

## Environmental and Waste Management Group



### February 2019 Newsletter

#### LEGISLATION, REGULATORS, GUIDANCE & CONSULTATIONS

##### **The Telegraph picks up on concerns over kerbside recycling boxes**

The University of Greenwich surveyed more than 200 refuse workers over four years to find out whether modern collections were causing them health problems. In research published by the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) it was found that recorded pain from collection injuries rose by 25 per cent in 2014 following a growth in garden refuse and food waste collections.

Wheelie bins were best for avoiding strains, research showed, in contrast with boxes, which involved bending down. The study called for local authorities to discontinue 'box type' collections as a matter of urgency.

Dr David Thomas, of the University of Greenwich and a Member of IOSH's Environmental and Waste Management Group Committee (EWMG) said: "The findings of this research present a timely opportunity for organisations to consider how they protect their workforces.

"Rather than organisations focusing on generic 'capability' for a 'fit youngster' they need to consider how they accommodate an ever-increasing ageing workforce when developing systems of work."

The research confirms previously established links between awkward occupational postures and lower back pain, which can often be a result of bending, twisting, lifting boxes and sorting recycling into different components and bins.

Andy Robertson, IOSH EWMG Chair, said: "Figures released by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) show around 70 per cent of all workers in the Waste Management industry are involved in municipal household and commercial collections.

"These collections account for about 80 per cent of all the reported injuries, with the most common being musculoskeletal disorders."

The research was published in the journal [Policy and Practice in Health and Safety](#).

(Read more: [telegraph.co.uk](http://telegraph.co.uk), [itv.com](http://itv.com), [ciwm-journal.co.uk](http://ciwm-journal.co.uk), [gcu.ac.uk](http://gcu.ac.uk), [gre.ac.uk](http://gre.ac.uk))

## **The future of environmental governance post-Brexit**

Environmental Analyst considers how Westminster Energy, Environment and Transport forum highlights optimism about future of environmental governance post-Brexit, but the devil is now in the detail? (Read more: [environment-analyst.com](http://environment-analyst.com))

## **INCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS**

### **Waste & recycling company fined £1 million after the death of a worker**

In 2013 a Veolia ES (UK) Limited employee suffered fatal injuries when he was run over by a reversing refuse collection vehicle (RCV) whilst he was walking across the yard at the Ross Depot Waste Transfer Station in Folkestone. HSE investigation identified a lack of specific controls on vehicle movements in the yard, failure to assess the risks in area and a failure of the company to implement industry recognised control measures to protect employees.

HSE inspector Kevin Golding said: "This should be a reminder to all industries, but in particular, the waste industry, to appropriately assess the risks and implement widely recognised control measures to adequately control manoeuvring vehicles, in particular reversing vehicles and restrict pedestrian movements around vehicles." (Read more: [hse.gov.uk](http://hse.gov.uk))

### **Second environmental investigation launched into clinical waste firm**

Safety regulators have launched a second criminal investigation into a Scottish waste firm, Healthcare Environmental Services (HES), accused of stockpiling several hundred tonnes of toxic and infectious hospital waste, including body parts, at sites in England and Scotland.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa) is investigating whether HES was guilty of criminal offences for failing to act on four enforcement notices at its plants in Dundee and at its headquarters in Shotts, North Lanarkshire. The agency's action follows a similar earlier announcement by the Environment Agency earlier this month. (Read more: [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com))

### **Lest we forget: Kegworth air crash 1989**

Thirty years ago a plane carrying 118 passengers crashed into an embankment on the side of the M1 near Nottingham. What lessons were learned? Read more: [iosh.co.uk](http://iosh.co.uk))

## **OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST**

### **The WISH Skills and Competence Working Group are looking for new members**

The Group aims to support and promote the provision of H&S training, education and skills for the waste industry and is currently focussing on: assessment of health and safety competence in the workplace; and, training and assessment standards for mobile and static plant (specifically for applications in the waste and recycling industry).

If you are interested in getting involved, please e-mail Denise McGlynn to find out more.

([Denise.McGlynn@euskills.co.uk](mailto:Denise.McGlynn@euskills.co.uk))

### **Government re-launches search for communities to host new nuclear waste storage site**

The Government has launched a new search for a site to host the country's proposed geological disposal facility for high-level radioactive waste in a policy paper, *Implementing Geological Disposal: Working with Communities: An updated framework for the long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste*.

In a written statement to the House of Commons, Richard Harrington, parliamentary under-secretary of state at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), said: "This document sets out the government's overarching policy framework for managing higher activity radioactive waste through implementing geological disposal and how we will work with communities to find a location for a geological disposal facility. Alongside publishing this policy paper, the government is also... launching a new national consent-based process to find a site to host a geological disposal facility (GDF)." (Read more: [world-nuclear-news.org](http://world-nuclear-news.org))

### **ARCA Magazine**

Keep up to date with asbestos developments in the latest Asbestos Removal Contractors Association (ARCA) magazine. (Read more: [arca.org.uk](http://arca.org.uk))

### **National Safety and Health Conference: Looking after the worker**

The 2019 National Safety and Health Conference (NSHC) will be held on Thursday 13 June at the Holiday Inn Royal Victoria Sheffield. In its 44<sup>th</sup> year in 2019, this conference will be led by four IOSH Groups including the EWMG. (Read more: [iosh.co.uk](http://iosh.co.uk))

### **Tyne and Wear Branch & EWMG event, Nissan, Thursday 21 March**

Glenn Ridsdale will take the audience through the implementation of a behavioural-based safety programme throughout the UK arm of international waste management company Suez and EWMG's Chair, Andy Robertson, will look at the major issues affecting an industry with significantly worse fatality, injury and ill-health performance figures than the all-industry UK national average. (Read more: [iosh.co.uk](http://iosh.co.uk))