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28 April a day to remember

Workers Memorial Day, 28th April, is now officially recognised in the United Kingdom and will be joining countries from around the world in remembrance of all those workers killed on the job. The government will encourage commemorations to be held throughout the UK, with the ministers committed to help support and promote them. The slogan for the day is "Remember the dead and fight for the living". It is a time also for celebrating this small win and to thank all those who were dedicated, focussed and instrumental in driving this campaign forward. It is a breakthrough for health and safety campaigners in the UK.



PIC: CONSTRUCTION SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Wembley 2004: one of the biggest turnouts for Workers Memorial Day in London. Building workers stopped work to remember Patrick O'Sullivan. On Thursday 28th January the Department of Work and Pensions announced Workers Memorial Day is to be recognised by the UK government and that they will support commemorative actions.

London boroughs with a fatality 2008/09	Number killed at work
Bexley	2
Bromley	1
Camden	1
Ealing	2
Haringey	1
Havering	1
City of London	1
Merton	1
Newham	2
Southwark	3
Tower Hamlets	1
Wandsworth	1
Westminster	3
Total killed: Source HSE 29.12.2009	20

In London Construction Safety Campaign has met with trade unionists from UNITE, UCATT and GMB, and begun planning events in London. They will focus on the Olympic site in Stratford, following the death of Shaun Scurry a week after an incident on 9th December at Westfield's Stratford City site. They will also support the UCATT commemorative event at the statue to the unknown building worker in Tower Hamlets.

The 2008/09 HSE statistics show 20 people were killed at work across London and 2,848 sustained major injuries and 11,708 more suffered injuries requiring more than three days absence. The figures compare with 26 fatalities, 2,948 major injuries and 12,568 cases requiring more than three days absence in 2007/08. Including other absences due to ill health caused by work activities, this equates to

1.7 million working days lost. There were 180 workplace deaths nationally in the same period.

Stephen Williams HSE's London Regional Director, said:

"Slips, trips and falls from height are consistently the chief causes of death and serious injury"

Slips, trips and falls alone cost three London lives, with HSE saying workers were killed in Bexley, Ealing and Wandsworth in 2009 in slip trip fall incidents. Overall HSE figures show that slips cost Britain an estimated £800 million each year. More workplace deaths are triggered by falls from height than any other cause.

HSE launched Shattered Lives campaign on 1st February 2010 aiming to reduce slips, trips and falls in the workplace. Visit www.hse.gov.uk/shatteredlives for practical advice and guidance.

Some Recent London Prosecutions

Centrewest London Buses Ltd

part of First Group based at Paddington Station, was fined £400,000 in connection with the death of Robert Cherry, in May 2004 at Uxbridge Bus Garage. He was killed when he stepped between two parked buses and the front bus lurched backwards. The bus had a defective gear, and later investigations revealed that four others at Uxbridge had this fault and in the companies other garages 10 out of 60 had significant faults, 30% minor faults. Uxbridge bus garage was designed to hold 65 buses, but was the base for 119 vehicles when Robert Cherry was crushed. It was badly lit and drivers carrying out checks walked between closely parked buses manoeuvring to leave. The trial took place at Southwark Crown Court December 2009.

Enfield firm A & T Roofing Ltd

who told their roofers to "smash up 3,000 meters of insulation board containing amosite(brown) asbestos and sweep it into bags" were fined £25,000 with over £33,000 costs at Southwark Crown Court in September 2009 and jewellery wholesalers Noble Gift Packaging were fined £40,000 and over £19,000 costs. The offences happened in 2005, HSE Inspector Sarah Snelling said: "they (A&T Roofing) were told two weeks into the project that they were working with brown asbestos but carried on for another ten weeks".

Laing O'Rourke fined £105,000 after fatal concrete collapse at Heathrow Terminal 5.

