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Target Audience:
FOD Inspectors

HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDANCE FROM WATER UK

The purpose of this SIM is to draw inspectors attention to the Water UK website which contains useful information on stress management, water ingress into gas pipes, safety at reservoirs and radon.

Water UK is the trade association for the water and waste-water industries. It has an active health and safety group which produces guidance usually on specific topics relevant to the industry. These are published as 'Occasional guidance notes'. These previously priced publications are now being made freely available via a website.

The address of the website is <http://www.water.org.uk/index.php> On the left hand side of the Water UK home page click on 'fact file' then click on 'publications'. You will then be able to access a variety of the more recent publications including those detailed below.

Managing stress at work was produced as a contribution to the HSE initiative 'Securing Health Together'. It builds on the information contained in HSG 218 *Tackling work-related stress* (File 202) by adding more examples and including a useful checklist for action. It will be of use to managers in other industries.

A Memorandum of Understanding for potential safety events network water ingress into gas pipes was produced to improve emergency liaison arrangements between the gas and water industries. A leak from a water main can enter a gas main, build up in bends and eventually block the flow of gas. There are a growing number of incidents involving loss of gas for large numbers of consumers. When the water blockage is cleared gas may now be released into properties by domestic equipment still on but now unlit, e.g. pilot lights, burners. For this reason the gas supply can only be reconnected when all the affected properties have been checked, which can take a significant amount of time and resource. This guidance was produced to inform staff working in the control rooms of water companies as to the seriousness of reports of water ingress into gas pipes and how to coordinate their emergency response with the actions of the gas transporter. HID may become involved with the gas transporter whilst FOD may have to resolve any issues relating to gas appliances in domestic properties.

Public access to open reservoirs (File 847) was originally published in 1999 and brought to inspectors' attention by [SIM 5/1999/53](#). It established a risk led approach to safety at reservoirs and deals with the provision of safety equipment at open reservoirs. Inspectors will find it useful when deciding on the need to provide and maintain life saving appliances at open water.

Radon in air originally published in 1997 has now been revised in response to changes in the legislation and improved knowledge. It is a very useful publication for assessing the level of risk from the accumulations of naturally occurring radon and provides information on risk reduction measures. It will be of use to any employer carrying out groundwork or entering embedded structures in areas known to produce radon.

Inspectors experiencing any difficulty applying the industry guidance contained in the above publications should contact the Utilities Section (Nottingham) VPN 513 2800.

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