

HSE SAFETY CORNERSTONES

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Read about a chemical company that exposed thousands to toxic gas due to lax inspection processes, a company that failed to provide its workers with essential health and safety training, and a power company's slow response to a threat which cost a man his life.

Managing for Health and Safety: New Guidance

Recently, the HSE released a revised edition of one of its most popular guides, Managing for Health and Safety. The guide provides leaders, owners and line managers with advice on how to institute, review and adjust their companies' health and safety practices. In the revised edition, the HSE has provided expanded guidance on the following three sections:

1. The core elements of health and safety: Regardless of size or industry, the three universal core components required to successfully manage your company's health and safety programme include the following:

- Leadership and management that is proactive
- A well-trained and highly skilled workforce
- An environment where all people are trusted and involved

For these components to be effective, you must possess an in-depth understanding of every potential risk that your employees may encounter. This will be a perpetual procedure that must be revisited whenever existing practices are altered or new practices are introduced. Additionally, your employees should have a formal review of current health and safety practices at least annually.

2. What you need to do to ensure that you are managing health and safety effectively: To effectively provide a safe working environment for your employees, your health and safety programme should include the following four processes:

- Risk profiling for each process, task and piece of equipment
- Leaders and managers must possess a thorough understanding of all the potential risks associated with their departments
- Competence displayed throughout your company, from apprentices to upper management
- Employee consultation and involvement in health and safety matters

3. How to effectively institute successful health and safety arrangement: The most effective method to institute a successful health and safety programme is with the 'Plan, Do, Check, Act' process. Each part involves the following:

- **Plan:** Determine the details of your policy and thoroughly plan its implementation.
- **Do:** Outline each potential risk, organise the components of the programme and implement it.
- **Check:** Measure performance. This involves monitoring the results of processes before implementation and investigating results after implementation.
- **Act:** Review the programme's performance and make adjustments based upon what you learned.

By following the guidance outlined in Managing for Health and Safety, you can develop an effective health and safety programme that is agile and able to adapt to new challenges. Remember that risk management is not a one-time action but a perpetual process that requires constant vigilance.

If you would like to read the guide in its entirety, you can view the online version at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg65.htm>.



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'Working Well' Roadshow Update

Last month, the HSE ended its 'Working Well' roadshow, which featured stops in seven cities across Great Britain. In each city, the HSE met with business leaders, worker representatives and regulators to discuss ways to improve health and safety across all industries. While each stop featured different key speakers, the message was centred on the HSE's five-year health and safety strategy plan. The three overarching aspects of the strategy were:

1. **Collective ownership:** Each industry must examine its contributions to health and safety, and work toward instituting cost-effective and efficient practices.
2. **Prioritising health:** Businesses need to prioritise health along with safety in order to help reduce the more than 23 million working days lost each year due to work-related ill health. This costs the British economy an estimated £9.4 billion annually.
3. **Boosting Britain's businesses:** Information concerning health and safety—including new processes, methods and equipment—should be shared with every industry in a timely manner to help encourage growth.

The roadshow sought to help rebrand health and safety as a common-sense issue rather than one of bureaucracy. Therefore, to prepare for the new five-year strategy, your business should do the following:

- Perform an in-depth review of all health and safety practices.
- Initiate discussions with your employees about what improvements could be made to existing health and safety practices.

For more information about the HSE Working Well roadshow, you can visit its YouTube [channel](#), which offers summaries from each event and highlights from keynote speakers' presentations.



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Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd

0121 454 5100

www.crendoninsurance.co.uk

NEWS AND PROSECUTIONS

Join the 'Working Well' conversation

The HSE has created a LinkedIn [group](#), a YouTube [channel](#) and a hashtag (#HelpGBWorkWell) to encourage Britons to form safe and efficient work environments. Both the group and channel are regularly updated with health and safety guidance and news, while the hashtag is intended to create a nationwide dialogue about safety.

Power company fined £1 million after bystander electrocuted

UK Power Networks (Operations) Ltd (UKPN) was fined £1 million and ordered to pay the full prosecution costs of £153,459 after an individual running on a footpath in Newport, Essex was electrocuted by a low hanging cable. The insulated mounting that housed the cable failed and allowed the live line to fall dangerously close to the footpath. Although UKPN was aware of the cable and had sent someone to repair it, it was too late. In its investigation, the HSE found that UKPN failed to fully assess the potential risk of the downed cable and should have de-energised it after being alerted about the hazard.

Chemical company fined for dangerous gas release

Solvay Solutions UK Limited, a multi-national chemical producer, was fined £333,000 and ordered to pay £110,000 in costs after a dangerous gas was released into the atmosphere, causing disruptions to the M5 and thousands of homes nearby. In Oldbury, a welded steel bar failed, leaving an opening through which the gas was allowed to escape. Upon completing its investigation, the HSE emphasised that it is important for any company working with hazardous chemicals to regularly inspect its processes to ensure these situations do not occur.

Company fined after carrying out dangerous window installation

Ideal Glazing (Euro) Ltd, a window manufacturer and installation company, was fined £36,000 and ordered to pay £1,386 in costs after failing to provide suitable safety equipment for its workers. During an installation job in London's West End, several of the company's workers were seen leaning out of window openings that were 8 metres above the street, with no protection for any pedestrians walking below them. The HSE found that the company had not provided its workers with necessary equipment—such as scaffolding—and workers had not received adequate training on how to complete the job safely.