SGB also fined

Matthew Gilbert, 27, a carpenter from Plymouth, was killed instantly, and engineering assistant Parminder Singh, 21, suffered a broken back, a broken leg and a broken jaw, when the slab they were standing on fell 17 meters. They were building a multi-storey car park. HSE said SGB Services supplied sub-standard Treaded Shoring Adapters, TSAs, used to secure the temporary structure and unable to support the load. The defects were known two years before when they were supposed to be recalled. Laing O'Rourke Infrastructure failed to have adequate systems in place to inspect TSAs before they were used, and failed to remove sub-standard TSAs from use when warned. This trial took place in November 2009 at Isleworth Crown Court.

Aviance UK has been fined £90,000

with costs of £18,800 for failings that led to an employee being crushed under an airport vehicle in March 2008 at Heathrow Airport. The deceased was underneath a baggage trolley pulling vehicle propped up by a single trolley jack when it moved, inflicting fatal head injuries. The trial took place in January 2010.

Tate and Lyle fined £270,000 for a worker killed in Silvertown, Newham

Keith Webb, 53 was killed when unloading raw sugar at the factory in March 2004. He worked for Acclaim Logistics and was inside a bulldozer that fell from a crane as it was being loaded into a ship. The lifting lug connecting the lifting chain to the crane snapped. The trial took place in October 2009.

Southwark Council fined £20,000 for mobility scooter death

William Delaney, 67, was loaded onto a welfare bus after a trip from Aylesbury Day Centre to Alexandra Palace, Wood Green in September 2006. The scooter did not fit the tail lift. HSE said simple measures could have avoided this death such as loading the scooter onto the bus without Mr Delaney sitting on it. All service providers had been warned in 2005 by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) following a number of fatal accidents. The trial took place October 2009.

PC Harrington fined £150,000 for Patrick O'Sullivan death

PC Harrington pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey on 9th June 2009. (see Daily Hazard 81 and 95 for details.)

Bouygues (UK) Ltd fined £160,000 for Barking death and £2,796 for Waltham Forrest incident

In two separate prosecutions Bouygues based in East London were fined £21,698 at Snaresbrook Crown Court on June 8th 2009, for safety breaches after a worker was killed by being hit by a reversing vehicle in June 2005 at Eastbury School, Barking. The second fine, at City of London Magistrates court concerned a carpenter falling over five meters when fixing shutters while building a new school.

Notification Of Tower Cranes

The Notification of Tower Crane Regulations 2010 come into force on 6th April 2010. The Regulations follow the campaign by Battersea Crane Disaster Action Group. HSE have produced a free leaflet giving details of the types of crane that must be notified and the notification process.

HSE should be notified within 14 days of the thorough examination required by LOLER, the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations; and before it is used; when its reconfigured on site; after a second

examination if it is on site a long time; after exceptional circumstances that could jeopardise safety.

Notify on line: Online at <http://www.cranesregister.org.uk>;

Or by post:

HSE Cranes Register, HSE Field Operations, London Divisional Administrative Office, Rose Court, 2 Southwark Bridge, London, SE1 9HS.

Download the form or contact HSE's Infoline Tel: 0845 345 0055. Leaflet: INDG473.

Lakanal Fire

The fire which swept through Lakanal House, Camberwell, in July 2009, killed Helen Udoaka and her three month old baby Michelle, Catherine Hickman, Dayana Francisquini and her two children Felipe, three, and Thais, six.

Following initial investigations Southwark Council were served three enforcement notices for three similar blocks: Castlemead, Marie Curie and Perronet House. The Council say they have since spent £4 million on improving safety in these properties including fitting fire resistant ceilings in corridors, fire resistant escapes for stairwells, fire resistant front doors and smoke and heat detectors for each dwelling. (Lakanal had smoke detectors fitted). Also, following campaigns by Southwark tenants all 175 high rise blocks will have 'intrusive' inspections.

A pre-inquest review took place on 14th December where the London Fire Brigade said the cause of the fire was a faulty television set, investigations now focus on how it spread so rapidly. The investigation should report in mid-June.

