

Health and safety for Londoners

London Hazards Centre continues to champion health and safety for Londoners.

Despite the threat to our finances caused by government cuts, the Centre has worked hard to deliver its mandate and has supported many campaigns during the past year including campaigns against blacklisting of building workers, asbestos hazards in the workplace and solvent based paints. The Centre continues to establish working partnerships, deliver information and provide support, advice and training to Londoners fighting health and safety hazards in their homes, communities and workplace.

Our training is delivered to a very high standard by our experienced trainers and is tailored to meet the needs and requirements of individuals, tenants associations, trade unions and community groups.

The Centre also conducts research and works closely with trade unions supporting their health and safety campaigns. In November 2010, LHC supported Usdaw's "Freedom From Fear" campaign that raised awareness of health and safety issues for shop workers i.e. demanding respect, safety, freedom from fear, attack and abuse. Recently our supporters joined the demonstration in support of Australian trade unionist Ark Tribe who was threatened with imprisonment for defying Australian anti-trade union legislation.

The Centre's anti-asbestos campaigning supports awareness of the danger asbestos poses to our communities and we help asbestos victims around the capital. Recent activities include supporting asbestos awareness groups protesting outside Canada House about Canadian produced asbestos. To help this work we will be employing a dedicated anti-asbestos support worker in the near future.



PIC. R. HAYLES



IMAGE ABOVE: LHC workers Ruth Hayles and Everal Brown with the Mayor of Walthamstow at the LHC stall at The Asian Centre Community Health and Safety Event in November 2010

IMAGE BELOW: Women receiving their Health & Safety Certificates from LHC at the African Women's Welfare Association HQ in March 2011

Our work covers key aspects of health and safety policy, legislation, practice and compliance and we are hopeful that our existing funding will continue at least until September 2012. The Centre wishes

everyone good health, safety and well-being. We welcome enquiries either by telephone on 020 7794 5999 or by emailing mail@lhc.org.uk. Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome.

Buncefield: the verdict

“Cumulatively, these pressures created a culture where keeping operations going was the primary focus” safety processes did not get the attention, resources or priority status they needed.

“There is evidence to suggest that on the night of the incident, the supervisors were confused as to which pipeline was filling which tank,” and “there was no tank filling system worth its name”.

An investigation by HSE and the Environment Agency into the causes of the Buncefield explosion was published on 16th February 2011. The report says that had the systems within the Watford head office loss control manual actually been implemented the disaster “may well have not occurred”.

The trial, in July 2010, pinpointed faulty gauges, improvised monitoring procedures and lack of safety competence, compounded by the plant operating beyond its capacity, as some of the causes behind the explosions and fire. The economic costs of the 2005 explosion –

heard over 40 miles away – and five days fire, are estimated at close to £1 billion.

This report says the management systems for tank filling at Hertfordshire Oil Storage Limited (HOSL), which was in control of the site, were deficient and not followed properly, despite being independently audited the year before the incident.

A rise in the volume of fuel passing through the site also put unsustainable pressure on staff responsible for managing its receipt and storage — a task they lacked information about and struggled to monitor. There was a lack of necessary engineering support from head office and inadequate arrangements for containment of fuel and firewater to protect the environment.

Faulty Gauges

The tank had two forms of level control, the automatic tank gauging system (ATG) and an independent high-level switch (IHLS), meant to cut off the fuel supply once it was full. The first gauge stuck and the IHLS was inoperable — so there was no means to alert control room staff that the tank was filling to dangerous levels.

The gauge had stuck 14 times between 31 August 2005 and the day of the incident, “but neither site management nor the contractors who maintained the systems responded effectively to its obvious unreliability”.

Sometimes supervisors rectified the sticking by raising the gauge to its highest position then letting it settle again, a practice known as “stowing”. Sometimes maintenance contractors Motherwell Control Systems were called in though the cause was never properly investigated or identified. Sometimes the sticking was logged as a fault by supervisors but at other times it was not.

“The failure to have an effective fault logging process and the lack of a maintenance regime that could reliably respond to those faults were two of the most important “root cause” managerial and organisational failures underlying this incident,” says the report.

