



Wilkins Safety Group

Monday, 19th January 2015

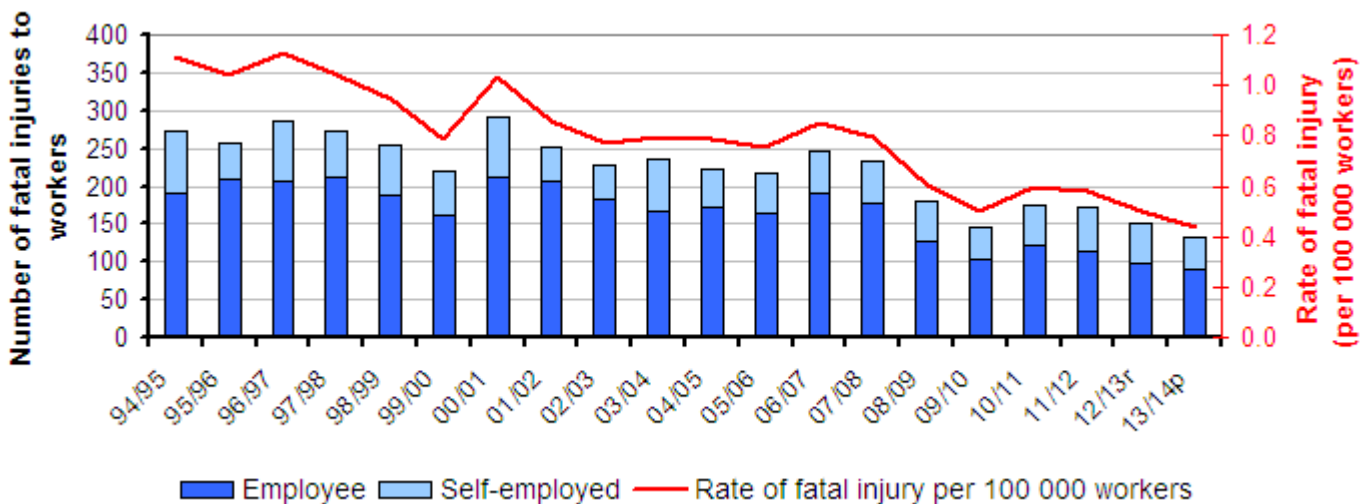
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Welcome to our latest Update E-Newsletter

As ever, please feel free to share this with friends and colleagues. You will also find PDF versions of all our other newsletters on our website: www.wilkinssafety.co.uk with lots more useful information and a wealth of leaflets covering Health and Safety topics.

Latest death, injury and ill health data available for every local authority area



The HSE has just released the latest Accident and Ill health figures. Things are improving but there is still much to do!

This week's 2 recent HSE cases look at accidents that should have been avoided.

- A 17-year-old mental health patient broke her back and pelvis when she fell over six metres from the roof of the Royal Preston Hospital in Fullwood
- Roger Pearce, 56, of Newcastle-under-Lyme was left with multiple injuries after being crushed during the assembly of a telescopic handler.

As ever, if you have a subject that you would like us to cover one week, please contact us by phone [01458 253682](tel:01458253682)
Email info@wilkinssafety.co.uk or via our [Facebook page](#) or by [Twitter](#)

Appeal to Great Britain's employers as new figures underline importance of workplace Safety



Safety watchdog the Health and Safety Executive is marking its 40th anniversary with an appeal for businesses in Great Britain to make the wellbeing of workers their top priority for the new financial year.

It comes as new figures show the following statistics for the south west of England. (Details of other areas of Britain are available on HSE's website at www.hse.gov.uk.)

In Bristol, Bath, Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire four people lost their lives while at work in 2013/14 and 3,449 suffered injury. That compares to five deaths and 3,670 injuries the previous year.

In Dorset 920 people suffered an injury while at work in 2013/14. That compares to 944 injuries the previous year.

10 people lost their lives while at work across **Devon and Cornwall** in 2013/14 and 2,096 suffered injury. That compares to six deaths and 2,146 injuries the previous year.

Workplace illness



Statistics were also released today (14 Jan) showing the scale of workplace illness.

Across Bristol, Bath, Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire some 61,400 people were estimated to have been made ill through their work over the same period.

In Dorset some 17,500 people were estimated to have been made ill through their work over the same period.

And in Devon and Cornwall some 40,000 people were estimated to have been made ill through their work over that time

Nationally, across Great Britain, there were 133 deaths at work in 2013/14, more than 79,500 injuries were formally reported (through RIDDOR) and over 1.1 million people are estimated to have been made ill.

That is a huge reduction from when HSE was formally established in January 1975 to enforce the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 – the statute that underpins all health and safety legislation, and that is credited with making the UK one of the safest places to work in the world. In 1974/75 a total of 651 employees alone were killed, and that is without including self-employed workers whose deaths were not recorded in the same way.

The stark decline is welcome, but local employers are being urged to review whether they can do more to protect their workforce.

Construction, manufacturing and waste and recycling are most at risk



The latest figures show that those involved in construction, manufacturing and waste and recycling are most at risk, with agriculture another industry where sustained improvement is needed.

Areas of particular concern include falls from height; work on machinery that is poorly maintained and guarded; and failing to properly manage workplace transport.