- ▲ Southwark Council website carries some detailed reports and fire risk assessments for some of their properties. www.southwark.gov.uk/MediaCentre/Homepagenews/fire.html

The London Fire Brigade provides the following basic training courses:

- ▲ Fire Awareness Course: a three hour course aimed at all staff.
- ▲ Fire Awareness (with Extinguisher Training): a half day course for all staff including practical use of fire extinguishers.
- ▲ Fire Warden Course: a one day course for fire wardens.
- ▲ Fire Security Course: a one day course for security staff.

Only £750 fine for Polish labourer's death

Peter Juszczyz, 21, a Polish labourer fell into a trench full of water while working on a house extension in Charterhouse Avenue, Wembley in June 2006. In a prosecution at Westminster Magistrates Court in December 2009, Chris Byrne was found guilty of breaking Construction (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1996; but only fined £750 with another £750 costs. Byrne, the contractor for this domestic job, told Juszczyz on his first day to fill earth around concrete blocks, in an area next to the extension. Byrne removed a board covering a 1.74 metre excavation pit to show him that it was filled with water then left Juszczyz alone on the site, leaving the excavation pit unguarded. Later he found him head first in the pit with water up to his waist. Juszczyz was pronounced dead at the scene. An inquest in 2008 described the death as accidental; but at this recent prosecution HSE Inspector, Monica Babb, said: "The labourer had little experience and was left alone... His death was clearly avoidable as the risks of excavations and falling from height is well known"

HSE: December 2009

Jedynie 750 funtów kary grzywny za śmierć Polskiego robotnika

Peter Juszczyz, dwudziestojednoletni Polski robotnik wpadł do rowu wypełnionego wodą podczas prac nad dobudówką przy Charterhouse Avenue, Wembley w czerwcu 2006 roku. W oskarżeniu skierowanym do Sądu Pokoju (Magistrates Court) w Westminster w grudniu 2009 roku, Chris Byrne został uznany winnym złamania regulaminu dotyczącego miejsca pracy z roku 1992 (zdrowie, bezpieczeństwo, higiena) i wyznaczono mu jedynie karę grzywny w wysokości 750 funtów wraz z dodatkowymi kosztami w wysokości także 750 funtów. Byrne, wykonawca tej lokalnej pracy budowlanej powiedział Juszczyzowi, w jego pierwszym dniu pracy, aby wypełnił wokół ziemią betonowe klocki, na terenie obok dobudówki. Byrne usunął deskę, pokrywającą rozkop o głębokości 1.74 metrów, aby mu pokazać, iż jest on wypełniony wodą, a następnie zostawił Juszczyza samego na placu, pozostawiając nieosłonięty wykop. Znalazł go on później z głową w dziurze, zanurzonego po pas. Juszczyz uznany został za zmarłego na miejscu budowy. Dochodzenie przyczyny zgonu, mające miejsce w 2008 roku, uznało zdarzenie za wypadek przy pracy, jednakże na ostatnio wniesionym oskarżeniu) inspektor ds. BHP (HSE - Health and Safety Executive), Monica Babb powiedziała

„Pracownik miał małe doświadczenie i pozostawiono go samego na placu robót...Jest oczywiste, iż jego śmierci można było uniknąć” źródło: HSE: grudzień 2009)

Notatka

Uważamy, iż w przypadku śmierci, sprawy dotyczące bezpieczeństwa i higieny pracy pracowników powinny zostać rozpatrzone w sądzie koronnym do spraw karnych (Crown Court), gdzie surowsze kary i grzywny mogą zostać nałożone. London Hazards Centre udziela asysty krewnym i przyjaciółom, których najbliżsi mieli śmiertelny wypadek w pracy, poprzez kontaktowanie ich z wysoko wykwalifikowanymi prawnikami i z innymi organizacjami, aby oni udzielili wsparcia w dochodzeniu przyczyny zgonu i po jego zakończeniu. Udzielamy asysty w zaaranżowaniu innych spotkań. Brytyjskie związki zawodowe (Trade Unions) udzielają darmowej usługi swoim członkom.