Tank 912 was fitted with a new IHLS almost 18 months before the disaster – but because those who installed and operated the switch did not fully understand the way it worked or the crucial role played by a

HSE may cut proactive inspections by a third with entire sectors immune from an unannounced “knock on the door”, this is according to a leaked letter signed by HSE’s chief executive Geoffrey Podger and revealed on BBC’s File on 4 on Radio 4 on 8th March. The HSE, which is facing a 35% cut in its government grant, insisted no decision had been made, and would not confirm to the BBC which sectors could be exempted from proactive inspection. Other reports have said that HSE has accepted voluntary redundancy requests from 201 staff, of these 5 are construction inspectors but these are said to be due to be replaced.

Prospect, the union that represents HSE Inspectors, says “In areas of high industrial activity, inspectors are already so pushed by the rate of major accidents that proactive work is limited,” said Prospect negotiator Mike Macdonald. “The 30% reduction will cut even deeper.”

The PCS union, which also represents HSE workers, called on the government to guarantee that inspectors will not stop making unannounced visits to workplaces such as building sites, farms, waste disposal plants, quarries, or factories using dangerous machinery.

“The only model of health and safety regulation that has worked anywhere in the world is a combination of proactive inspections and enforcement,” said PCS general secretary Mark Serwotka.

A suspected victim of the cuts is the HSE’s asbestos awareness campaign Hidden Killers which has won awards for raising awareness of the dangers of asbestos in properties amongst repair and maintenance workers. Deaths in this group are 20 a week and rising. Footballer and former plasterer Ian Wright helped launch the campaign saying “if this was footballers dying the whole of the Premiership would be wiped out in three months.”



Prospect and PCS members fighting HSE cuts

padlock, the switch was left effectively inoperable after being tested. Clear guidance about the safety criticality of the padlock should have been passed on to the installers and users.

And there was only one computer, with no back up, to run the entire ATG system.

No emergency shutdown

A red "stop" emergency shutdown button, meant to close all tank side valves, was not working and had never been fitted into the system — unknown to various supervisors.

"This issue is indicative of poor management control where supervisors did not appreciate the redundancy of the "stop" button and Motherwell staff never tested it," says the report.

Fines

In July, French oil giant Total was fined £3 million for safety offences.

Hertfordshire Oil Storage Limited, which was in control of the site and is 60% owned by Total and 40% by Chevron, received a £1,450,000 fine with £1 million in costs, while British Pipeline Agency, jointly owned by BP and Shell, and must pay £780,000.

Maintenance contractors Motherwell Control Systems and component makers TAV Engineering were each ordered to pay £1500 in penalties.

▲ Ref: Eva Reed, Health and Safety at Work, 17.2.2011

▲ Download the full report from: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/comah/investigation-reports.htm>

Cancer jobs: painting, firefighting and shiftwork

The International Agency for Research on Cancer, IARC, has produced detailed evaluations regarding cancer risks for painting, firefighting and shiftwork.¹ Painters were looked at in 1989 with 8 studies leading to the conclusion occupational exposure as a painter causes cancer.

This new report looks at nearly 50 studies, finding excess risks of lung cancer of 34% and 41% depending on the type of study. The studies were adjusted for smoking so this risk reflects the risk from the job of painting itself. 11 studies found that painters had a 26% increased chance of bladder cancer. And though there was not enough data to evaluate conclusively, the report says "Other statistically significant excesses of mortality were observed...for cancers of the pharynx, oesophagus and liver" although smoking and drinking could be responsible for these and they have not drawn conclusions about lymphatic and blood cancers. However, looking at childhood cancer they have said "There is some evidence that maternal occupational or other exposure to paints is associated with childhood leukaemia." There is not enough information at this stage to see if changes in paint composition – reducing solvents, reducing the use of lead, chrome and cadmium – has reversed the trend.

Firefighting has been looked at by

IARC for the first time; it notes that peak exposures to some carcinogens may be very high, notably for benzene, 1,3-butadiene and formaldehyde. Firefighters can be exposed to high levels of respirable particulate matter. The overall conclusions are that firefighting is possibly carcinogenic. The cancers that showed excess numbers in the studies they looked at are: testicular cancer (50% excess in 6 studies and 150 cases); prostatic cancer (30% excess in 17 studies and 1800 cases) and non-Hodgkin lymphoma (20% excess in 7 studies and more than 300 cases).

Night shiftwork is probably carcinogenic (a higher risk group than firefighting at this stage). Shiftwork is most prevalent among workers in the health care, transportation, communication, leisure and hospitality sectors (above 30%). Six studies of nurses have consistently shown a "modestly increased" risk of breast cancer for long-term employees working night shifts. Flight cabin crew have also been studied and an increased risk of breast cancer has again been found, which was greater the longer they had worked in the job. Studies of airline pilots have found a large increase of prostate cancer compared to other workers. However this could be due to the fact pilots are screened for prostate cancer more than other men.

