



September 2007

Fireworks – there are tight controls on the commercial storage, distribution and sale of fireworks in Guernsey and for good reason. As 5th November approaches, those organising displays for groups of employees, club members and so on should remember that professionally organised displays are the safest way to enjoy a fireworks event.

Dial before you dig (www.electricity.gg/onlineservices/db4udig/onlinerequestform.asp) – if you are planning to carry out groundworks, please contact Guernsey Electricity before you dig to check that you will not inadvertently damage underground cables – if you prefer, you can do this through the website link.

Food Hygiene – a reminder - any staff member involved in preparing or handling unwrapped foods should receive training to at least the Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (or equivalent) within three months of commencing employment. Other staff involved in a restaurant, catering or related business (e.g. waiting staff, delivery drivers, pot wash staff etc) should be trained in hygiene issues relevant to their duties. When commencing employment, staff should receive supervision to ensure that they are carrying out their duties in a suitable and hygienic manner.

Training courses are run by the Guernsey Environmental Health Department and other training providers in Guernsey (see www.gosha.org.uk for examples).

Gas Safety – Landlords – The Health and Safety (Gas) (Guernsey) Ordinance, 2006 specifically deals with the installation, maintenance and use of gas appliances, fittings and flues in domestic and certain commercial premises. With winter approaching, please ensure you know your duties and make sure that all required inspections, maintenance and other work is carried out by a CORGI registered installer. You can obtain more information at www.hse.guernsey.gg/PDFs/GasLandlordBooklet.pdf

www.workplacehealthconnect.co.uk – is a new UK Government/HSE backed service aimed at small businesses in England and Wales. You may find the site useful in identifying workplace hazards, which need to be assessed and managed.

We are advised by the HSE that Guernsey based businesses can access the UK HSE backed telephone advice services and you can also phone our HSE team for guidance on tel no 234567.

European Week for Safety and Health at Work 2007 - 22nd to 26th October 2007

- this year's European Week campaign 'Lighten the Load' is dedicated to musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). The aim of the campaign is to support employers, workers, safety representatives and other stakeholders in improving MSD prevention. The website www.hse.gov.uk/campaigns/euroweek/ contains helpful information on the week and on MSDs – the most common cause of occupational illness in Britain.

E-bulletins from HSE – have you tried them - www.hse.gov.uk/new/ebulletins/index.htm ? The latest construction industry bulletin will be of particular interest to those in Guernsey involved in construction www.hse.gov.uk/construction/ebulletins/sept07.htm

REACH - is a new European Community regulation concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of CHEMicals. It came into force on 1st June 2007 and replaces a patchwork of European Directives and Regulations with a single system. If you need to know more visit www.hse.gov.uk/reach

Risk Assessment – conkers banned in the playground is a negative health & safety headline many will recall - was it necessary? Getting the balance right is so important – here are some thoughts on sensibly assessing and managing risk – go to www.hse.gov.uk/risk/principles.htm

GOSHA news

- **AGM** – 22.11.07 at La Trelade Hotel (18:00 start) – if you are not already a committee member and would like to stand for election to the GOSHA committee, please let Jon Coyde, our Secretary, know by 23.10.07. Please tell us what you do, provide a brief summary of your role, your involvement and interest in health and safety, the committee role you would like to undertake and why you would like to join the committee – your details can then be presented for voting purposes at the AGM. You can see details of the current committee members and positions at www.gosha.org.uk. Our talk on that evening will be given by Alan Chubb of Guernsey Electricity, beginning at 18.30.
- **Open meeting 20 September 2007** – Rob Shaw from the Health & Safety Laboratory in Buxton gave an excellent presentation to around 40 members on the subject of slips, trips and falls. Lots of thought-provoking comment and information including the very serious consequences of slips on level ground (as opposed to those involving a fall from height) and resulting in an average of 9 amputations in the UK each year and 36% of all major injuries. We heard how simple risk assessments and management action can reduce or eliminate these incidents (such as the better placement of handrails, the use of appropriate footwear and floor coverings and the effective and timely cleaning of surfaces which become hazardous). Try the free slip assessment tool at www.hsesat.info and for more slip information go to www.hse.gov.uk/slips/index.htm (the case studies demonstrate horrific consequences which can result from failing to assess and manage workplace slips and trips risks).
- **Talks in 2008** – we have received a number of suggestions for evening talks in 2008 including COSHH, process safety, risk assessment and method statements and workplace transport. We will aim to run 4 open meetings plus other presentations and site visits – do you have any ideas or preferences to suggest before bookings are made?
- **Website** – our website continues to evolve – we aim to keep it simple and user-friendly. Have you tried the helpful links or the training pages?
- **GOSHA window stickers** – are now available and are a great way to make others aware of our association.
- **Membership renewal** – our new membership year begins on 1 November and we will soon be sending renewal invitations. We do not propose to alter the current fees of £35 individual, £100 corporate and no charge for registered charities. Membership of GOSHA shows you care and helps Guernsey to be a healthy and safe place in which to work.
- **Raising issues/training needs etc** - our next committee meeting is 30.10.07 – if you would like to raise any matter, please contact a member of the committee (details at www.gosha.org.uk).

GOSHA Committee