Developing a bottom up approach on womens health and safety

Women from all ethnicity may be vulnerable to some form of abuse or another at sometime in their lives at work but also in all areas of life. Black, Asian and ethnic Minority women (BAME) in London can be further compromised by stereotyping, racism and discriminations.

Since trade unions already have a presence in most work places, it places them in a pivotal position to access, promote and police health and safety in the working environment. They are ideally suited to partner up with, so as to assist and promote BAME women health and safety issues at work, as emerging stress related injuries and coping mechanisms are not immediately visible to BAME women. Although some unions are already actively promoting female BAME health

and safety issues at work, while others are committed and focussed on ensuring a safe working environment for all staff through bargaining and negotiations. As seen with Usdaw (Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers), which is now in a stronger position to be more accessible and ready to handle health and safety issues. Last year the union completed its health and safety reps elections and there was a significant increase in its health and safety reps by almost 12%. Usdaw now has approximately 2,000 health and safety reps across the Tesco retail sector (Newsletter for Tesco Reps, October, 2009). This is indicative that there is beginning to be more awareness and subsequently a need for more health and safety reps.

Understanding BAME issues for women has to come internally and from themselves, they have to find the solutions for themselves using a bottom-up approach. Discriminations that are not

limited to external groups, as well as peer pressure among other women, can hinder speaking out. When women are abused at home, a cry for help may often be seen as and judged as a failure by other women.

So too with work colleagues. Also what is relevant and suitable for one group may not be applicable to another group. Sort of like a one size fit all approach. Added frustrations to BAME women's dilemma come from their home and external environment, the racism they face in everyday lives whether they are shopping or working. What women really need are the tools to help themselves. This begs the question where should these women turn to for help?

A good place to begin is within the workplaces.

Trade unions have done a lot in their own way to promote health and safety at work for employees. This is evident in the reduced number of accidents occurring at unionised work places. Trade unions have taken on a pro-active role in training representatives in their own unique way and adapted an innovative approach to a training delivery that is effective. This has been able to contribute to more awareness for health and safety issues. Whenever there are sensitive issues relating to female BAME health and safety at work specialist bodies, governmental and non-governmental, can be contacted to lend professional help and support.

According to a BERR Report (2009) trade union density during 2008 was higher for females than males in professional, technical and managerial occupations and lower in sales and customer services. Trade union densities for female black, Asian and other ethnic minorities were quite high in 2008 in unionised workplaces. This indicates that these women felt the need for protection on the jobs. The worrying conclusion is that women in lower paid occupations are more afraid to speak out than women in professional work.

▲ BERR report 2009

Ragged Trousered Philanthropists



John Flanagan, Andy Higgins of the Construction Safety Campaign present Mick Clapham MP with the CSC's Robert Tressell award at the All Party Asbestos Sub-Committee on 2nd March 2010 at the House of Commons. Mick Clapham, retiring MP for Barnsley West and Penistone, has been Chair of this group since setting it up in March 2000.

UNITE says Lighten Up

Baggage handlers are five times more likely to suffer muscular skeletal injuries than any other worker in the UK. This is completely unacceptable and Unite is determined to act to reduce the risks to members, forcing the industry to lighten up, protecting members' health and reducing the cost and environmental impact of flying.

Unite is campaigning to get airlines to introduce a reduced global standard of 23 kg maximum weight limit for individual bags taken on planes. The campaign's main aim is to reduce back and other injuries suffered by thousands of baggage handlers.

