

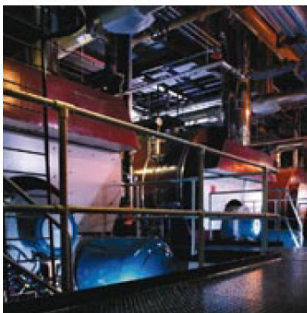
CONSTRUCTION HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS



LEGISLATION & GUIDANCE

Safe management of industrial steam and hot water boilers

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have published a new guide for owners, managers and supervisors of boilers, boiler houses and boiler plant, INDG456, Safe management of industrial steam and hot water boilers.



This leaflet provides basic advice on the risks and regulatory requirements for the operation of steam boilers. It sets out the general principles of boiler safety for people with limited technical knowledge of boilers, such as owners, managers and supervisors,

who do not have access to industry guidance.

Mobile crushing plant - unintended movement of tracks

On 2 November 2011 the HSE issued a safety notice, **FOD 4 – 2011**, pertaining to mobile crushing plant and used in quarrying and construction operations.

Example of mobile crushing plant



Investigation of a fatal incident by HSE has identified that unintended movement of some mobile crushers can occur when there

is an earth/ground fault. On the machine involved in the incident, damage to the outer sheath and insulation of an electrical control cable connected to the solenoid actuator of a track valve had exposed a conductor. This created an intermittent earth/ground fault whenever the exposed part of the conductor contacted the metal framework of the machine. This fault caused a voltage change that acted as a signal to the solenoid operated directional valve controlling a machine track, leading to unintended movement of the track.

On the machine involved in the incident, proportional valves controlled the flow of hydraulic fluid to each track motor in order to control the speed and direction of movement. The valves were operated by electrical control modules, which allowed proportional control of the valves (i.e. the position of each valve was proportional to the input signal). Activation of the 'make ready' button on the control pendant energised the electrical control modules, enabling the valves to operate electrically by directional control buttons on the pendant. The operation of these buttons resulted in a change to the signal voltage to the valve, which reacted by altering the flow of hydraulic fluid to the track motor and, hence, the speed and direction of track movement.

Electrical control cable cleaned and magnified for illustrative purposes



At the time of the fatal incident, inspection/maintenance work was being undertaken on the machine when the right track of the machine moved unexpectedly

CONSTRUCTION HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS



trapping the worker. The 'make ready' button on the machine control pendant had been pressed enabling the ground drive system. Investigation found the electrical control cable connected to the electrical actuation unit of a track valve had an exposed conductor. This meant that there was an unsafe condition whereby if the 'make ready' button had been pressed and the exposed conductor came into contact with the machine chassis, the track would move.



Location of damage to cable

Additional factors which led to the unintended movement of the tracks were:

- ❑ The outer sheath and insulation of the electrical control cable had become damaged as a result of rubbing against the machine chassis.
- ❑ There was potential for damage and deterioration of the electrical control cable given the type of cabling used, its location in the engine compartment and the environment it was subject to.
- ❑ An accumulation of product debris concealed the cable.

Action required:

The incident occurred on a BL Pegson 1000 Maxtrak cone crusher (year of manufacture 2001), though the risk may be present on any machine with a similar control system. Owners should contact the manufacturer/main agent/supplier of their machine(s) in the first instance to identify if there is a risk of unintended movement of the machine through the electrical control system developing an earth/ground fault.

Where damage or degradation of electrical control cables can lead to a risk of unintended movement, the following measures should be taken to reduce the risk to as low as reasonably practicable:

- ❑ Install helical sleeving (or similar) to provide additional protection to the control cables and route/secure the cables away from the machine chassis and any other potential rubbing points; and
- ❑ Consider the installation of fault monitoring to reduce the likelihood of unintended movement should an earth/ground fault occur.

or

- ❑ Take other appropriate measures.

