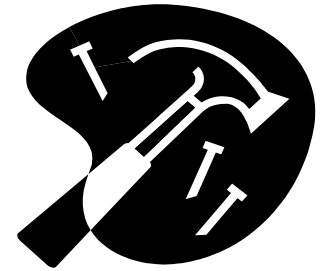
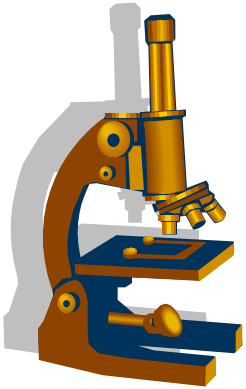
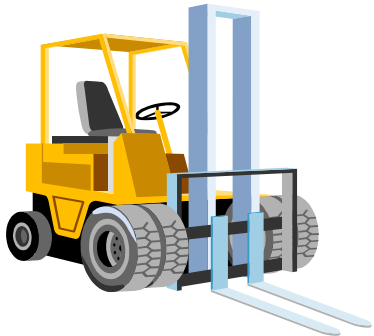




Small Business Trade Association Forum Stocktaking



Achievements, Initiatives &
Improvements
2006 → 2008

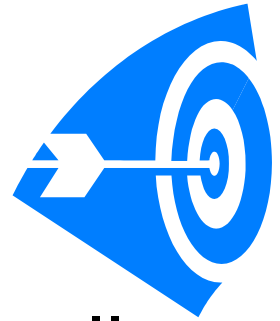


Introduction

- SBTAF est 2004 – 1st meeting 27th Sept
- Small businesses increasingly important to UK economy (90% of UK businesses)
- Small businesses traditionally difficult for HSE to reach
- “Think Small First”
- Gov Enterprise Strategy



Aims



- Ensure HSE hears the concerns of small businesses
- Improve how HSE communicates with small businesses
- Allow HSE to consult members re new initiatives and legislation
- Act as ‘sounding board’ for H&S policy and guidance



Achievements



- Increased Membership - Doubled
- RIDDOR Review – £16.5 million saved
- Competency Statements & Guidance – “HSE Statement to External Providers of Health & Safety” resulted from SBTAF input
- Example Risk Assessments – Ongoing SBTAF involvement. 29 tailored RAs now available
- Lord McKenzie recognition “*Interesting, enlightening & thought-provoking*”

Feedback & The Future

- HSE wants SBTAF members' feedback:
What has SBTAF achieved?
Future Improvements?
- Telephone Survey of Non-Attendees:
Feedback Summary



Telephone Feedback Summary

- Covered: Attendance, E-Community, Achievements, Issues & Improvements
- Template based
- Answers not guided/fitted to template
- Many participants = irregular attendees
- Discover if their views correlate with/diverge from attendees?



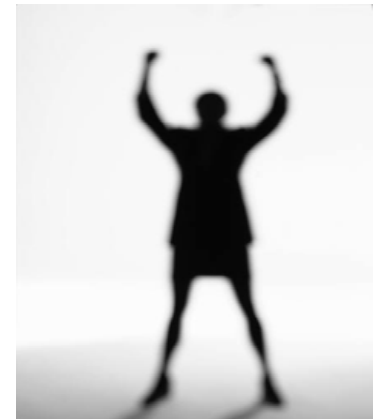


Attendance & E-Community

- Attendance – divergence between hub of regular attenders and irregular attenders
- H&S ('fringe issue') v manpower, £ & time
- E-Community used mainly for acquiring info
- Low level of engagement via e-community

Achievements & Activities

- Opinions varied *“not a lot of SBTAF’s activities have had a great impact” v “the forum has...achieved its goals”*
- Improved flow of info between HSE & SMEs – 54% believe info-provision = main function
- 71% = knowing & understanding H&S legislation is greatest challenge for SMEs.
- Balance between info & interaction?
- Increased engagement = beneficial



Improvements?



- How to encourage member engagement?
- Attendance at meetings v e-community
- Vary days/locations/dates of meetings
- Earlier notification of meeting dates
- Earlier posting of meeting agendas
- Organise meetings around specific themes
- Presentations & early consultation – *“The forum has the potential to be really powerful if consulted in the earliest stages of a project”*

Central Themes



- SBTAF viewed mainly as an information provider? Is it?
- Suggests predominantly passive membership?
- Briefing/Appointing of new SBTAF reps = poor. Suggestive of importance of Forum?
- How best to increase member engagement?
- Increased attendance at meetings v Engagement via E-Community?
- Views of attendees v views of irregular attendees

Points for Discussion

- Attendees' views now invited:
- What has the Forum accomplished?
- Is balance between info-giving and 2-way partnership correct?
- HSE response to SBTAF input
- Emerging H&S Challenges
- How to involve non-attendees
- Improvements
- Impact of economic downturn





Next Steps

- Consolidate telephone and meeting feedback
- Posting of revised stocktaking paper on e-community for comments
- Judith Donovan to use paper as brief to inform review of HSE Strategy (Autumn)