Unite organised a lobby of Parliament on Wednesday 25 March 2009 to highlight the union's campaign to get airlines to introduce a reduced global standard of 23kg maximum weight limit for individual checked-in baggage. Unite is determined to get the government to act and force the HSE to implement their own guidelines. We believe the HSE are failing in their statutory duty to protect the health of workers. HSE are now supporting UNITE's campaign on this, and have issued some recent guidance, see: www.hse.gov.uk/airtransport/bagge.htm they stress mechanical aids should be used as well as reducing the loads. (HSE 11.2.2010)

▲ More at: www.unitetheunion.com/campaigns/lighten_up

UNITE Cabin Crew



British plans to axe 1,700 jobs, impose a two year wage freeze and introduce a second tier workforce on poorer pay and

conditions will mean extending working hours and slashing crew levels. The company proposals will be detrimental to staff and passenger safety. The Unite members voted for a second time to resist these changes with 80.7% voting for industrial action on a 78.7% turnout.

Bangladesh: Anger as garment workers perish

At least 21 workers have been killed in a fire at the Garib & Garib Sweater Factory in Gazipur, Bangladesh. A further 50 workers suffered from burns or smoke inhalation in the 25 February tragedy. The firm produces garments for many of the major high street names. The fire started on the first floor of the seven storey building at 9.30pm, when workers were leaving the factory after their shifts. As the fire spread, workers became trapped on the floors above. According to one survivor, rescue efforts were hampered as firefighters had to cut through window grills to access the workers. No-one on the scene could tell firefighters how many workers were in the factory. See TUC Risks 446 6.3.2010

Flexible Working

In February the government revealed that there have been very few requests in London to work flexibly under their new legislation; but they have been met positively to a large extent. Out of 25 requests from employees with children under 16 to work flexibly, 90% were accepted at least partially. The right to request flexible working, introduced in 2003 for parents of children under six and disabled children under 18; was extended to carers in 2007 and parents of children aged 16 and under in April 2009. (Hansard 1.2.2010 column 151W)

PICT: JESS HURD/REPORT DIGITAL



Gate Gourmet workers demand their reinstatement after they were sacked from their catering jobs at Heathrow airport in 2005. TGWU/UNITE baggage handlers took unofficial solidarity action to support them.

Waltham Forest Carbon Monoxide deaths

THE deaths of Donald O'Sullivan, 73, and his wife Rosetta, 70, who died from carbon monoxide poisoning is being investigated by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). They were found collapsed in their Matlock Road home in Leyton on April 20. The post mortem revealed they inhaled the lethal odourless gas. The police have handed the case over to HSE. The family said they hoped: "The tragic and totally needless deaths should not be in vain and hopefully will raise awareness of carbon monoxide poisoning." (HSE: October 2009)

Management Council Changes



Jean Kysow with Alan Walter at a Defend Council Housing conference.

Goodbye to:

Jean Kysow, originally a delegate from Lewisham Tenants, stepped down as a co-opted member of the Management Council in Spring last year. She served the Centre diligently for many years and her contribution will be missed. She is shown with Alan Walter, Defend Council Housing, also a supporter of London Hazards. Alan died suddenly in March 2009.

The following also stepped down as Directors/Trustees at the November AGM:

Audrey Winter, *Battersea Crane Disaster Action Group*

Chris Murphy, *UCATT London Region*

Paul Maybin, *AMICUS London Region*

Peter Farrell, *Construction Safety Campaign*

Eddie Peeke, *Barking and Dagenham UNISON and Badasbestos.*

Thanks to them for coming onto the Council at a crucial time, enabling the Centre to move forward with the new commission from London Councils.

Hello to:

Chris Best, *UNISON Thames Waste* has registered as a new Director/Trustee.



Everal Brown, London Hazards Centre Adviser, speaking on issues affecting migrant workers at "The Health Agenda at Work" conference held at NUT Hamilton House, organised by The Institute of Employment Rights on Wednesday 17th February, 2010. The conference was focussed on the government's role and the consequent impact over the last 20 years as well as future outlooks regarding health and safety at work.

USING THE
CENTRE

London Hazards Centre 2010 training programme

We are running taster courses throughout London to provide a basic introduction to health and safety at work. They look at the relevant laws and at practical solutions to creating a safe working environment. The sessions cover:

- ▲ Legal duties of employers under health & safety legislation
- ▲ Identifying hazards and risk assessments
- ▲ Accident reporting
- ▲ Where to go for help.