If improved physical protection is not supplemented by fault monitoring, a system of inspection and maintenance to evaluate and monitor for any damage/degradation to the control circuit, including the electrical cables, will be an essential part of the overall maintenance regime for the machine.

The full notice can be seen at:

www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/mobilecrushingplant.htm.

Electrical safety FAQs – Portable Appliance Testing

The HSE have posted on their website another 'frequently asked questions' webpage for portable appliance testing (PAT).

The answers provided cover what is legally necessary and provides guidance on the extent of inspections and tests and the frequency of these, including equipment that is frequently used on construction sites.

It also includes links to further information and guidance.

This webpage can be viewed at:

www.hse.gov.uk/electricity/faq-portable-appliance-testing.htm.

Organising construction sites – Everything you need to know

The HSE have posted web pages on their website to provide advice on:

CONSTRUCTION HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS



- ❑ **Traffic management** Ensures that moving vehicles do not present a hazard to people working on, or visiting, the site.
- ❑ **Protecting the public** Details the specific measures for protecting members of the public on site and preventing access by unauthorised people, including children.
- ❑ **Materials storage and waste management** Guidance on storing materials safely to prevent hazards and make sure that waste is removed and disposed of safely.
- ❑ **Welfare** How to meet your legal requirements for welfare facilities on construction sites, for example providing toilet and washing facilities, drinking water, rest areas, changing rooms and lockers.
- ❑ **Administration** The paperwork you need to manage the site legally and safely.

This guidance can be found at:
www.hse.gov.uk/construction/safetytopics/siteorg.htm.

NEWS

HSE welcomes Löfstedt review

The HSE has welcomed the publication of the Löfstedt review. Employment Minister, Chris Grayling, commissioned the independent review in March 2011 and appointed Professor Ragnar Löfstedt, Director of the King's Centre for Risk Management at King's College, London, to chair it.

Professor Löfstedt has made recommendations aimed at reducing the burden of unnecessary regulation on businesses while maintaining Britain's health and safety performance, which is among the best internationally. The Government has accepted his recommendations.

Judith Hackitt, the Chair of HSE, said: "Professor Löfstedt's insightful report will go a long way to refocusing health and safety in Great Britain on those things that matter -

supporting those who want to do the right thing and reducing rates of work-related death, injury and ill health. ... We welcome these reforms because they are good for workers and employers but also for the significant contribution they will make to restoring the rightful reputation of real health and safety."

HSE said it would meet the timetable set by the Government for implementing those recommendations for which it was responsible.

Construction specific recommendations within the Löfstedt report include:

- ❑ **The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007** and the associated **ACoP** evaluation should be completed by April 2012 to ensure there is a clearer expression of duties, a reduction of bureaucracy and appropriate guidance for small projects.
- ❑ The revocation of the **Construction (Head Protection) Regulations 1989** that duplicate responsibilities set out in the later Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992.
- ❑ The revocation of the **Notification of Tower Cranes Regulations 2010** and the **Notification of Conventional Tower Cranes (Amendment) Regulations 2010**, because the Impact Assessment was not able to identify any quantifiable benefits to health and safety outcomes.

The Löfstedt report, entitled 'Reclaiming health and safety for all: An independent review of health and safety legislation', can be viewed, printed and downloaded from:
www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/health-and-safety.

The Government response can also be viewed, printed or downloaded from the same link.

New figures show continued fall in workplace ill health and injury

New figures published on 2 November 2011 show the ongoing trend for falls in the

CONSTRUCTION

HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS



number of people injured and made unwell at work has continued.

The statistics, published by the HSE show that in Britain between April 2010 and March 2011:

- 24,726 major injuries were reported, such as amputations, fractures and burns, to employees; a rate of 99 injuries per 100,000 workers, compared with 26,268 in 2009/10.
- 90,653 other injuries serious enough to keep people off work for four or more days were reported; a rate of 363.1 injuries per 100,000 workers, down from 96,427 the previous year.
- An estimated 1.2 million people said they were suffering from an illness caused or made worse by their work, down from 1.3 million in 2009/10. Of these, 500,000 were new illnesses occurring in-year.
- 171 workers fatally injured, up from 147 the previous year.

