

Environmental and Waste Management Group



August 2019 Newsletter

LEGISLATION, REGULATORS, GUIDANCE & CONSULTATIONS

HSE Annual Workplace Fatality Figures

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has released its annual figures for work-related fatal injuries for 2018/19 as well as the number of people known to have died from the asbestos-related cancer, mesothelioma, in 2017.

The provisional annual data for work-related fatal injuries revealed that 147 workers were fatally injured between April 2018 and March 2019 (a rate of 0.45 per 100,000 workers). The three most common causes of fatal injuries continue to be; workers falling from height (40), being struck by a moving vehicle (30) and being struck by a moving object (16), accounting for nearly 60 per cent of fatal injuries in 2018/19.

Although 2018/19 saw an increase of 6 workplace fatalities from 2017/18, the number has remained broadly level in recent years. However, waste and recycling is amongst the worst affected sectors (with agriculture, forestry and fishing) with a rate of fatal injury significantly higher than the average for 2014/15 - 2018/19 across all industries.

The new figures also continued to highlight the risks to older workers; 25 per cent of fatal injuries in 2018/19 were to workers aged 60 or over, even though such workers made up only around 10 per cent of the workforce.

Following the release, HSE Chair Martin Temple commented: "Today's release of workplace fatality statistics is a reminder that despite the UK's world leading position in health and safety, we cannot become complacent as we seek to fulfil our mission in preventing injury, ill health and death at work." (Read more: [hse.gov.uk](https://www.hse.gov.uk))

HSE seeks local authorities to support statement of commitment

HSE is urging local authorities (LAs) across the country to make a Statement of Commitment (SoC), to work with others to improve health and safety standards in the sectors they regulate; acknowledging the vital role LAs play as co-regulatory partners, and in that of elevating the profile of health and safety work within their organisations.

The SoC was developed by HSE in recognition of the challenging environments faced by LAs and how these could impact the way they deliver a wide range of regulatory services and statutory duties. The SoC recognises that:

- LAs must target and prioritise regulatory resources to meet their legal duties.
- Continued delivery of effective co-regulation will require ongoing evolution in both the LA and HSE approaches to regulatory delivery.
- The HSE and LA co-regulatory partnership plays a vital role in delivering the 'Help GB Work Well' strategy.

(Read more: shponline.co.uk)

COSHH Safe Handling of Chemicals Poster

HSE has produced a simple poster highlighting how to handle chemicals safely in the workplace. Available to purchase directly from HSE: hse.gov.uk

National Policy Statement for Geological Disposal Infrastructure published

The government has published a new national policy statement (NPS) intended to guide the future planning process for a new national underground nuclear waste facility. Keeping an open mind on the number of new underground nuclear storage facilities, the government has not ruled out the creation of more than one underground facility, according to the new NPS. (Read more: gov.uk)

ISO 14090 Adaptation to climate change

BSI have just published the first ever British standard on climate adaptation, the new standard – ISO 14090 Adaptation to climate change – is a decision-making framework that enables organisations to prevent or minimise climate change impacts and take advantage of opportunities. The standard builds on processes already existing within the organisation. (Read more: bsigroup.com)

Load security - Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations

HSE has been running a vehicle load security enforcement campaign. As a useful reminder, the guidance for skips identifies what the DVSA considers to be acceptable security and also provides information on how to comply with LOLER regarding appropriate inspections of lifting arms. (Read more: gov.uk)

Consultation responses published

The UK Government has published consultation responses and next steps for a [deposit return scheme \(DRS\) for drinks containers](#), [consistency in household and business recycling](#), [extended producer responsibility \(EPR\)](#) and [plastic packaging tax](#).

INCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS

Company fined after worker loses fingers clearing bailer blockage

Wrapp Recycling Ltd based in Manchester has been fined £13,000 and ordered to pay costs of almost £6,000 after an employee seriously injured his hand and lost two fingers whilst operating a baler at their site in Bradford Street, Bolton. The worker, who had been employed for just eight weeks, attempted to clear a blockage in the hopper of the machine while it was switched on.

On investigation, HSE found the company had installed a removable guard as blockages in the machine occurred frequently. The employees were not informed of the dangers of accessing the hopper while the power was on and HSE found was common practice to clear the machine by hand with the machine still running. Speaking after the hearing, HSE Inspector Catherine Lyon said: “This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures and implementing a safe system of work.” (Read more: [hse.gov.uk](https://www.hse.gov.uk))

Company directors convicted after 2 major fires

Two former directors of Lawrence Skip Hire Ltd, Kidderminster, have been given suspended prison sentences and community punishment orders in relation to waste management failures at the company leading to two major fires, in 2012 and 2013, and a pollution incident, categorised by court sentencing guidelines as being at the highest level. (Read more: [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))

Waste and recycling company fined after employee injured during machinery maintenance

A waste and recycling company, Siteserv Recycling (Waste Paper) Ltd, has been fined after an employee suffered a broken arm and crush injuries whilst carrying out maintenance work at a site in Llandow, Vale of Glamorgan, in 2018. The employee was tracking a running conveyor when his arm became entangled between the conveyor belt and the roller, causing a broken arm and crush injuries. Pleading guilty, the company was fined around £25,000 and £8,000 in costs.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Matthew Hamar commented: “This injury was easily preventable. Employers should make sure they properly assess risk and apply effective control measures to minimise the risk from dangerous parts of machinery, especially during maintenance work.” (Read more: [hse.gov.uk](https://www.hse.gov.uk))

