



July 2008

Charity and voluntary work – the HSE have produced a guide which provides basic health and safety advice and information to charities and voluntary organisations. It gives practical suggestions on how to work safely. It is also aimed at health and safety practitioners working in this sector – more details at www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/charity.htm

Guernsey law and good practices – are you up-to-date? Come to our managing health and safety briefing – see below.

Fund raising and other public events - If you are involved in organising a summer fund-raising event don't forget to carry out a risk assessment and follow the HSE guidance on the organisation of public events – call the Guernsey HSE on 234567 for details.

Motor traders – are you aware of the dedicated motor vehicle repairers website – see www.hse.gov.uk/mvr - the main causes of injury are **manual handling** – e.g. through lifting/carrying heavy and/or awkward objects **slips and trips** - e.g. on uneven floors or due to poor housekeeping; failure to promptly clear up oil/water spillages **struck by** – e.g. falling objects; moving vehicles **falls from height** - e.g. from vehicles/raised storage areas/ladders or into inspection pits **workplace transport** - e.g. movement of vehicles inside/outside/around the premises. The main causes of ill-health remain **musculoskeletal (e.g. back) injuries** – e.g. lifting/carrying heavy and/or awkward objects **work-related asthma** - e.g. use of two-pack (isocyanate) paints in vehicle refinishing **dermatitis** - e.g. use of chemicals; wearing of latex gloves **vibration white finger** – e.g. use of hand-held portable power tools

Skin problems at work – work-related skin disease can affect people in a wide range of occupations. Wherever you work, this site shows how the APC approach (avoid, protect, check) can reduce the chances of suffering painful and sometimes debilitating skin conditions. www.hse.gov.uk/skin/index.htm

Guernsey accident statistics – see our website for full details. Over 430 serious incidents were reported to the Guernsey HSE in 2007 and many were easily avoidable. Make sure you know when incidents should be reported and carry out frequent workplace risk assessments (at least weekly) to prevent unnecessary injuries. Go to www.hse.guernsey.gg/DownloadCentre.html for details to Report an Injury, Disease or Dangerous Occurrence (RIDDOR).

Noise at work – a message from the HSE – “Hearing loss caused by work is preventable but once your hearing has gone it won't come back. Damage can cause loss of hearing ability and people may also suffer a permanent sensation of ringing in the ears, known as tinnitus. Hearing loss caused by exposure to noise at work continues to be a significant occupational disease. Some 170,000 people in the UK suffer deafness, tinnitus or other ear conditions as a result of exposure to excessive noise at work. There are many practical, cost-effective ways of protecting yourself and your workers. Full compliance with the UK Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 would eventually eliminate occupational noise-induced hearing loss. Factors that contribute to hearing damage are noise levels and how long people are exposed to the noise, daily or over a number of years. The most efficient and effective way of controlling noise is by technical and organisational means that protect workers at source, e.g. changes in process, reducing vibration (damping) and reducing time spent in noisy areas. Health surveillance or hearing checks are vital to detect and respond to early signs of damage.” Go to www.hse.gov.uk/noise/keyfacts.htm for more information and links to helpful risk reduction advice.

Lifting equipment – inspections, maintenance and recordkeeping – it's covered in the free leaflet at www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg422.pdf - if you are responsible for, use or own any form of lifting equipment, you must read and act upon the guidance contained in this leaflet. Vehicle lifts are often forgotten and the consequences of a failure can be catastrophic – please don't disregard your responsibilities.

Manual handling – if you look at the Guernsey HSE statistics, you will see that manual handling remains the most frequent cause of serious workplace injuries. Lots can be done to reduce or remove workplace injuries from this cause – training, re-training, regular assessments and introducing new/suitable equipment and systems can help. So can this short leaflet www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg143.pdf

GOSHA news

- **Design-an-ad** – we were delighted that GOSHA was chosen by several schools for the Junior and Senior competitions. Some very good posters were produced for us, including the poster produced by the Senior Designer of the Year, Emily Martel-Dunn of Ladies' College. Emily's poster will feature in the Guernsey Press on 16 July and a special note of thanks to her for an excellent poster and for helping us to raise our profile in Guernsey.
- **Managing Health & Safety Briefing** – 18 September 4pm to 7pm - We are pleased to provide a briefing for businesses to help in the management of health and safety. The briefing will be informal and its aim is to be helpful. There is no test and no assessment of what you do and don't know. It is aimed at the small business owner, supervisor or manager. Paul Craig and Richard Brown have compiled the briefing and many thanks to them for doing this. Full details on the website – first come, first served basis!
- **Practical site visits** – more are being organised – details to follow.
- **Guernsey Press Article (on business health & safety with comments from GOSHA)** – we hope you read Tom Edwards' article in the Business Section of the Guernsey Press on 8 July. If you missed it, you can read it at www.thisisguernsey.com/2008/07/08/being-safe-is-one-way-of-lifting-profit/
- **Open Meetings in 2008** – 2 October (UK HSE expert talk on falls from height) and 20 November (Hannah Beacom, MD of Island Coachways). Another good way to add knowledge and earn CPD points.
- **Website** – we hope you continue to find www.gosha.org.uk helpful. It contains lots of practical help including the legally required Guernsey H&S law poster (see the links page)
- **GOSHA window stickers** – are a great way to make others aware of our association and highlight your concern for workplace health and safety in Guernsey. Please ask any member of the committee for yours.
- **Membership pack** – we are now working on a membership pack for new & existing members – the design and format have been agreed and a pack will be sent to each member when they are ready.
- **Committee Meeting Minutes** – are now displayed on www.gosha.org.uk, so you can keep up to date with all we are doing.
- **Raising issues/training needs etc** - our next committee meeting will be on 3 September – if you would like to raise any matter, please contact a member of the committee (details at www.gosha.org.uk).

GOSHA Committee