

# SITE SAFE NEWS



JAN 2008

SITE SAFE NEWS 13

## FALLS FROM VEHICLES *Campaign*

**T**hree million people work in or around vehicles. With more than 2000 serious injuries to workers falling from vehicles reported to HSE every year, an average of 5 deaths from these falls and an estimated human and economic cost at £36.7 million, its time to ask, are we all doing enough?

HSE have launched an industry-wide advertising campaign to reduce the number of injuries and deaths caused by falls from vehicles. A series of site inspections concentrating on this topic are also taking place.



How NOT to do it ...



... and how to do it



How NOT to do it ...



... and how to do it

### Falls from vehicles in the construction industry:

- Approximately 10% of the accidents reported to HSE happen in the construction industry.
- 70% of these accidents happen to non-drivers.
- Accidents happen when offloading materials or when getting on or off the vehicle.
- Falls mostly occur from load areas of flatbeds, HGVs and vans.

*The campaign aims to raise awareness of the risk of falling when getting on or off and/or working at height on vehicles, and the actions that should be taken to minimise these risks*

#### The messages are:

- falls from vehicles can cause serious injuries, or worse be fatal; and
- there are simple, cost effective solutions that can be fitted to new and existing vehicles or equipment.

#### Who can make a difference?

- **Site managers** and those responsible for directing loading, unloading and other activities involving vehicles, and how they are carried out.
- **Workers/operators** getting on and off vehicles to load or unload on site - more often than not, the people likely to be at risk and who suffer the injuries.
- **Vehicle manufacturers** and **trailer builders** who have control over the safety features on delivery vehicles.
- **Managers** responsible for vehicle procurement and safety features.



### What should *managers* be doing to prevent falls from vehicles?

The 'hierarchy of control' within the Work at Height Regulations 2005 should be followed:

- **AVOID** work at height on the load area. Use automatic sheeting devices or a fork lift truck for off loading where possible.
- **PREVENT** anyone falling whilst working on the load area by using vehicle fitted edge protection or loading gantries for example.
- **MINIMISE** any injury should a fall occur by using soft landing systems, nets & airbags.

### What can *workers* do to prevent falls from vehicles?

- Don't jump off vehicles.
- Always use steps and handholds and get down backwards facing the vehicle.
- Follow safe systems of work.
- Report missing or damaged equipment.
- Keep the area clean.

Visit [www.hse.gov.uk/construction/fallscampaign](http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/fallscampaign) for more information, advice and guidance about falls from vehicles in construction and download free information sheets, case studies, posters and a toolbox talk.

# CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AT MOST RISK FROM FALLS AND TRIPS



- In 2005/06 24 construction workers died as a result of falling from a height.
- In 2006/07 a further 23 construction workers died resulting from a fall from height.
- Nearly 4,000 major injuries, such as broken bones or fractured skulls are reported to HSE each year by the construction industry - over half of these are falls from height or tripping over materials on site.

HSE's construction inspectors carried out over 1500 inspections on refurbishment sites across the country in June and July 2007. They were looking specifically to see if sites were:

- getting it right when working at height, and;
- keeping sites in good order.

Reduction in the number of injuries and deaths from falls and trips is a priority for HSE to help prevent the devastating effect these kinds of accidents have on the lives of workers and their families.

## What did our inspectors find?

- Almost 1 in 3 sites and 1 in 4 contractors inspected were found to be working so far below the acceptable standard that our inspectors felt it necessary to serve enforcement notices to immediately stop the work or activity on site or to require improvements to be made within a specified timescale.
- Almost 1 in 6 sites were failing to address work at height risks on site.

## What did we do?

- 1295 sites and 1586 contractors were inspected.
- 220 Prohibition Notices and 26 Improvement Notices on work at height issues were served.
- 24 Prohibition Notices and 13 Improvement Notices on good order issues were served.
- 143 Enforcement Notices were served for other serious areas of concern.
- In a number of cases, conditions on site were so poor that investigations may lead to prosecution.

## Take a sensible approach

Competent, skilled construction workers should be valued highly. By taking a sensible approach the numbers of accidents can be reduced. Always:

- plan and organise work properly;
- make sure that people involved in work at height are competent;
- select and use the right equipment; and
- keep walkways on site clear of obstructions.

Visit [www.hse.gov.uk/construction/tripsandfalls](http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/tripsandfalls) for more information about this initiative and advice and guidance on how to manage the risks associated with working at height and keeping sites tidy.