Kent woman's jail term for waste crime role

A woman from Kent whose family business was running an illegal waste site has been given a suspended six-week prison sentence whilst her father and sister were also convicted but failed to attend court for sentencing. (Read more: [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))

OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST

Scottish wind power output at record high

Wind power output in Scotland hit a record high during the first six months of 2019, according to figures from Weather Energy. It has calculated the energy produced by turbines could power every home in Scotland and part of the north of England. The period to June, it claimed, saw the equivalent of 4.47 million homes' consumption supplied by wind power. WWF Scotland has described the trend as a "wind energy revolution". (Read more: bbc.co.uk)

Scotland's largest offshore wind farm officially opened

Scotland's largest offshore wind farm has been officially opened by Prince Charles. The Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm, located about eight miles (13km) off the coast of Wick in the far north, can generate enough energy to power 450,000 homes. (Read more: bbc.co.uk)

World's first hydrogen car ferry

What is claimed to be the world's first hydrogen-powered car ferry is expected to hit the water in Norway during 2021. Norwegian ferry company Norled and the Weston shipyard have signed a contract for the construction of the new vessel, along with a battery-powered ship. (Read more: energylivenews.com)

Reducing food waste in London

Small Change Big Difference – run by food reduction charity WRAP, the London Waste and Recycling Board and Groundwork London – is hosting free workshops and classes across the capital to show people how they can use up leftovers and items loitering in fridges and cupboards, store food so it doesn't go to waste and eat less meat. (Read more: energylivenews.com)

Air pollution in Birmingham 'shortens lives of children by half a year'

Primary school children who grow up in Birmingham could lose half a year of their lives due to illegal levels of air pollution in the city, a new report warns.

The study, carried out by Kings College London, examines levels of nitrogen dioxide and particulate pollution (PM2.5) in the city and calculates that an eight-year-old child could die up to seven months early if exposed over their lifetimes to toxic air. The loss of life expectancy is worse in Birmingham than some other major cities in the UK including Manchester, researchers found.

Birmingham is one of five cities required by the government to set up a clean air zone to reduce toxic air, as part of plans to tackle the illegal levels of pollution in 38 out of 43 areas of the country. (Read more: theguardian.com)

Quarter of world's biggest firms 'fail to disclose emissions'

About a quarter of the world's highest-emitting, publicly listed companies fail to report their greenhouse gas emissions and nearly half do not properly consider the risks from the climate crisis in decision-making, new research has found.

The findings show the distance even the world's biggest companies still have to cover to meet the goals of the Paris agreement on climate change, according to the group of investors coordinating the report. The research covered a sample of 274 of the world's highest emitting companies which are publicly listed, and therefore must make official disclosures of key financial data. It was carried out by the Grantham Research Institute on climate change at the London School of Economics and commissioned by the Transition Pathway Initiative, a group of investors supportive of the Paris agreement, with about \$14tn (£11tn) in funds under management. (Read more: [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com))

Climate change: UK Government 'like Dad's Army'

The UK government is facing a "get real" moment over global heating, its official climate change advisers have said.

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) said ministers were failing to cut emissions fast enough and failing to adapt to rising temperatures. The committee chairman said ministers were acting like the hapless characters from the vintage comedy, Dad's Army. (Read more: [bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk))

Toxic Organic Contaminants in Our Environment, Galway, Ireland

The Ryan Institute Centre for One Health (COH) will host their second Annual Conference 'Toxic Organic Contaminants in Our Environment' on September 20th 2019 in the O'Donoghue Center at NUI Galway.

The conference's overarching objective is to promote awareness of issues relating to the presence of toxic organic contaminants within the Irish environment. This will be achieved by bringing together relevant stakeholders in Irish industry and policy-making sectors with researchers actively investigating the sources, pathways and impacts of toxic organic contaminants on the Irish environment. By so doing, it will help establish networks and foster knowledge exchange between stakeholder groups to help develop solutions to problems associated with toxic organic contaminants. The conference will be split into 3 sessions, namely:

- International and Policy Perspectives
- Contamination of the environment and human exposure
- Implications for waste management

(Read more: nuigalwaycentreforclimateandai.clr)

Scottish Contaminated Land forum

Tenth annual conference on advances in land contamination assessment and remediation 4th September 2019, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow. (Read more: sclf.co.uk)

HSE Innovation in Battery Technology

HSE Training and Events will be hosting 'Innovation in Battery Technology – Safely Enabling the Industrial Strategy' in November 2019. This one-day event will bring together industry, academia, government and regulators to share knowledge, experience and insight into current lithium ion battery safety research and to discuss how the latest evidence base can be used to overcome the health and safety challenges of innovating and regulating this growing area of technology. Further updates from HSE to follow.

IOSH 2019

For the practitioners, the leaders and the innovators in safety and health; the global conference for safety and health professionals, 16-17 September 2019. (Read more: ioshconference.com)