This confirms that Britain continues to have the lowest rate of fatal occupational injuries in Europe as well as one of the lowest levels of work-related ill health.

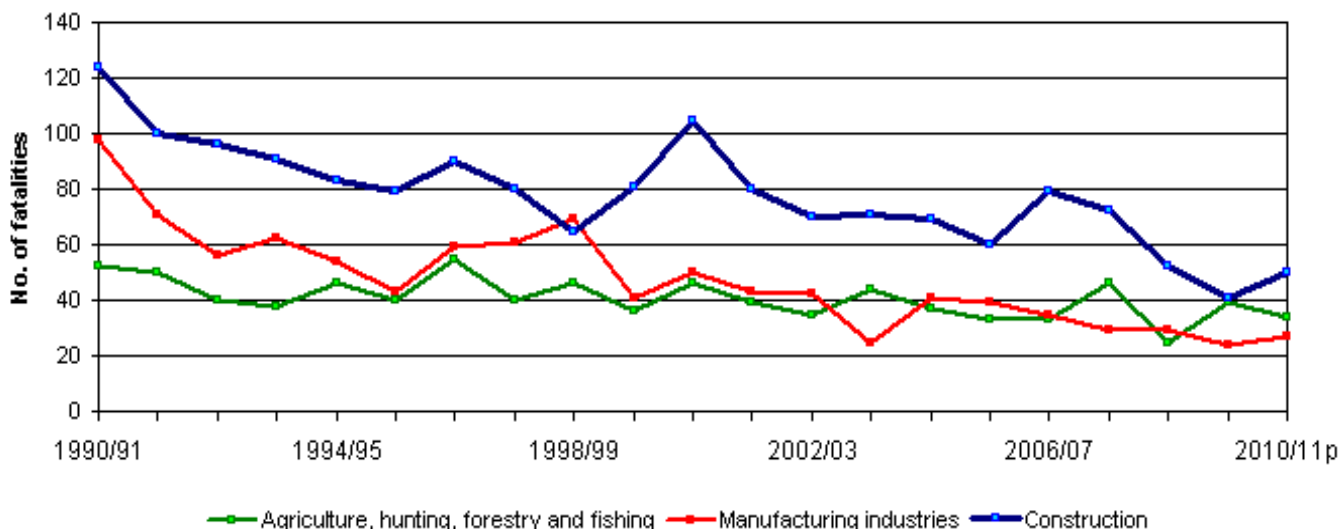
Construction (173.2 major injuries per 100,000 employees) and agriculture (221.9 major injuries per 100,000 employees) industries continue to report the highest levels of work-related injuries, with disproportionately high numbers of incidents.

Construction remains a high risk industry. Although it accounts for only about **5%** of the employees in Britain it still accounts for **27%** of fatal injuries to employees and **9%** of reported major injuries.

In 2010/11 there were:

- 50 fatal injuries to workers. 18 of these fatalities were to the self-employed. This compares with an average of 61 over the previous five years – including an average of 19 to the self-employed (RIDDOR);
- the number of employees who were fatally injured has reduced by two-thirds compared with 20 years ago. This is roughly in line with the reduction in other industries (RIDDOR);

The 20 year trend in worker fatalities is shown below.



CONSTRUCTION HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS



- ❑ reported non-fatal injuries have fallen by over a third and rates have fallen by a quarter since 2007/08 (RIDDOR);
- ❑ over 5,000 occupational cancer cases are estimated to arise each year as a result of past exposures in the construction sector (Cancer Burden Study, 2010);
- ❑ an estimated 36,000 new cases of work-related ill health with rates of musculoskeletal disorder significantly higher than average (LFS);
- ❑ about 2.3 million working days were lost (1.1 days per worker) due to self-reported work-related illness or workplace injury. Just over three quarters of this was due to health problems and only one quarter to injuries (LFS).