Harvey Wild, HSE Head of Operations for the South West, said:

“The families of the workers in the West of England who sadly lost their lives last year have just had to spend the festive period without their loved ones, while hundreds of other workers were made ill through their work or had their lives changed forever by a major injury.

“The figures offer encouragement that we are continuing to head in the right direction, but they also show that we can still go further and challenge the industries where there is room to do more.

“Workplace conditions have improved dramatically in the past four decades, but as employers plan and prepare for the new financial year they need to ensure that health, safety and welfare is a clear focus.”

HSE Chair, Judith Hackitt, added:

“In the 40 years since HSE was formed, we’ve worked with businesses, workers and government to make Britain a healthier and safer place to work.

“Thousands of serious injuries have been prevented and work-related deaths have reduced by 85 per cent. HSE has helped Britain become one of the safest places to work in the world.

“But we must also recognise that there is still a big challenge to prevent the suffering which does still occur. Seeing the annual statistics always leads to mixed emotions, sympathy for those who have suffered injury themselves and for the families and workmates of those who have lost their lives, determination to improve things further as well as encouragement that we are continuing to make progress in reducing the toll of suffering.

“For the last eight years we have consistently recorded one of the lowest rates of fatal injuries to workers among the leading industrial nations in Europe. However, in HSE’s 40th year it is right that we acknowledge the progress we’ve made and look to a future of striving to bring down these statistics even further.”

Now to the latest HSE cases:

Roofing firm in court after a Mental Health patient breaks back in fall

A building firm has been fined £10,000 after a 17-year-old mental health patient broke her back and pelvis when she fell over six metres from the roof of the Royal Preston Hospital in Fullwood.

W Hughes and Son Ltd was prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) after an investigation found the company had failed to prevent access to the scaffolding on the site.



Preston Magistrates' Court heard today (14 January 2015) that the firm had been hired to replace the flat roof on a single-storey section of the hospital. It used scaffolding to reach the roof but **failed to properly fence off the steps leading up the scaffolding tower.**

The 17-year-old, who was staying in the hospital's Mental Health Unit, was able to climb the scaffolding on 17 October 2013. She fell from the roof in the gap between two buildings and the emergency services had to remove a hospital window to free her. She was in hospital for several weeks as a result of her injuries.

W Hughes and Son Ltd, of Collinson Street in Preston, was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay £516 in prosecution costs after pleading guilty to a breach of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE Inspector Chris Smith said:

"A vulnerable teenager was badly injured because W Hughes and Son Ltd failed to make sure its scaffolding was properly fenced off.

"Construction firms have a legal duty to make sure construction sites are secure and clearly signed but that didn't happen in this case.

"It's vital that companies think carefully about how they plan projects in public places, such as hospitals, so that members of the public are not put at risk."

Further information on construction site safety, especially for those involved on sites in Mental Health Wards, can be found on the Wilkins Safety Group website at www.wilkinssafety.co.uk

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JCB fined after worker crushed

JC Bamford Excavators Ltd has been fined after a worker was left with multiple injuries after being crushed during the assembly of a telescopic handler.

Roger Pearce, 56, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, was installing the vehicle's offside light and mirror arm at the firm's Lakeside works in Rocester, Staffordshire, when the incident happened on 3 June 2013.



Staffordshire Magistrates' Court today (14 January) heard Mr Pearce had to crouch down so could not be seen by a colleague testing the steering, resulting in him being crushed between a wheel and the bodywork.

He fractured ten ribs; damaged the bones at the base of his spine, and injured his bladder and kidney. He was hospitalised for ten days and is still undergoing treatment. He has not been able to return to work.

A Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation identified that, at the time of the incident, there was a designated area of the assembly track where hydraulic fluids were pumped into the machine and steering and other systems operated to force the fluids through the system.

HSE found the assembly sequence for the telescopic materials handler was changed, which led to the fitting of the front offside light and mirror arm being moved from a point when the hydraulics were not live, to a point when the hydraulics were live and functions such as steering were tested.

JC Bamford Excavators Ltd, of Lakeside Works, Denstone Road, Rocester pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and Regulation 3(1)(b) of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and was fined £25,000 and ordered to pay £1,390 in costs.

After the hearing, HSE inspector David Brassington said:

“This was a serious incident with Mr Pearce sustaining injuries from which he has yet to recover.

“It was also a preventable incident. JCB had allowed the introduction of a serious hazard and failed to assess the risk from this change. The controls that were in place were inadequate and Mr Pearce suffered serious harm as a result.

“Since the incident, the fitting of the light and mirror arm has been moved back to earlier in the assembly sequence when the hydraulics are not operational. Other changes have included barriers around the assembly area and the introduction of a banksman to control personnel working within it.

“The risks associated with the manufacturing processes involving large pieces of powered equipment should be assessed to ensure that there are effective controls and safe work procedures to protect those involved in this work.”

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Remember

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- Our newsletter service is FREE,
- the links we supply are FREE,
- the helpline advice is FREE.

If you find this newsletter service of use and you think others might also find it useful, then kindly pass it on and ask them to subscribe for free, so they can continue to receive it in their own right.

Also contact us if you have a particular health and safety subject or question you would like covered



If you have any queries on any health and safety matter, please contact Jon Wilkins on [01458 253682](tel:01458253682) or by email on jon@wilkinssafety.co.uk



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