Who are the courses aimed at?

All welcome, but there is a focus on problems faced by black, Asian, minority ethnic workers and women. They are useful for community groups:

- ▲ Looking for practical knowledge and skills to enable them to create a safe and healthy workplace.
- ▲ Who are unclear about their duties to staff, volunteers, the public.
- ▲ Who want to find out more about the trade union role.

The courses will normally be organized in conjunction with the local Voluntary Action Service. Contact us at mail@lhc.org.uk to find out what is happening in your borough.

London Hazards Centre staff changes

Ruth Hayles joined London Hazards Centre at the end of January as an advice worker. She replaces John McQuillan who left in September. Ruth has been on the USDAW Academy and at the moment she is working towards revitalising safety committees across the London boroughs.

Fire Safety Laws

This factsheet covers the three main laws covering fire safety in England and Wales.

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (FSO) 2005

This Order requires a 'responsible person' (Article 3) to take general fire precautions (Article 8) that is implement and maintain a fire management plan and they must carry out a fire risk assessments (Article 9) that is they must take steps to remove or reduce risks of fire. The plan must also take into consideration the effect a fire may have on anyone in or around the premises. The fire risk assessment must be kept under regular review.

In a workplace, the responsible person is:

- ▲ the employer
- ▲ any other person who may have control of any part of the premises the occupier, including self-employed people,
- ▲ the owner.

If there is more than one responsible person in any type of premises, all must take all reasonable steps to work with each other.

FSO or Fire Safety Order covers all non-domestic premises, common parts of blocks of flats and houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) and certain activities taking place outdoors. It has replaced the Fire Precautions Act 1971 and the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997. Fire certificates are no longer issued.

Fire and rescue authorities inspect premises and are the principle enforcing authority, exceptions being that HSE will cover RRFSo for the nuclear industry, construction sites and ship construction and repair; sports grounds will be covered by the local authority issuing the safety certificate; defence bases and Crown-owned property will have separate arrangements.

Fire Risk Assessment

The risk assessment and any significant findings must be recorded:

- ▲ if five or more people are employed
- ▲ if there is a licence in force
- ▲ if the premises are subject to an alteration notice. This is served by the enforcing authority.

Good comprehensive fire safety management systems – including consultation with trade union safety representatives – are key to ensuring that fire safety is taken seriously.

In addition the Fire Safety Order sets down requirements for the following:

- ▲ The principles of avoiding fire (Article 10 and part 3 schedule 1)
- ▲ Fire Safety Arrangements (Article 11)
- ▲ The need to eliminate or reduce risks from dangerous substances (Article 12)
- ▲ Provision of Fire-fighting, fire detection and warning equipment and contact with emergency services (Article 13). Different types of fire detection system include human observation, which can operate before smoke and heat detectors. In general smoke alarms are used but heat detectors are sometimes better, for example, in kitchen areas when false signals are likely to be frequent. Sprinkler heads work by heat detection. Electrical systems, especially for large buildings and sites, must have a backup power system. Alarms must be able to be heard above any noise likely to be present and in areas where people will be able to respond (eg heard in a central operating area to cover warehouses, stores etc). Non-automatic equipment must be easily accessible, simple to use and indicated by signs. The equipment must be regularly maintained and tested (Article 17).
- ▲ Emergency routes and exits (Article 14): including exits routes; exit doors opening in the direction of escape –

they must not be locked or fastened and must open immediately – sliding and revolving doors not to be used as emergency doors; exit routes must not be locked; emergency lighting requirements and backup.