The toll of injury and ill-health within Britain resulted in 26.4 million working days being lost, an average of 15 days per case - 22.1 million to ill-health and 4.4 million to injury.

The full statistics, including comparisons to previous years, are available online at: www.hse.gov.uk/statistics.

APS Design Risk Management course

The first of these courses in 2012 is being presented by Callsafe Services Limited in Lichfield on Wednesday & Thursday, 11 & 12 January 2012.

This two-day course is designed to provide Designers and Design Risk Managers with the necessary knowledge and confidence in the performance of the task to ensure compliance with the designers' duties under CDM2007.

The course is highly interactive and includes presentations, notes, syndicate exercises, delegate discussions, and an examination to ensure learning outcomes. The course programme can be seen at: www.callsafe-services.co.uk/training.asp.

For further details and to book onto this

course, contact Gemma Esprey at: gemma.esprey@callsafe-services.co.uk, or by telephone: 01889 577701.

PROSECUTIONS

Oldham roofer caught on camera putting lives at risk

An Oldham roofer has appeared in court after he and another worker were caught on camera balancing dangerously on a house roof. Colin Howles was photographed by an inspector from the HSE as he and another man, employed by him, replaced the tiles on a mid-terrace house on Wyndale Road in Bardsley.

Trafford Magistrates' Court in Sale heard no scaffolding had been put up at the back of the property to stop either of the men falling nearly six metres to the ground below.

The HSE inspector issued a Prohibition Notice, ordering the men to come down from the roof immediately, when he visited the site as part of routine inspections in the area on 3 November 2010.

The court was told two scaffolding towers had been erected at the front of the house but no scaffolding had been put up when the men started work on the section of roof at the back of the property.

Colin Howles pleaded guilty to a breach of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 after he failed to take action to prevent workers being injured in a fall. Mr Howles was fined £350 and ordered to pay £600 in prosecution costs on 28 October 2011.

Further details of this case and other cases can be found at: <http://news.hse.gov.uk/category/prosecution/>

Another Roofer fined after fatal fall from height

A roof worker has been fined after a man fell to his death in Leicester.

CONSTRUCTION

HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS



Landlord Trevor Hall died after falling around 3.5 metres through a fragile roof light at premises he owned in Saffron Road, Leicester on 8 March 2010.

He had gone onto the roof to observe Kristian Varnam, a director of Roofwise (UK) Ltd, whom Mr Hall had asked to provide a quote for repairs.

The investigation found the roof was made of fragile asbestos cement sheets and clear plastic roof lights, but Mr Varnam took no reasonable or practicable steps to ensure his safety or that of others in going on to the roof. The investigation also found he had failed to inform the building's tenants of his intention to go on to the roof.

Kristian Varnam pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 7(a) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 at Leicester Magistrates' Court on 28 October 2011. He was fined £3,500 with £2,742 costs.

Property firm sentenced after worker exposed to asbestos

A Cardiff letting agent has been sentenced after a handyman was exposed to asbestos containing material while carrying out work on a client's property.

A self-employed handyman, who does not wish to be named, regularly carried out work on properties managed by Rochefort Shugar Ltd and on 15 October 2010 was sent to a domestic property to fix a leaking porch roof.

As he was removing a sheet of material from the underside panel of the damaged roof, he realised it was asbestos containing insulation board. The sheet was broken during removal and the surrounding area was contaminated with asbestos debris.

The HSE prosecuting, told Barry Magistrates' Court the removal of the panel and the sweeping up and bagging of the debris would have resulted in the significant release of asbestos fibres into the air.

The handyman wore two dust masks while removing the board on 15 October 2010, but did not undergo any decontamination procedures and was not wearing a protective, disposable suit. The court heard the fibres could have contaminated his hair, skin and clothing and may also have been inhaled.

