

Newsletter June 2018



The Association has a web site: - www.hgsafety.co.uk

HSE Web Link <http://www.hse.gov.uk/>

Our Contact Details are as follows:

Office Tel: 01432 343626
Chris Livall 07879 417808
Nick Jones 07789 078779
Adrian Hatton 07767 864466
Louise Evans 07768 713707

Topics

- HSE Blitz UK wide
- Construction Site Set Up
- Hot weather working on sites
- Prosecution – Specialist and contractor in court over unsafe work at height
- Common Issues
- Picture Gallery

Please note that the Association's email address is office@hgsafety.co.uk

H & G has updated the web site which includes a members page www.hgsafety.co.uk

Construction Site Set Up – this article has been written to give members a number of items to assess when setting up site compound, site welfare and security prior to site starting

HSE Blitz UK wide

Don't be caught out like this builder. HSE Inspectors are focusing on small sites across the country over the next two weeks, make sure you are ready by looking at HSE free guidance. #HelpGBWorkWell

<http://ow.ly/ErY430kCrRd>



Construction Site Set up

Temporary works

Upon possession of the work area/site it is common practice to set out securing the boundary using Heras fence panels or Hoarding and lockable gates to prevent unauthorised access. Quite often Heras fencing is satisfactory and providing it is double clipped and well supported with regular checks recorded this is sufficient.

Although I would like to point out Heras fencing falls under temporary works and should therefore be installed as per the manufacturer's instructions. Occasionally a more robust form of site security is required in the form of hoarding. This immediately falls under temporary works and therefore a design is needed to ensure the hoardings and gates are designed in such a way as to enable them to withstand wind loadings and to ensure the swing gates are adequately managed and designed along with all materials and fixings used being suitable for their intended purpose.

If planning to double stack site cabins and other storage units a temporary works design shall be required. Are the foundations suitable to withstand the load created from the citing of site cabins, welfare and storage containers and site materials along with the load created when cranes and their outriggers are in position ?

Have shallow services been identified both on and off the site where required, these have a potential to be damaged or the ground collapse if identified too late into the project.

Checks shall be required to ensure the load bearing capabilities of the ground are sufficient to withstand the stresses of loads placed upon it.

Site features

- Is the sites previous uses and history known?
- Here there is the potential for contaminated land, unexploded ordnance, previous storage of toxic/dangerous goods and presence of asbestos.
- Are water courses protected from contamination?
- Is there the presence of invasive species?
- Are there tree preservation orders in place or is there protected wildlife within the site or locality to the site?
- Are there existing buildings which may be able to be used (this may require a structural engineers report first).

Loading and unloading of site cabins and materials

Once secure the next step is usually to position the site cabins.

These are often delivered by a 3rd party hire company, whether your own or hired they are required to be delivered off loaded and positioned safely. The same applies when clearing site and to other site delivery vehicles where accessing the back of trailers is a requirement.

Do the delivery vehicles have suitable edge protection in place if the drivers are required to access the trailer?
Do the cabins have suitable anchor points and if so how will the lifting equipment be attached to those points safely and without a risk to a person falling from height?

Can the units be pre slung before coming to site, can they be slung using a method that attaches to the bottom of the legs to eliminate accessing the roof?

A suitable and sufficient risk assessment and method statement and lifting plan shall be required for the safe completion of such activities with the persons required to carry out such tasks to be suitably trained and competent.

The cabins shall be required to be installed safely and to ensure up to date electrical testing has been carried out on the facilities and their appliances.

Welfare Facilities

- It is a requirement that suitable and sufficient welfare is in place to support the numbers expected to be operating on the site.
- Is there clean warm and cold running water?
- Is there suitable arrangements for drinking water ?
- Is the shelter and its facilities, toaster, microwave, fridge, kettle etc hygienic and well maintained?
- Separate male and female toilets (if required)? Fully stocked with soap etc!
- Suitable power to the welfare facilities?
- Separate smoking area?
- A site cabin with a water container on top full of green algae is not on its own acceptable as this presents the potential for legionella.

Site Access

- Where possible it is preferred separate pedestrian and vehicle access to the site are installed.
- Is access around the site being well managed and controlled ?
- The introduction of people plant segregation shall help minimise the risk of vehicles coming into contact with pedestrians.
- Is there suitable on/off site parking for both visitors to the site and it's work force
- Is entry to and exit from the site clear without blind spots? If not this needs to be addressed and Banksman used where required.
- Once these issues have been identified and addressed a traffic management plan of the site must be drawn up and displayed on the site. This is a fluid document and may need updating as the site progresses.

Is it too hot to work? Temperature in the workplace

In offices or similar environments, the temperature in workplaces must be reasonable.

There's no law for maximum working temperature, or when it's too hot to work.

Employers must stick to health and safety at work law, including:

- keeping the temperature at a comfortable level, sometimes known as thermal comfort
- providing clean and fresh air

There are [six basic factors](#) which usually cause discomfort. Employees should talk to their employer if the workplace temperature isn't comfortable.

Read about [what you can do to feel more comfortable](#).

If your job involves extreme temperatures

In some workplaces extreme temperatures are not seasonal but are created by the work, like in some manufacturing processes. These temperatures can lead to serious health effects if not managed effectively.

