

Safety-critical worker screening

Construction Occupational Health case study COH10

The challenges

Introducing an occupational health programme on site involved:

- educating the workforce;
- ensuring that workers were fit to carry out their individual tasks;
- breaking down the barriers and dispelling any perceptions that this was a means of removing people from site;
- getting the workers to come forward and raise health issues.

The problems

Initial health screening identified a worker who was completely deaf in one ear. He was employed in a safety-critical area where good hearing was essential.

The risks

The worker was at risk of being struck by a vehicle or plant because he could not hear what was going on around him properly. Risk of a fatal incident.

Solution

Within three days, the worker was referred to a consultant who diagnosed an ear condition and prescribed a course of treatment.

The benefits

The worker was able to return to normal work without any loss of earnings. His balance, co-ordination and awareness were back to normal.

Note

- Early identification of a problem led to early resolution, no lost time and a satisfied employee.