**Stop press . . . Conditions were found to be so bad during this initiative that HSE plan to carry out a similar exercise in early 2008.**

## The good, the bad and the ugly

### the good

This was a refurbishment project of a combined living/working space, where glass panels were being installed using a scissor-lift, eliminating the obvious work at height risks

Hanging baskets are not required! Joking aside, it doesn't take much for a site entrance to be in this kind of condition with clearly marked out walkways and no obstructions. The rest of the site should follow suit as was the case here.



### the good 1



### the bad

### the bad

This worker was laying bricks while standing on open joists on a house extension. There were no means to prevent a fall through the joists. A Prohibition Notice was served to stop work at height immediately.

### the good 2



### the ugly



### the ugly

A Prohibition Notice was served on this site, preventing any further work on the entire site until it had been tidied up and pedestrian routes established.

Why not use this page of Site Safe News as a poster to put up in your site office?



# CDM 2007 makes construction workplaces safer and healthier

**I**ndustry and HSE have worked in partnership to revise and simplify construction health and safety regulations to make sure that the industry focuses on managing risks on site, reducing unnecessary paperwork, encouraging teamwork and getting the right people for the right job, at the right time. The revised Construction (Design and Management ) Regulations 2007 (CDM 2007) were introduced in April 2007 and replace the existing CDM 1994 Regulations and the Construction (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1996.

CDM 2007 places greater emphasis on competence and training, as this is an important way to make sure work on site is carried out safely. Clients and principal contractors will be making sure that the people they employ or contract with are competent, so companies and individuals should be prepared to demonstrate their competence for work that they intend to carry out.

There are also more detailed requirements for principal contractors to make and maintain arrangements for proper consultation with workers on matters that affect their health, safety and welfare. The aim is to make sure people co-operate to promote and develop good health and safety on site.



CDM 2007 now also requires site specific risks to be controlled including:

- site security;
- demolition;
- excavations;
- traffic routes; and
- fire safety.

Visit [www.hse.gov.uk/construction/cdm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/cdm) for more CDM related information and [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/1144](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/1144) to find out more about the Approved Code of Practice and how it can be purchased.

The construction industry has also worked together to publish free guidance for each of the key CDM dutyholder groups - clients, CDM co-ordinators, designers, principal contractors, contractors and workers. This is available from ConstructionSkills at [www.cskills.org/healthsafety/cdmregulations](http://www.cskills.org/healthsafety/cdmregulations)



## Kerb cutting and dust – one solution

**T**ameside Metropolitan Borough Council have consulted and engaged with their workers to create a workable solution that reduces the risk of dust exposure. They introduced a 'wet method' control system using portable polypropylene pressurised water tank units to accompany every hand held portable cut-off saw when cutting kerb stones, paving slabs, blocks and other concrete and clay products.

### Risks

Dry cutting techniques generate high levels of respirable dust which contains tiny particles often invisible to the naked eye. Breathing these in can lead to the serious health conditions silicosis, lung cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

### Benefits

- By introducing this control system dust emissions are now captured and contained at source and when airborne dust is controlled by water suppression, the workplace exposure limit is achievable.
- A reduction in dust emissions benefits both the operative and fellow workers, and members of the public in the vicinity of cutting work.
- Using water not only significantly increases the life of the disc but also prolongs the life span of the cut-off saw motor.

The portable tank is light, can simply be connected to the saw, is easy to handle and can be transported around the site as necessary.

**Important to remember:** Respiratory and personal protective equipment should **always** be used when using portable cut-off saws to cut concrete and clay products.

This is one solution to the problem of dust exposure when cutting paving and blocks. The simple message to workers is that when carrying out this kind of work dust is produced that:

- Cannot always be seen;
- Can damage your lungs and cause health problems and;
- May affect workmates and members of the public standing near you.

So, remember to:

- Damp down or extract the dust and;
- Always wear breathing protection.

Or better still, *avoid the cut.*



*Loads of dust!*



*Use of water suppression to effectively control the dust*

# Working Well Together Diary 2007/08

WWT groups around the country continue to spread the health and safety message to small construction companies and their workers with a wide range of awareness days.

