

Health and Safety Statistics

Work related illness and injury in Great Britain

- 34 million working days were lost due to work related ill health or workplace injury last year
- 229 people lost their lives at work last year
- Over 136,000 people were seriously injured at work last year
- The annual cost to society of accidents at work and work related illness is estimated to be £20bn
- Nearly half of workers know someone who has been injured at work or made ill by work
- 20% of employees do not say that they feel safe in their workplace. Just one third strongly agree that they feel safe

Myths about 'health and safety' can cause attention to be diverted from serious issues

- Over two thirds of workers believe that rather than risk being sued, businesses will use 'health and safety' as an excuse to stop doing something
- A quarter of business leaders wrongly think that the HSE has banned flip-flops at work
- One in five business leaders wrongly think that donkey rides are banned by the HSE
- One third of business leaders wrongly think that playing with conkers is banned by the HSE

Serious risks are seriously underestimated

- Two thirds of business leaders believe that under 5,000 British workers were killed or seriously injured last year.
- The true toll is over 136,000 people – a fact that only 1% of employees know.
- On average, workers think that 3,000 deaths and serious injuries occurred at work last year, the true number is 45 times higher.
- Only 5% of business leaders think physical assault is a common workplace accident – in fact this is one of the most common causes of injury
- Less than a third of workers know that farming is one of the UKs most dangerous occupations

Good health and safety is good for business

- Three quarters of business leaders agree that good health and safety standards are beneficial to their organisation.
- Two thirds of business leaders know that the costs to their organisation of providing a safe working environment are less than the costs of dealing with an accident
- Only one third of business leaders believe the costs of meeting health and safety regulations are onerous
- Health and safety is a driver of employee satisfaction: two thirds say that good health and safety practice makes them feel valued

A dangerous recession?

- A quarter of business leaders say that their organisation will face pressure to cut health and safety budgets during the recession
- 22% of workers in small businesses fear that their employer will cut health and safety corners in the recession, compared to just 16% in large organisations