

Health and Safety
Executive



Regulation and risk management – have we got the balance right?

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'Health and safety' headlines



Height of madness – ladder ban on firemen

Health and safety killjoys

Have we become slaves to elf'n'safety?

Army's bagpipers and drummers must play safe and use earplugs

Going mad about safety?

Too much time on health and safety

Health and safety: the cancer of a civilized society

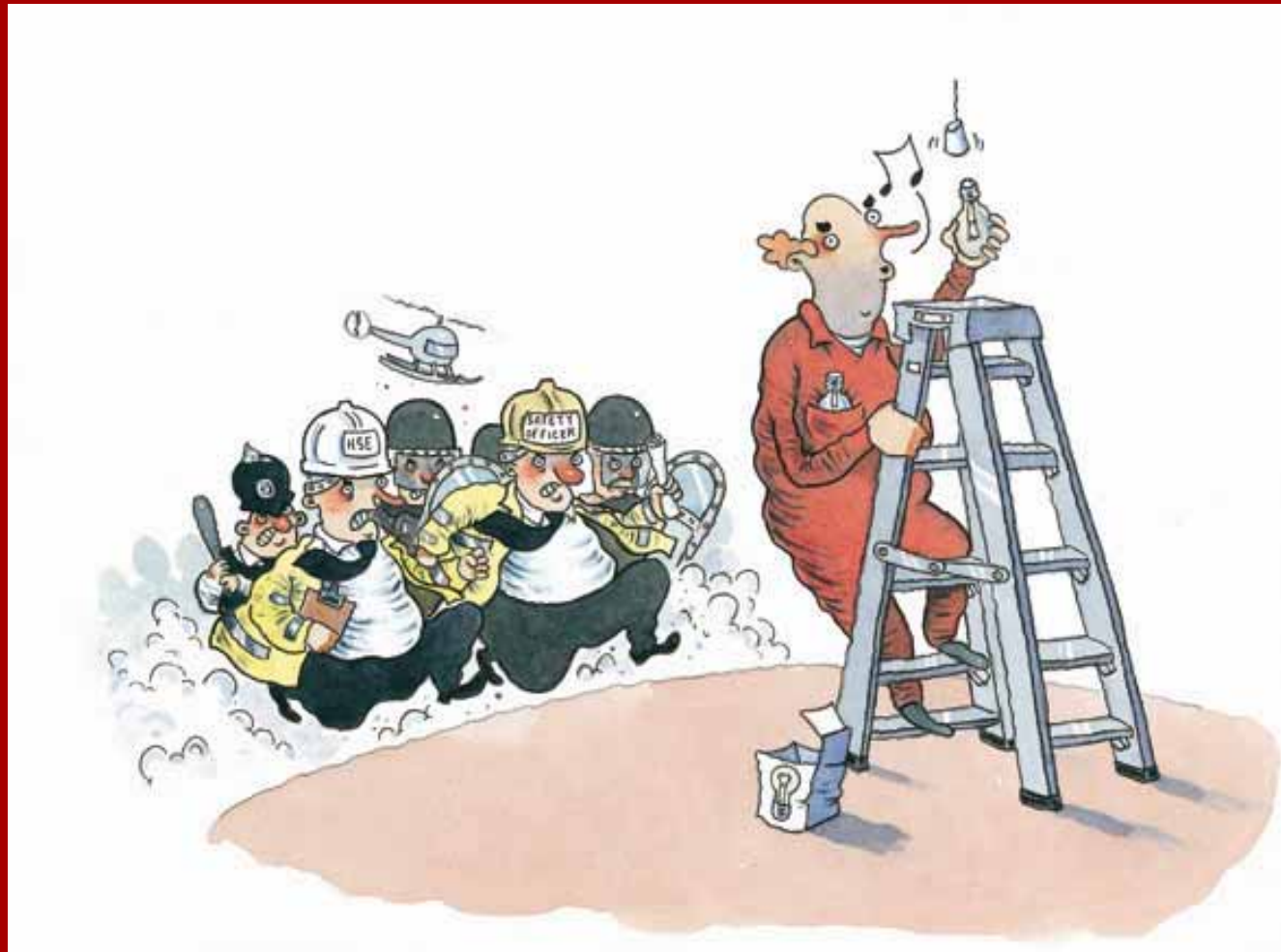
Those who walk under trees are at risk from these terrorising inspectors

The Health and Safety Executive is truly Satan's agent

Safety Nazis ban 'killer' shoes

Health and safety stole my country!

**Health and safety is not about
creating a totally risk free society**



Principles Behind HSWA



- Recognises the pace of change in business, technology and society.
- Removes rigid, specific prescriptive solutions.
- Promotes a more generic goal setting (or outcome-based) approach based on the principle that “Those who create the risk are best placed to manage it”.

Reasonable practicability



- So far as is reasonably practicable (SFAIRP)
- As low as reasonably practicable (ALARP)

Sensible risk management



- How much is enough? – example risk assessments
- Assessment leads to
- Sensible Risk Campaign

Myth of the month: 'Kids must wear goggles to play conkers'



Myth of the month (Nov 2008):
'Children need to be wrapped in cotton wool to keep them safe'



Sensible risk is about



- Ensuring that workers and the public are protected
- Balancing risks and benefits
- Enabling innovation and learning
- Being clear about roles and responsibilities

Sensible risk is not about



- Creating a totally risk free society
- Generating useless paperwork mountains
- Exaggerating trivial risks
- Stopping work, recreational and learning activities
- Reducing protection of people from risks that cause real harm and suffering
- <http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/principles.htm>

New strategy for HSE



New strategy launched in early December, will emphasize:

- Common sense and proportionality (sensible risk management)
- The importance of leadership
- Worker involvement and consultation

Questions



How do we reverse the blame culture and reintroduce the importance of personal responsibility and common sense?

Is it time to rewrite the “precautionary principle”?