

HSE Accident Statistics 2006-07

The facts you need to know.

- 241 workers killed at work
- Of the main industrial sectors, agriculture and construction have the highest rate of fatal injury.
- 141,350 injuries to employees
- 274,000 reportable injuries occurred, according to the Labour Force Survey
- 36 million working days lost (30 million due to work-related ill health and 6 million due to workplace injury)

Company fined £30,000 after agency worker loses arm in workplace

A Cheshire manufacturing company has been prosecuted after a man lost his arm when it became trapped in machinery. The court heard that the agency worker was tasked with changing a roll of fabric on a machine and as he was holding the fabric in place on the machine in the "danger area" a colleague started up the machine and his right arm became trapped. He was taken to hospital with severe injuries and after enduring several hours of operation his arm was amputated.

The HSE inspector found that because of problems ensuring adequate adhesion when fitting new rolls, it had been common for a person to hold the fabric in place in the "danger area" while the machine was started. The company pleaded guilty to a charge under Section 3 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act, failing to ensure a person not in their employment was not exposed to risks to their health and safety. The company was fined £30,000 and ordered to pay costs of £4,500.

Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 Section 3(1) states: *"It shall be the duty of every employer to conduct his undertaking in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that persons not in his employment who may be affected thereby are not thereby exposed to risks to their health or safety"*.

Freight Company prosecuted by HSE following death of worker

Following the death of an employee, the HSE pursued a prosecution against a Staffordshire-based freight

company for alleged breaches of health and safety at work legislation. Legal proceedings were brought after the employee was killed when a sliding metal gate weighing 0.4 tonnes fell onto him as he was closing it, on the company's site. The company was fined £22,000 with costs of £18,000 having pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to a charge brought by HSE under Regulation 5(1) of the Workplace Health, Safety & Welfare Regulations 1992.

The company had admitted breaching health and safety legislation, by failing to 'maintain equipment and devices (including the access gates to the premises) in efficient working order and in good repair'.

Continual use of untrained workers lands boss in jail

The owner of a Yorkshire-based scaffolding firm was sentenced to three months in prison after an untrained employee was seriously injured when he fell six metres from scaffolding. The Court heard that the owner of the scaffolding company had failed to comply with an HSE Prohibition Notice that specifically prohibited him from using untrained workers to erect or dismantle scaffolding. With no proper training or equipment, an untrained scaffolder with a colleague had been instructed to take down a scaffold. As a result of the six metre fall, the untrained employee suffered two fractured vertebrae and a shattered heel.

Looking After Your Business

You have a responsibility to protect the health & safety of your staff and others affected by your work. Managing health and safety does not need to be expensive, time-consuming or bureaucratic. Health and safety is good business that brings its own benefits:

- Safe working environment
- Reduction in absences
- Lower insurance premiums
- A good reputation
- Increased productivity

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