor productivity
- You are - if you cover their mistakes.
- You are - if you make excuses to others for them.

Take control of the situation.

- Don't allow the situation to continue. Stop covering for the drinker.
 - Talk to your supervisor. It is your responsibility to talk to your supervisor whenever any performance or safety issues affects your job. A drinking worker could be just as dangerous as a defective saw. You wouldn't hesitate to bring the saw to your supervisor's attention, would you?
 - If you are uncomfortable, suggest to your supervisor that there may be a problem. A good supervisor will take the initiative and pick up the issue from there.

Whatever you do, make sure you do something. Watch out for your co-worker as they may need help. If you don't, you may pay dearly for someone else's mistake.

Date:

Company Name:

Site:

Completed by:

The undersigned have attended:

Name

Signature

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MYTH OF THE MONTH:-

THE HSE STILL BANS THIS, THAT AND THE OTHER



THE REALITY

They've said it all before, but there are still too many reports that the HSE and health and safety law are responsible for all sorts of bans – cheese-rolling events, knitting in hospitals and even toothpicks!

In reality HSE has banned very little outright, apart from a few high-risk exceptions like asbestos, which kills around 4000 people a year. Too often health and safety is used as a convenient excuse, but it's time to challenge this and remind people to focus on the real risks – those that are still causing people to be killed, injured or made ill at work.

Challenge the myths and tackle real risks.

AND REMEMBER.....“DON`T LEARN SAFETY BY ACCIDENT”

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