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HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE
AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AIAC)

FISA Safety Alerts

Issue

The purpose of this paper is to bring to the attention of AIAC members work done by the Forest Industry Safety Accord (FISA) to share the lessons learned from serious or potentially serious incidents.

Recommendation

That AIAC members note the efforts being made by FISA to share information and consider whether such an approach would be effective within their own parts of the agricultural industry, or could be adapted for use within the Farm Safety Partnerships, to bring specific incidents to the industries attention in a timely manner.

Background

An objective of FISA is sharing information following serious or potentially serious incidents so that those working in the industry can learn from each other.

A FISA Working Group has been looking at the sharing of information. However, this group has found that barriers to collecting, classifying, storing and interpreting incident data are significant and costly, making analysis of bulk incidents unlikely in the near future. However, it is possible to share information on lessons learned from the more serious incidents through the use of safety alerts.

Such alerts describe the circumstances leading up to an incident and action taken which may prevent similar incidents happened in future. Safety Alerts are shared with the industry through the FISA website <http://www.ukfisa.com/safety-information/safety-alerts1.html>

The alert is typically drafted by the Company on whose site where the incident occurred although other more generic alerts have been drafted to deal with specific issues (such as an increase in tick activity).

Attached are examples of recent safety alerts.

<http://www.ukfisa.com/assets/files/alerts/UPM-Safety-Alert-May-2015-Trees-sliding-down-steep-ground.pdf>

<http://www.ukfisa.com/assets/files/alerts/Safety-Alert---Chainsaw-Operator-suffers-deep-cut-to-face---May-2014.pdf>

<http://www.ukfisa.com/assets/files/alerts/SW%20Safety%20Bulletin%20Winching%20Leg%20Fracture%20Incident%2012%2007%2013.pdf>

Each company has its own approach to incident investigation, which may lead to inconsistencies with regards to emphasis, but overall information is being shared quickly and more consistently than by traditional methods.

It is likely that not all FISA members are currently contributing to safety alerts as the majority of alerts have been issued by relatively few members.

The majority of incidents reported have not been investigated by HSE and so the FISA Safety Alert may be the only method through which lessons learned can be disseminated. Where an incident is being investigated by HSE, FISA has discussed with HSE whether or not it is appropriate to release a safety alert.

In addition to promoting good practice across the industry by drawing attention to specific issues, the safety alerts have helped promote FISA within the industry and have provided an opportunity for FISA activity without the need for a commitment of significant additional resources by FISA members

Andrew Turner
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