## Safety and Health Awareness Days (SHADs)

**23/01/08** Devon (Newton Abbot Racecourse) *Yvonne Mazzotta*  
Tel: 0117 988 6012

**30/01/08** Devon (Barnstaple Hotel) *Yvonne Mazzotta*  
Tel: 0117 988 6012

**TBC/02/08** Carlisle (venue TBC) *Bernie Charnock* Tel: 01228 634113

**12/02/08** York (Askham Bryan Agriculture College) *Barrie Ellis*  
Tel: 0113 283 4200

**TBC/02/08** East London (venue TBC) *Andrew Lambert*  
Tel: 01342 334293

**TBC/02/08** North East (venue TBC) *Debbie Flynn* Tel: 0191 2026209

**TBC/02/08** Northampton (venue TBC) *Claire Behan*  
Tel: 01604 738367

**TBC/02/08** Glasgow (Ibrox Stadium) *Irene Ward* Tel: 0141 2753109

**TBC/03/08** Barnsley (The Metrodome) *Jan Foers* Tel: 0114 291 2377

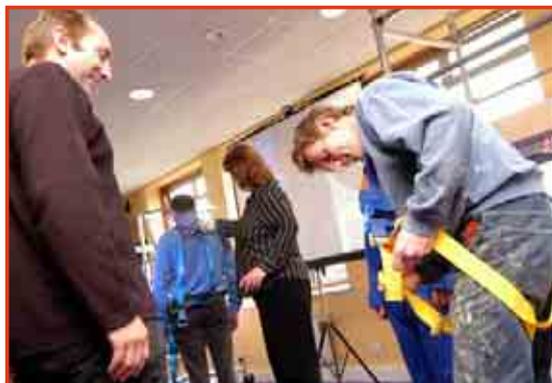
## Mock Legal Trials (Court Cases) and Interviews Under Caution

**TBC/02/08** Cardiff (Pentwyn Leisure Centre) *Sharon Holmes*  
Tel: 02920 263033

To book a place at any of the above events, please contact the name of person or to find out more about Working Well Together, visit [www.wwt.uk.com](http://www.wwt.uk.com)



Some useful knowledge gained at a recent event



Finding out how to fit and use harnesses correctly

# WORKING WELL TOGETHER



The overall aim of the Working Well Together (WWT) campaign is to provide an opportunity for people interested in construction health and safety to provide support to micro and small construction businesses to improve their health and safety performance.

You can do this by joining one of the 17 regional WWT groups and helping to run events in your area. Those involved find it very rewarding. If you would like to join a regional group please contact the appropriate Chair, or if you would like to know more about the WWT campaign, please contact Tim Shambrook, National Campaign Manager on 0113 283 4269 or e-mail [tim.shambrook@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tim.shambrook@hse.gsi.gov.uk)

## WWT regional group contacts

Group	Chair	Tel
<b>Anglia</b>	Chris McEwen	01473 834070
<b>Cumbria</b>	Richard Bell	01942 246265
<b>Devon/Cornwall</b>	Richard Thorne	01392 663275
<b>East Midlands</b>	Andy Cartridge	01530 513400
<b>Hampshire</b>	Charles Gilby	01256 404082
<b>Haydock</b>	Andy Jowett	01274 740900
<b>Leicester/Northants/Rutland</b>	Steve Ruddick	0116 278 4592
<b>London/South East</b>	Ian Wallace	0208 271 8324
<b>Midlands</b>	Andy Chappell	07071 226212-
<b>North East</b>	Alan Bassatt	01642 619330
<b>North Wales</b>	Ken Jones	01824 703661
<b>Scotland</b>	Grahame Barn	0131 442 8830
<b>South Wales</b>	Geoff Bridgeman	029 2057 7711
<b>South West</b>	Tom Harper	0117 923 6500
<b>South Yorkshire</b>	Mark Elkington	0114 242 9800
<b>Staffordshire</b>	Cheryl Eeles	0121 607 6293
<b>Worcestershire</b>	Cheryl Eeles	0121 607 6293
<b>Campaign Manager</b>	Tim Shambrook	0113 283 4269

For information on events in your area, please contact the local group Chair.



Demonstration of a vacuum kerb lifter at a WWT SHAD

## HOW TO GET SITE SAFE NEWS

SITE SAFE NEWS is sent to you by HSE Books, PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2WA. Tel: 01787 881165

Fax: 01787 313995. If your address details are incorrect or your requirements change please contact HSE Books quoting 'SITE SAFE NEWS'.

## HOW TO ORDER HSE PUBLICATIONS

HSE priced and free publications are available by mail order from HSE Books at the above address, online at [www.hsebooks.co.uk](http://www.hsebooks.co.uk) and from bookshops. Free leaflets can also be downloaded from HSE's website: [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

## HOW TO CONTACT SITE SAFE NEWS

Letters and items of interest for SITE SAFE NEWS should be sent to The Editor, SITE SAFE NEWS, Health & Safety Executive, Redgrave Court, Merton Road, Bootle, Merseyside L20 3TW. Please note we do not carry product information.

Health and safety queries can be answered by HSE Information Services, Caerphilly Business Park, Caerphilly CF83 3GG. Tel: 0845 345 0055 e-mail: [hse.infoline@natbrit.com](mailto:hse.infoline@natbrit.com) HSE website: [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