1 IARC Monograph 98, 2010.

Not good RIDDOR-ance

The Con-Dem government is proposing to substantially reduce workplace injury reporting requirements under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR). Following on from a recommendation in Lord Young's report, the HSE is now consulting on extending from 3 to 7 days the period before an injury or accident needs to be reported. There is enough under-reporting of workplace injury as it is, without introducing more. As well as allowing employers to get away with that, the proposals would seriously reduce the

workplace injury data available to the HSE. It is fairly obvious that this would substantially weaken the effectiveness of the HSE's enforcement activity. And it is unlikely to save much money as all 3 day absences will still have to be recorded because European legislation will still require this to be done. The consultation closes on the 9th May and is available on the HSE website.

The consultation document can be viewed at:

▲ <http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd233.htm>

It includes a short online questionnaire.

Hundreds of RIDDOR injuries – around 500–600 over 3 day injuries – went unreported at Network Rail between 2005 and 2010 because of "both real and perceived pressure, and in some cases fear, felt by Network Rail staff and contractors". An independent investigation by the Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) has found Network Rail Infrastructure Projects and Maintenance were under-reporting by about 37% to 42%. The pressure to under report came from Network Rail's overall strategy for safety, which was based on quantitative safety targets, safety performance measures, league tables and contractual requirements linked to the number of reported RIDDOR lost time injuries.

Fighting for trade union rights on safety

Without effective trade union organisation there will be no effective safety organisation: and workers interests are not the same as the employers. The employer does not benefit the worker by giving out work: the worker benefits the employer by making them rich. When the price paid for poor safety results in the deaths of workers – it is not the employers who pay.

The Blacklisting Support Group has recently been instrumental in raising the problems of organising in construction. Their campaigning focuses on a number of important cases but the struggle goes back many decades. In "The Key to my Cell", published in 1982, Des Warren, jailed for three years at Shrewsbury on trumped up conspiracy charges for activities in the 1972 building workers strike, had this to say about organising on the Barbican – a long and prestigious job – "a disputes panel confirmed my being sacked for pulling men out on strike over an issue. I gained a place on the employers' black-list at the Barbican. Soon after, the boss on one job told me he had phoned up a number which gave information on militants."

"It was about this time that the fight against the "Lump" was building up. The "Lump" was a system primarily devised with the intention of smashing trade union organisation on the sites. Men were given a lump sum for work done with no income tax or insurance being paid and the laws on safety regulations ignored. Initially, earnings would be higher than average – employers would be prepared to double and even treble wages at first, to wreck union organisation. My experience was that the union leaders never put up a real fight against the "Lump". Lads on the sites, when having a go, found they had to take on the union leadership as well as the employers."



Protesting about blacklisting at the Olympic site on 1st March 2011

PIC: NATIONAL SHOP STEWARDS NETWORK

That was then. The situation now is that the last Labour government failed to use powers in the Employment Relations Act 1999 to introduce regulations to stamp out blacklisting. Belatedly, anti-blacklisting regulations were introduced at the start of 2010. But according to Keith Ewing they are "woefully inadequate. Not only do they fail to make blacklisting an offence, but they also fail to make blacklisting unlawful. The only protection the new regulations offer is protection against loss caused by blacklisting."

A good trade unionist

The ongoing fight of UNITE electrician Steve Acheson, sacked from Fiddlers Ferry in December 2008, is the case with the most echoes of Des Warren and Shrewsbury, in that as well as being blacklisted, Scottish & Southern Energy, SSE, tried to bring a case against him under Terrorism laws. SSE claimed his actions – picketing the site to demand reinstatement – threatened the National Grid and national security. Fortunately, when it came to the High Court in October 2009, the judge, Justice Mann, threw it out saying SSE's legal case was "fanciful bordering on paranoid."

In October Steve Acheson won the first of his blacklisting Tribunals

against Beaver Management Services (Employment Agency); the remedy hearing was due just before Christmas but that has been postponed. He says: "I am not blacklisted because I am a bad electrician or for any unlawful practice, but because I am a good trade unionist standing up for the rights of my fellow workers.

Now I appeal to you to stand up for the rights of the 3,000 construction workers illegally prevented from working. This systematic victimisation of trade unionists, and their families and dependents, has to be stopped."