- ▲ What to do when there is a fire – serious and imminent danger – (Article 15) this includes establishment of drills and nominating competent people to be in charge of evacuation. There should be a written emergency plan and this is a requirement if five or more are employed. This should be kept in the workplace and should form the basis of training. Emergency plans should be practised and if necessary discussed with the local emergency services.
- ▲ Emergency measures for dangerous substances (Article 16): in addition to the above; including that ahead of a fire or explosion information must be available to accident and emergency services.
- ▲ Appointment of competent persons to assist the responsible person (Article 18)
- ▲ Information and training to all who need it: employees, contractors, any person working on the premises (Articles 19, 20 and 21)
- ▲ Employee duties (Article 23): workers must take reasonable care, co-operate and inform the employer of situations representing serious and imminent danger and of any shortcomings they notice in fire protection measures.

Key Guidance on fire safety can be found at:

www.communities.gov.uk/fire/firesafety/firesafetylaw/

Basic fire risk assessment

Producing a fire risk assessment should not be a theoretical exercise and should involve practical examination of the building under consideration.

Sources of ignition	Sources of Fuel	Sources of oxygen
Smokers materials	Paints, varnishes, thinners, adhesives	It is in the air and its flow is affected by the ventilation system.
Naked flames	Petrol, white spirit, parafin	Oxidising materials will supply additional oxygen. This property should be clearly marked on the tin and the chemical stored as directed.
Hot surfaces (for example, lights and cooking equipment)	Paper	Oxygen supplied in cylinders eg for health care or in some types of welding.
Electrical sparks	Wood	
Mechanical sparks	Furniture, fixtures and fittings	
Static electricity	Textiles	
Arson	Liquified petroleum gas (LPG) and acetylene	
Hot processes such as welding	Loose packaging material	

Step 1 – identify the fire hazards

This involves consideration of the fire triangle and identifying the three requirements for a fire: sources of ignition, fuel and oxygen and the possibility of them coming together. Examples are given in the table above.

Step 2 – identify people at risk

pay particular attention to those at special risk, such as young people, the disabled and those with special needs. Signs and instructions should be translated into other languages when needed.

Step 3 – evaluating the risks and looking at control measures

- ▲ reducing sources of ignition for example replacing naked flame and radiant heaters with central heating systems. Having strict no smoking areas.
- ▲ reducing easily accessible potential fuel, including good housekeeping measures to reduce accumulation of

waste (including paper). Changing industrial processes to limit the amount of flammable material or using less flammable material; keeping material at a low temperature.

- ▲ reducing or controlling the sources of oxygen, for example by permit-to-work systems for maintenance involving welding.

Step 3 – evaluating the risks – should also consider fire procedures

(evacuation, drills, frequency of alarm testing), training (see below) and other practical measures (signage, keeping evacuation routes clear, fire safety audits) as explained in the guidance.

Step 4 – record your findings

The risk assessment should be recorded (irrespective of legal obligation) and be made available to safety representatives.

Step 5 – review and revise – as with all risk assessments.

Fire safety in domestic properties: the Housing Act 2004

This covers fire safety management in all residential property in England and Wales. It requires many houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) to be licensed by the local authority: residential properties with 3 or more storeys and with 5 or more tenants. In addition a Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) applies to all rented property including HMOs. This means local authorities will have to carry out HHSRS, a risk assessment, on licensed HMOs and other non-licensed residential properties will require HHSRS inspections. Property owners and landlords are responsible for carrying out remedial work to deal with any fire hazards identified.

The Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 (DSEAR)

Dangerous substances can be found in nearly all workplaces and include such things as solvents, paints, varnishes, flammable gases, such as liquid petroleum gas (LPG), dusts from machining and sanding operations and dusts from foodstuffs. Risks from these substances must be controlled. Information about DSEAR can be found at: www.hse.gov.uk/fireandexplosion/dsear

Arrangements in London

The London Fire Brigade advises people to contact their Local Borough Fire and Community Safety Centres if they have any query about fire safety and the addresses of the 33 London Centres, with phone numbers, are on their website: www.london-fire.gov.uk.

Factsheets online www.lhc.org.uk London advice 020 7794 5999



Hampstead Town Hall Centre
213 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 4QP
Tel: 020 7794 5999 Fax: 020 7794 4702
Email: mail@lhc.org.uk Website: www.lhc.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 293677