You should seek specific [advice on temperature](#) if you are working in very high or low temperatures, for example on [heat stress](#), [dehydration](#) or [cold stress](#).

Outdoor working

When working outdoors the effects of the weather in the UK environment can potentially have a serious impact on an employee's health if the risks have not been considered or properly managed. This impact may be immediate or it may occur over a long time period.

When working outdoors the weather can have influence an individual's effectiveness and this is not readily managed using just engineering controls. In these circumstances some of the most effective ways of managing these environments are to introduce some simple administrative controls for example:

Hot environments

- reschedule work to cooler times of the day
- provide more frequent rest breaks and introduce shading to rest areas
- provide free access to cool drinking water
- introduce shading in areas where individuals are working
- encourage the removal of personal protective equipment when resting to help encourage heat loss
- educate workers about recognising the early symptoms of heat stress

Working in the sun

Too much sunlight is harmful to your skin. It can cause skin damage including sunburn, blistering and skin ageing and in the long term can lead to an increased risk of skin cancer. Skin cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer in the UK with over 50,000 new cases every year.

A tan is a sign that the skin has been damaged. The damage is caused by ultraviolet (UV) rays in sunlight.



Who is at risk?

If work keeps you outdoors for a long time your skin could be exposed to more sun than is healthy for you. You should take particular care if you have:

- fair or freckled skin that doesn't tan, or goes red or burns before it tans
- red or fair hair and light coloured eyes
- a large number of moles

What can you do to protect yourself?

People can manage their exposure to the sun by complying with our guidance.

- [Workplace health safety and welfare; A brief guide](#) 
- [Personal protective equipment \(PPE\) at work: A brief guide](#) 

Specialist and contractor in court over unsafe work at height

A main contractor and scaffolding specialist have been fined a total of £63,000 for safety breaches after a workman fell 5m from a roof in December 2015.

Leeds Magistrates heard how Jhanade Ryan was installing solar panels to the roof of factory premises in Brighouse when he slipped on the roof and slid towards the roof edge protection.

He struck the scaffold toe board which snapped and he fell through the gap in scaffold to a sub-station flat roof below.

Mr Ryan suffered life changing injuries including fracture to his spine, a broken coccyx and nerve damage. He was in hospital for almost three months and is now unable to work due to ongoing mobility issues.

Scaffold of unknown design and roof lights unguarded

HSE investigators found the scaffolding company had not erected the scaffold to a known industry standard or design.



The investigation also revealed that roof lights were present on the roof and that the contractor had failed to take effective measures to prevent workers falling through these fragile surfaces.

- **Oswestry Shropshire Scaffold Ltd** – of Pool Cottage, Oswestry, Shropshire pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and has been fined £28,800 and ordered to pay £945.20 in costs.
- **Centreco (UK) Ltd** – of Hearle House, Chorley, Lancs pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and has been fined £33,500 and ordered to pay £945.20 in costs.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Jayne Towey commented:

“Falls from height often result in life changing or fatal injuries. In most cases these accidents are needless and could be prevented by properly planning to ensure that effective preventative and protective measures are in place such as edge protection or barriers built to the correct standard.”

This article was posted on 7th June 2018 in [ALL LATEST NEWS](#), [falls other](#), [falls platforms](#), [PROSECUTIONS](#).
PP Construction Safety [H&S Assistance and Consultancy service](#).

Common Issues

Chris Livall

My common issue this month is site safety signage or lack of. All sites must give clear signage on health & safety i.e. access routes to welfare/offices, pedestrian routes out on site, crossing points, fire points and internal fire routes. Traffic management plans should form part of site inductions and should be updated as site progress.

On all site entrances clear health and safety advice to all who may enter site and also to deter unauthorised persons entering site should be posted.

Nick Jones

My main observations on sites this month has been the use of common access equipment which is not fit for purpose. Dependant upon the results of the risk assessment, if a hop up is specified it should be minimum dimension of 600 x 600mm or of the correct British Standard BSEN 131. When using this type of equipment the same requirements as for ladders and stepladders apply with periodic inspections and visual checks for obvious defects to be carried out.

Any defective access equipment should be taken out of service immediately and reported. The use of equipment with self-administered repairs should not be tolerated.

Adrian Hatton

Safety Lifting Operations

- Many accidents occur during lifting operations because they were not properly planned in advance.
- All lifting operations must be carried out by, and under the control of, trained and competent persons who have been properly briefed on the lifting plan.
- The rated capacity of any item of lifting equipment or lifting accessory must never be exceeded.
- All lifting equipment and lifting accessories used for lifting operations must be adequately maintained.
- All lifting equipment and lifting accessories used for lifting operations must be subjected to a schedule of inspections and thorough examinations.
- In addition to the lifting equipment and lifting accessories used, attention must also be paid to site features (such as overhead cables, unstable ground conditions and adjacent properties).
- When using a hired crane, a contract lift will transfer the majority of the legal responsibility for carrying out the lifting operation in a safe manner to the contract lift company.

The collapse, overturning or failure of any load-bearing part of a hoist, crane or other lifting equipment is a notifiable dangerous occurrence, even if nobody is injured.

Picture Gallery – Site Set Up

