

**Risk management tips brought to you by the insurance professionals at
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DID YOU KNOW?

In 2014 there were more than 15,500 new construction apprenticeships—a 14 per cent increase over the previous year. Housing Minister Brandon Lewis intends to encourage the trend as the government plans to build 275,000 affordable homes over the next five years.

4th Quarter 2015

**Rely on These Free Resources From
Forklift Safety Month**

September—also known as ‘Safetember’—was National Fork Lift Safety Month. And, although it is now November, the campaign’s lessons are relevant year-round. The campaign originally began as a single week before expanding to more adequately emphasise the dangers involved with operating a forklift. The four most prevalent of these dangers are:

- Forklift turnover as a result of attempting to lift an imbalanced load or unsafe driving
- Injury to nearby worker (either by striking or crushing them)
- Unsafe work practice (such as raising a worker on the forks)
- Failure to inspect or perform proper maintenance

According to Advanced Fork Truck Training, 70 per cent of all accidents could have been prevented by standard safety measures.

To adequately address these dangers, a key component of the month-long campaign was stressing the importance of safety measures that can help make lift trucks safer and more efficient.

To help encourage year-round good safety practices, the Fork Lift Truck Association (FLTA) published a variety of free resources—fact sheets, a safety guidebook and instructional videos—for both operators and managers to review. If you are interested in reviewing the FLTA’s safety resources, visit www.fork-truck.org.uk/fork-lift-safety/national-fork-lift-safety-month.



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**CITB Funds New
Training Centre**

There is currently a lack of quality scaffolding training centres in the United Kingdom, with the only facility located in Inchinnan, Renfrewshire. To address the lack of training centres as well as the increasing demand for proficient scaffolders, the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) will provide £500,000 to build a new centre. The new training facility will be located in the north east of Scotland and provide construction apprentices with a thorough education covering required skills and proper safety procedures.

While the facility is scheduled to open in September 2016, the CITB still needs to staff the facility with industry professionals to help train the incoming apprentices. If you are interested in working at the facility, email scottish.tender@citb.co.uk to receive your Invitation to Bid document.

HSE Construction Refurbishment Initiative Prompts Businesses to Self-inspect

While the construction industry comprises about 6 per cent of the UK's workforce, it accounts for about 25 per cent of all work-related fatalities—with 35 deaths in and 69,000 reported cases of ill-health in 2014/15. In response to this disproportionately high number, the HSE conducts an annual construction refurbishment initiative. Each year, during this period, inspectors visit construction sites that are working on refurbishment projects in order to identify potential risks. In its 2014 campaign, 35 per cent of all enforcement notices that the HSE served were for health and safety violations. These violations most often involved hazards concerning:

- Work at height
- Site organisation
- Welfare facilities, such as toilets and washing facilities as well as changing, eating and rest areas
- Exposure to carcinogens, such as silica and asbestos
- Manual handling, noise and vibration
- Exposure to other hazardous substances

However, monitoring health and safety on construction sites does not necessarily have to be solely be the HSE's responsibility—as a previously prosecuted construction company demonstrated earlier this year. Newman Scott, a national interiors fit-out company, was found guilty of unsafe working at height practices in 2013. In response, the company conducted a thorough investigation to uncover the root cause of the incident. This examination led to a sea change in the company's health and safety culture—changes that could be beneficial for your company as well. Newman Scott made the following changes to ramp up health and safety:

- Increased communication across all employee levels and throughout the duration of the construction project
- Conducted regular health and safety training
- Conducted periodic training on proper equipment and machine use
- Submitted employees to regular competency checks
- Provided more ownership of health and safety to employees, such as provide them with the freedom to say 'no' to any client or company request that they feel unsafe completing

While these health and safety amendments may not be applicable to your company, they do provide a basis in which to discuss your company's health and safety culture. If you are curious about what the HSE discovered during this year's campaign along with guidance for best practices, visit www.facebook.com/SaferSites#!/SaferSites.

Recent Fines and Prosecutions

Scaffolder's serious safety failing land him in prison

An Enfield scaffolder was given two suspended prison sentences of 10 weeks to run concurrently, ordered to pay £200 in costs and an £80 victim surcharge after being found guilty of instituting unsafe work at height practices. The HSE discovered that the scaffolder had poorly erected scaffolding and failed to include any safety measures to ensure the safety of passers-by on the street. The scaffolder continued his unsafe scaffolding work despite repeated warnings from the HSE.

Company fined after worker suffers HAV

A London facilities management company was fined £14,000 and ordered to pay £1,943 in costs after consistently exposing a worker to unsafe levels of vibrations for five years. The worker operated mowers, strimmers and a leaf blower which contributed to him developing Hand Arm Vibration (HAV). Despite voicing his safety concerns to his line manager, the company failed to address the issue.

Housing company and builder prosecuted for safety failings

Cornwall Housing Ltd was fined £6,600 and ordered to pay £697 in costs after it capped off the chimneys of two occupied properties, preventing poisonous gases from escaping outside the property. Upon the project's completion, CH's own gas engineers discovered the situation, classifying it as 'immediately dangerous'.