Phil Willis won his case in November 2010, with lawyers hoping it may open up construction employers to millions in damages. He was refused employment as a Steel Erector with CB&I on the Isle of Grain in September 2007. At the Tribunal it was found it was because he was a member of UNITE. Mr Willis was awarded £18,375 with £2000 of this was for "aggravated damages" for the company's use of the Consulting Association blacklist – important because aggravated damages are very rarely awarded.

Steve Kelly, UNITE London Construction Branch, had a one day mediation hearing – rather than the 3 day full Monty – on 20th January 2011. Steve says: "The case stemmed from a section of

my 18 page blacklist file where I had been sacked from Colchester Barracks in 2007 for refusing to work from a mobile scaffold. Robert MacAlpine the main contractor had insisted in a safety induction that no worker should operate on of these towers unless they were trained and had a ticket to say they had passed the course. I was working for a sub contractor called ECS Ltd, from Norwich. Their supervisor said "it's easy to use – move this handle up, down, forward, back, simple!"

Kept off sites

Workers have been killed using these towers in the past. When I refused to use this tower I was sacked – reason given poor workmanship. This appeared on my file. Robert McAlpine had contacted Ian Kerr and this, along with many other lies, has been used against me for the last 10 years and will be in the future, preventing me from working in construction certainly on any large sites. A settlement was reached and I was awarded £2400 – still blacklisted, still kept off sites, unable to organise workers.

Unite must start looking at taking these cases for a civil claim for misuse of the data protection act. Many blacklisted TU activists have not managed to get cases to court. The reason given is these civil claims are too costly. Well we pay our dues for representation, and assistance from our unions. Let's not kid ourselves, blacklisting ain't going away. The lump is on the rise, accidents and deaths are on the increase, agreements are falling by the wayside, stop the rot before it's too late it's time we fought back!"

- ▲ Watch BLACKLISTED – a 15 min film – on youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUMYCP9SnLM>
- ▲ Support blacklisted workers facing hardship:
- ▲ Cheques made payable to: Fiddlers Ferry Hardship Fund, c/o 13 Thompson Close, Dane Bank, Manchester M34 2PQ
- ▲ Find out about Shrewsbury: Invite a speaker from the London Shrewsbury Campaign to your meeting and watch the short film about Shrewsbury, which includes Ricky Tomlinson talking about site safety at the time of the building workers national strike. Contact Peter Farrell, c/o Beehive Works, PO Box 68056, N22 9GW

1 See *The Guardian*, 10.3.2010

Reinstate Frank Morris!

Hundreds of building workers protested on 1st March at the Olympic site over the sacking of Enfield-based electrician Frank Morris from the media centre at the Olympics. RMT member Morris was sacked by Daletech Services after raising concerns about another worker. Morris was told the other electrician was dismissed because his name had come up on a list that he was a union man and a known 'troublemaker.' Morris himself was immediately transferred to the Belmarsh Prison extension, still working for Daletech Services with Skanska the main contractor. He says: "I was forced to work in isolation – in contravention of the main contractor's health and safety procedures – and site management waged a campaign of intimidation and bullying

against me. On December 16 2010 I had to call the police and ask for protection as a senior electrical engineer threatened me with violence – he said was going to follow me off the site and assault me."

And meanwhile on London Underground

RMT drivers on Bakerloo and Northern Lines have already taken strike action to overturn the sackings of two drivers – Eamonn and Arwyn, who have both won Interim Relief Tribunal hearings – which means the judges that heard the cases believe they have been victimised because of their trade union activity.

- ▲ See: www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk/defendreps

Asbestos in Walworth

25 years ago the Chernobyl nuclear plant in the Ukraine exploded sending a radioactive cloud across Europe.

Today an equally toxic repository of asbestos could contaminate much of London. Demolition has begun on the Heygate estate in Walworth, SE London.

The main contractor, Cantillon, is a licensed asbestos removal contractor, but to date, no information has been made public about sub-contractors or agency or security staff on the site and their training and experience in the dangers of asbestos removal.

Asbestos removal is not just a problem that affects workers on demolition and building sites. The fine fibres can be blown a long distance if not properly handled and can affect local residents.

