

HSE SAFETY CORNERSTONES

Sept. 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

Get Involved in Gas Safety Week

Learn why your company should not only participate in Gas Safety Week this September, but also adopt six year-round beneficial gas safety practices.

Is Your Company Prepared for a Medical Emergency?

Find out how you can ensure that your company is adequately prepared for a medical emergency by implementing five simple practices.

Recent HSE News and Prosecutions

Read about how a manufacturer received a hefty fine after an employee was maimed, a steel firm that failed to install proper machine protections, a medicinal herbal manufacturer's training oversight that cost an employee his life and a timber-frame firm that was fined for not conducting a thorough risk assessment.

Get Involved in Gas Safety Week

Gas Safety Week will take place from 19th to 25th September and is intended to help raise awareness about the dangers of carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is an odourless, tasteless and colourless gas that sends about 4,000 Britons to A&E, 200 to hospital, and causes 50 deaths annually, according to government statistics. Regardless of your company's industry, it most likely has at least one gas appliance. However, despite regulations that require gas appliances to be inspected annually, 43 per cent of Britons do not comply, and 10 per cent have never had their appliances inspected, according to the Gas Safe Register.

To help raise awareness in the weeks leading up to the national campaign, UK companies are encouraged to pledge their commitment to following gas safety practices to ensure the well-being of their employees and customers. By [pledging](#), a company will receive a free toolkit with beneficial materials meant to help them promote gas safety, and the company will also have its name published on the campaign's website.

In addition to publicly supporting gas safety practices, your company should participate in the campaign as a way to promote social responsibility and ensure that each gas appliance has been inspected and is safe to use. This can be done in conjunction with highlighting any current company practices that encourage gas safety.

However, Gas Safety Week is not the only time that your company can show its support and commitment to gas safety practices. To ensure the safety of both your employees and customers year-round, implement these six simple gas safety practices:

1. Contact only a Gas Safe registered engineer to fit, fix and service your gas appliances. To verify that an engineer is properly registered, visit www.gassaferegister.co.uk/find-an-engineer, or call 0800 408 5500.
2. Thoroughly inspect the Gas Safe registered engineer's ID card to verify that he or she is qualified to complete the work your company requested.
3. Have all of your gas appliances inspected annually.
4. Provide your employees and customers with guidance on how to identify the six signs of carbon monoxide poisoning, which include headaches, dizziness, breathlessness, nausea, collapse and loss of consciousness.
5. Inspect gas appliances for warning signs that they are not working properly, which would include a low yellow flame, black marks or stains on or around the appliance, and an excess of condensation in the room.
6. Install a carbon monoxide detector in every room with a gas appliance. In addition, these detectors must be inspected at least annually.

For more information on protecting your property and employees, contact the experts at Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd today.



**Crendon
Insurance
Brokers**

Is Your Company Prepared for a Medical Emergency?

When faced with a medical emergency, only 49 per cent of UK companies are confident that they could successfully address the situation, according to a recent survey conducted by defibshop, an independent defibrillator retailer. This statistic is particularly troubling, since nearly 30 per cent of ambulances dispatched to life-threatening calls in the past 13 months failed to arrive in under eight minutes, according to the NHS. So, your company may be responsible for ensuring that the person experiencing a medical emergency survives long enough for help to arrive.

Fortunately, despite the staggering number of companies that feel unprepared, 78 per cent of them have at least three employees who are certified in first aid, according to the defibshop survey. While it is beneficial to have employees with this type of training, your company cannot rely solely on them during an emergency. Instead, your company must develop and enforce an emergency situation procedure, which should include at least the following five practices:

1. Provide employees with annual, basic first-aid training as well as a list of all the relevant emergency numbers.
2. Clearly mark where first-aid kits and defibrillators are stored with a small sign or sticker. These resources should be regularly inspected to ensure that they are fully stocked and functional.
3. Schedule quarterly fire, severe weather and intruder drills in addition to the regular health and safety inspections.
4. Conduct regular risk assessments of high-traffic areas, and for all equipment, vehicles and required tasks.
5. Establish an emergency situation committee that would be responsible for organising drills and training along with taking charge during an emergency situation.



HSE SAFETY
CORNERSTONES

Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd
0121 45 45 100
www.crendoninsurance.co.uk

NEWS AND PROSECUTIONS

Manufacturer Sentenced After Worker's Arm Severed

Concrete Fabrications Ltd was fined £100,000 and ordered to pay £7,758 in costs to the HSE after a worker's arm was amputated. The worker was adjusting tension rods that were located inside a conveyor belt's safety guards when his arm became caught in the rotating machinery—severing the man's arm between the shoulder and the elbow. In its investigation, the HSE found that the firm failed to adequately assess the risks associated with maintenance tasks and had not installed safety guards for all the moving machine parts.

National Steel Firm Fined £1.98 Million for Safety Failings

Tata UK Limited, a national steel firm, has been fined £1.98 million and ordered to pay £22,500 in costs after two workers suffered injuries to their hands in two separate incidents. Both accidents occurred due to an inadequate amount of safety guards installed on the machines. The lack of adequate protection and risk assessments in both cases caused the HSE to reassert that it will not hesitate to hold organisations accountable for their failure to comply with the necessary health and safety regulations.

Worker Dies from Toxic Gas

Herbs in a Bottle Limited, a medicinal herbal manufacturing company, has been fined £45,000 and ordered to pay costs of £4,842 after a worker died from exposure to toxic gas from cleaning chemicals. In its investigation, the HSE found that the employee had not been properly trained on the safe use of chemicals and no control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH) assessment had been carried out.

Timber-frame Firm Fined for Fire Safety

J G Hale Construction Ltd, a timber-frame firm, was fined £100,000 and ordered to pay the full prosecution costs of £4,633.76 along with a statutory surcharge of £120 after it was discovered that one of the firm's construction sites was operating without adequate safety precautions. The site consisted of 54 timber-frame homes—all at roughly the same stage of development—which posed a serious fire hazard, as the site was not properly managed nor were the locations of the homes well-organised. In its investigation, the HSE found that the proper measures to prevent a fire from starting and becoming unmanageable were not taken, there was a lack of site management control, insufficient means to detect a fire and raise an alarm, and there was a general lack of emergency planning.