



November 2007

New Guideline for directors, governors, trustees, officers and their equivalents in other organisations and the public sector – the HSE and the IoD have jointly produced a new guideline for all involved in a leadership role which highlights responsibilities for properly addressing health and safety at work. It stresses that “protecting the health and safety of employees or members of the public who may be affected by an organisation’s activities is an essential part of risk management and must be led by the board. Failure to include health and safety as a key business risk in board decisions can have catastrophic results. Many high-profile safety cases over the years have been rooted in failures of leadership”. Health and safety law in Guernsey places duties on organisations and employers, and directors can be personally liable when these duties are breached: members of the board have both collective and individual responsibility for health and safety. By following this guidance, you will help your organisation find the best ways to lead and promote health and safety, and therefore meet its legal obligations. You can access the guidance at www.hse.gov.uk/leadership/index.htm and a copy of the pdf guide is attached to e-mailed copies of this newsletter.

End of year and Christmas parties – are popular with employees and employers and should be a lot of fun. As part of your preparations, don’t forget to carry out an assessment of the event (including the venue and the activities you plan to have) to make sure that potential dangers are addressed. Extra care needs to be taken if alcohol is consumed. Make sure your party is memorable for all the right reasons.

Risk Assessments – don’t need to be complex. Follow the HSE guidance (the five steps to risk assessment pdf is attached to e-mailed copies of this newsletter) and you can see examples of the formats used by two of our members on our website (training page).

Gas Appliances (Guernsey Code) - The Code of Practice and Guidance entitled ‘Safety in the Installation and Use of Gas Appliances’ is now available for download from www.hse.guernsey.gg and gives practical advice to those with responsibilities under the Health and Safety (Gas) (Guernsey) Ordinance 2006.

Stress in the workplace – some helpful information and guidance (including the compilation of a stress policy) can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/stress/experience.htm.

Dust, smoke and fumes in the workplace – COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) is a term used to describe a number of breathing problems where there is damage to the breathing tubes and air sacs within the lung. It is a lung condition that encompasses chronic bronchitis (regular phlegm production) and emphysema (damage to the air sacs in the lung)’. There are approximately 30,000 deaths each year from the disease in the UK (NICE 2004). Smoking is the main cause, however evidence suggests that there would be around 4,000 fewer of these deaths if occupational risks (dusts, smoke, fume) were removed. COPD is a major cause of disability and death. It is the 4th leading cause of death throughout the world. You will find some good tips on reducing workplace risks at www.hse.gov.uk/copd/toptips.htm

Getting Specialist Help with Health & Safety – if you are thinking about specialist providers, you may find the HSE leaflet on this topic helpful – contact the Guernsey HSE team on tel 234567. A list of training providers and consultants in Guernsey is given in www.gosha.org.uk

UK HSE statistics – some interesting data has recently been released at www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/index.htm. The Guernsey statistics for 2007 will be available at the end of the first quarter 2008. Guernsey’s 2006 and earlier statistics can be found in our website.

GOSHA news

- **AGM** – 22.11.07 at La Trelade Hotel (6pm start) – come to the AGM to vote for your committee and to have a say in the future direction of our association. We have now accumulated funds and ideas to use for your benefit in 2008. Our talk on that evening will be given by Alan Chubb of Guernsey Electricity and Alan's talk will be preceded by a dial before you dig presentation, beginning at 6.30.
- **Open Meetings in 2008** – dates have been booked with La Trelade for 21 February, 15 May, 18 September and 20 November. Topics will be advertised once speakers are confirmed. We will also be organising several site visits in 2008 – look out for details.
- **Website** – our website has now received over 1,000 hits. We hope you are finding it helpful. Your suggestions for changes/additions are always welcome.
- **GOSHA window stickers** – are a great way to let others aware of our association and your concern for workplace safety in Guernsey.
- **Membership renewal** – our membership year began on 1 November and it would help us so much if any outstanding fees could be sent without delay.
- **Raising issues/training needs etc** - our next committee meeting will be in December– if you would like to raise any matter, please contact a member of the committee (details at www.gosha.org.uk).

GOSHA Committee