London Hazards Centre has for many years campaigned with local residents in order to prevent asbestos contamination and will continue to monitor the demolition works. Southwark Council now does seem to be on the point of providing details of asbestos contained in council properties to tenants and residents and London Hazards Centre will keep asking Southwark to closely monitor the works on the Heygate. To this end, using the



The Heygate Estate

PICT: MICK LARKIN, UNITE

Freedom of Information Act, we are asking Southwark for the following:

- ▲ Have residents neighbouring the Heygate Estate been informed by letter, leaflet directly to their homes of the demolition of the Heygate? If so in which languages?
- ▲ What independent monitoring took place to ensure that the main contractor, sub-contractors agency and security staff have had training in the dangers of asbestos removal?
- ▲ What languages did this training take place in?
- ▲ Are replacement, agency and casual also fully trained?
- ▲ What plans are in place should there be any accidental release of asbestos
- ▲ Have the emergency services and the Health and Safety Executive been informed of these plans?

TUC Health and Safety Training

The presence of union safety reps prevents thousands of major injuries at work every year. The TUC training programme provides technical and legal information; the health, safety and welfare courses also aim to help safety reps understand general procedures for coping with the wide range of hazards that may come their way.

Trained reps are at the cutting edge when it comes to addressing the new hazards of the 21st century. According to an HSE evaluation, trade union safety training is "an important stimulus for taking up 'new issues' in health and safety." The Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations give union reps the right to attend, in paid work time,

union approved safety courses. Where reps are denied access with pay to union safety training, they can take the case to an employment tribunal. The main courses in the TUC program are: Health and Safety Stage 1; Next Steps for Safety Reps; the Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety, which is accredited to meet the academic requirement for Safety Technician (Tech IOSH) grade. Main centres in London are:

- ▲ CONEL, Haringey
- ▲ WEA Clifton Street, Hackney
- ▲ South Thames College, Tooting
- ▲ Lewisham College, Deptford
- ▲ West Thames College, Isleworth
- ▲ Find out more at:
www.unionlearn.org.uk



Women health and safety reps from UNITE, UNISON and PCS, working hard on a Stage 1 course at Barking

London Hazards Centre AGM Report

The following were elected onto the Management Council at the Annual general Meeting on 13th January:

Peter Farrell, *Shrewsbury Building Workers Campaign and Chair of the Construction Safety Campaign*
George Hill, *Lewisham Unite*
Mick Gilgunn, *Islington TUC*
Mick Larkin, *Walworth Unite*

They join the following Management Council members:

Kevin Williamson, *Chair*
Jennie Twydell, *Treasurer*
Ian McDeson
Adam Lincoln
Chris Best

USING THE
CENTRE

Training

Course programme Summer 2011

The Centre runs one-day courses aimed at community groups and trade union safety representatives. Courses cost £40 per person and this summer will be held at Oxford House, Bethnal Green, Tower Hamlets. This is fully accessible. The courses run from 10am to 4pm. The programme includes

- ▲ **Introduction to risk assessment**
Tuesday 17th May 2011
- ▲ **Women's health and safety at work**
Tuesday 21st June 2011
- ▲ **Health and Safety Law the basics**
Tuesday 5th July 2011

Details and booking forms from mail@lhcc.org.uk or telephone the adviceline: 020 7794 5999

courses to order

We run tailor made courses on a wide variety of topics such as stress at work, asbestos, accident reporting, basic management of health and safety at work. Contact us to discuss training for your organisation or workplace.

London Hazards Advice Line

Free advice and support for Londoners on health and safety at work and in the community. We aim especially to work with local groups such as tenants and residents, black, Asian and minority ethnic groups, refugee and migrant worker organisations, environmental action groups. We'll provide the level of support you need, from a single phone call to long-term support for a local campaign.

Helpline: 020 7794 5999
Monday – Thursday 10am to 3pm

Accidents at work

When someone has an accident at work, depending on the severity, make sure the victim is comfortable and get a first aider to them as quickly as possible, and or call an ambulance. Call someone they know as quickly as possible, and get a friend or relative to go with them to hospital or meet them there. Don't waste time.

- ▲ If you smell noxious gases, or think they have been poisoned, don't go in a room or closed area without an appropriate respirator
- ▲ If you think they have been electrocuted: turn off the power – don't touch them
- ▲ If they have fallen into a collapsing ditch or trench – don't jump in to rescue them – follow rescue procedures
- ▲ Don't move someone who has had a fall
- ▲ If they are on fire use a fire blanket carefully and avoid getting hurt yourself

Investigating accidents

Safety representatives have rights to investigate accidents, and to be trained in this through the TUC programme.

Basic points: don't let anything be moved; take photos or sketches; make sure it is reported; take witness statements as soon as you can; investigate how it could have been prevented and write this into the accident report as soon as you can.

