

HSE SAFETY CORNERSTONES

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HSE Releases 2016/17 Fatal Injury Statistics

The HSE recently published the provisional statistics for work-related fatal accidents that occurred between 1st April 2016 and 1st March 2017, which continued to reflect the 20-year trend of declining fatality rates. Yet, whilst the United Kingdom has one of the best health and safety systems in the world, 137 people were killed at work and 92 members of the public were fatally injured in work-related accidents.

By examining the figures from the previous year, your organisation may be inspired to bolster your health and safety policies in order to more adequately protect your employees. Here are four key provisional figures from 2016 to 2017:

- 1. Construction:** 30 workers died—lower than the five-year average of 39 deaths.
- 2. Agriculture:** 27 workers died—lower than the five-year average of 29 deaths.
- 3. Manufacturing:** 19 workers died—slightly lower than the five-year average of 20 deaths.
- 4. Waste and recycling:** 14 workers died—higher than the five-year average of eight deaths.

To help ensure that your health and safety scheme is thorough and comprehensive, periodically inspect your organisation's risk management efforts to identify any hazards to better address any potential issues.

Prepare for HSE Inspections: How to Avoid FFI

The HSE's Fee for Intervention (FFI) scheme has allowed the non-departmental public body to recover costs from organisations that an HSE inspector has deemed to be in 'material breach' of health and safety legislation. However, the exact definition of a material breach is vague and left to the discretion of the HSE inspector. What's more, even though an inspector may intend to examine one aspect of a business, he or she could branch off and discover additional material breaches.

Once a breach has been identified, the business will be charged £129 per hour whilst the inspector investigates and works to resolve the issue. To date, the HSE has recovered nearly £30 million, with the average fee costing each business more than £700. After an invoice has been served, your business has 21 days to either challenge or pay it. However, by paying the invoice, your organisation admits to the breach of health and safety, which the HSE could cite as evidence in future cases against you. If your business chooses to pay the invoice, but does not agree that it was a material breach, be sure to tell the HSE that paying the invoice should not be taken as an admission of guilt.

For that reason, the most beneficial practice that your organisation can implement is a thorough risk management scheme for each task and piece of equipment, and a blanket scheme for your entire organisation. For more information on how your organisation can prioritise health and safety, contact the professionals at Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd today.

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HSE News and Prosecutions

Warburtons Fined £1.9m After Injury to Agency Worker

After a worker got his arm trapped in a conveyor belt, Warburtons Ltd was fined £1.9 million and ordered to pay full costs of £21,459.71. The worker was cleaning parts of the bread line whilst it was running, when his arm was caught. In its investigation, the HSE found that the company failed to install protective guarding on the machine, which would have prevented this incident.

Company Fined After Failing to Comply With Enforcement Action

Devon residents were put at risk from unsafe work practices from Hatchmere Park Ltd, who was fined £90,000 and ordered to pay costs of £25,000. The buildings that were under construction lacked any safety guards, which left both workers and residents exposed to potential falling debris. In its investigation, the HSE noted that the company failed to comply with safety standards, which required it to install fencing around the perimeter of the buildings and signs that alerted any passer-by of the construction.

Company, Contractor Fined After Member of Public Hit by Fencing Wire

After a Redditch woman was struck by fencing wire that had gotten entangled in a mechanical flail, RM Contractors Limited was fined £180,000 and ordered to pay costs of £22,000, and a Complete Tree Services contractor was sentenced to 120 hours of community order and ordered to pay costs of £3,600. In its investigation, the HSE found that both the company and the contractor failed to properly assess the potential risks and implement safety precautions.

Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd

0121 45 45 100

www.crendoninsurance.co.uk

enquiries@crendoninsurance.co.uk



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