Official reports of accidents

The law requires the more serious accidents at work to be reported and safety representatives have rights to investigate accidents.

They should be reported in writing to either HSE or the local Environmental Health Department and to the Incident Contact Centre (ICC). There are separate

reporting arrangements for railway and mine incidents. Reports can be made:

- ▲ By phoning: **0845 300 9923**
- ▲ At www.riddor.gov.uk
- ▲ At www.hse.gov.uk
- ▲ By post to: **Incident Contact Centre, Caerphilly Business Park, Caerphilly, CF83 3GG**
- ▲ Or email: riddor@connaught.plc.uk

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (accidents)

You may want to claim Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (accidents) if you're ill or disabled because of an accident at work, if you were employed when the accident happened. You cannot claim if you were self-employed. The amount you may get depends on your individual circumstances and on a doctors assessment of the extent of disability. It may effect means-tested benefits, so you need to check this out with a benefits adviser. The Department of Work and Pensions say that you can apply for a declaration that you have had an industrial accident, even if you do not want to claim any benefit right away. It is a good idea to apply for a declaration if you are not disabled immediately after your accident, but you think you may experience problems in the future as a result.

When someone is killed at work

The coroner is a doctor or lawyer responsible for investigating deaths. The police or a doctor will report workplace deaths to the coroner. That is deaths after an accident or injury or following an industrial disease. Anyone who is concerned about the cause of a death can inform a coroner about it.

Once a death is reported to the coroner

The coroner may be the only person able to certify the cause of death: you will be given a Formal Notice about this,

with details of how to register the death, and told if further investigations will delay the funeral.

Where a post-mortem has taken place, the coroner must give permission for cremation.

A post-mortem

This is a medical examination of the body, done in hospital, to find out more about the cause of death. You do not have the right to object to a post-mortem ordered by the coroner, but you should tell the coroner if you have religious or other strong objections.

Inquests

An inquest is a legal inquiry into the medical cause and circumstances of a death. It is held in public – sometimes with a jury – by a coroner, in cases where the death was violent or unnatural. If an inquest is held, the coroner must inform: the married or civil partner of the deceased or the nearest relative (if different from the above) or the personal representative (if different from the above).

Relatives can attend an inquest and ask questions of witnesses – about the medical cause and circumstances of the death. Relatives can have a lawyer to represent them, but there is no legal aid available for this. It is important to have a lawyer to represent you if the death was caused by an accident at work. You cannot get legal aid for this. Trade unions will ensure a lawyer represents their members.

- ▲ See: <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/Death/WhatToDoAfterADeath/>

This site gives information about claiming for a lump sum bereavement payment, the weekly bereavement allowance, paid for a year; these benefits are based on your ex-husband, wife or civil partner's national insurance payments. It also tells you about the Widowed Parents Allowance if you have dependents under 20 years for whom you receive Child Benefit.

Accident Report Form

If you have been injured in an accident at work that was not your fault, you may be able to make a personal injury claim for compensation. You need to be able to prove that your employer – or the person in control of the work such as a contractor – was negligent. Many factors can be looked at to assess negligence:

- ▲ the general state of the workplace or site
- ▲ the competency of those in charge of training
- ▲ the amount and quality of training given to you
- ▲ the types and condition of equipment used; was it maintained properly? Was it obsolete?

▲ were procedures followed?

We advise workers who have had an accident to contact their union legal departments as soon as possible, who will assess the possibility of a claim. They can find out how through their safety representatives or branch secretaries. London Hazards Centre may be able to help those not in a union get in touch with a specialist personal injury lawyer rather than a general high street lawyer. However it is always best to be in a trade union.

Name		Date of birth	
Address			
		Contact telephone number	
Date the accident happened		Trade Union	
Employer and Address			
Where did the accident happen (<i>eg canteen, stairs, cold store</i>)		Please give details of the accident	
First aid given by		Was it reported in the accident book?	
Any other medical treatment (<i>was an ambulance called, did you go to your own doctor</i>)			
Were you off work 1–3 days? <input type="checkbox"/>		Over 3 days? <input type="checkbox"/>	
Over 7 days? <input type="checkbox"/>		Did you get sick pay?	
Witness details (<i>name, address, phone if possible</i>)		Witness details (<i>name, address, phone if possible</i>)	
Signature		Date	

To get information from London Hazards Centre on how to prevent accidents fill out the form and send to LHC FREEPOST 213 Haverstock Hill London NW3 4QP

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



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