The HSE investigation found the handyman had not been given any indication asbestos was present in the property, No risk assessment was carried out or method statement compiled, and Rochefort Shugar made no attempt to ensure he was competent to identify or work with asbestos.

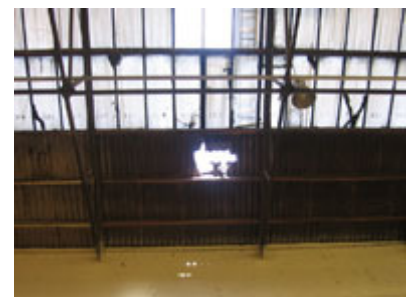
A licensed asbestos contractor was later called in to decontaminate the area, to ensure no further people were put at risk of exposure to the substance.

Rochefort Shugar Ltd. were found guilty of breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £1,500 and with £2,500 costs.

Another contractor fined £145k over worker's death due to a fall

A Trafford firm has been fined £145,000 after an employee plunged ten metres through a fragile roof onto a concrete floor, and died two years later from his injuries.

The warehouse roof Alan Kerwin fell through



J Mills (Contractors) Ltd was prosecuted for failing to put any safety measures in place to stop 32-year-old Alan Kerwin falling while he was replacing a skylight on a warehouse in Ashton-under-Lyne.

CONSTRUCTION HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS



Manchester Crown Court heard that Mr Kerwin sustained several serious injuries in the fall on 31 March 2007, including a fractured skull. Mr Kerwin developed post-traumatic epilepsy as a result of his injuries, and was never able to return to work. He died from an epileptic seizure in April 2009.

The court heard that Mr Kerwin's line manager had received advice from HSE just one week before the incident which could have saved his life. An HSE inspector explained to him how to safely manage work on fragile roofs, but this advice was not acted upon.

The incident occurred at Kayley Industrial Estate on Richmond Street in Ashton-under-Lyne, where Mr Kerwin was working a Saturday shift. He was on the roof with two of his colleagues when he placed his weight on the delicate cement surrounding the glass.

The cement shattered, and Mr Kerwin fell through the gap. The HSE investigation found that the company had not carried out a risk assessment or put any safety measures in place to protect him.

J Mills (Contractors) Ltd admitted breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 by putting workers at risk. The company was ordered to pay £7,700 in prosecution costs in addition to the fine on 31 October 2011.

Another Firm fined for unsafe roof work

Three roofers were spotted working on top of a Nottingham cash and carry store without any safety equipment by a passing HSE inspector, a court heard.

On 3 November 2011 Nottingham Magistrates' Court fined roofing contractors, SPV Road Carpet Ltd, after the men were found risking their lives at the store on the Lenton industrial estate on 20 May 2009.

SPV employee, Lewis Male, was also

prosecuted for failing to take reasonable care of himself and others. The court heard Mr Male was replacing sky lights with two others on the roof when he was spotted by a passing HSE inspector.



The roofers spotted by a passing HSE inspector

The inspector noticed the workers were using no safety equipment, edge protection or harnesses to prevent falls. It was discovered this unsafe system of work had continued over a period of three weeks, risking injury to the roofers and to employees and customers inside the store.

SPV Road Carpet Ltd pleaded guilty to breaching sections 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974 for failing to protect their own employees and members of the public in the store at the time. It was fined £14,000 with £6,659 costs.

Mr Male pleaded guilty to breaching section 7 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. He was fined £480 and ordered to pay costs of £650.

Worker's injuries lead to suspended sentences for roofers

Two roofers have received suspended sentences after a Derbyshire office worker was injured when a roll of roofing felt crashed through the ceiling of her office.

Kathleen Philipson was sitting at her desk at offices in Nottingham Road, Ripley, when the metre-long, 37kg roll fell through a roof light and came through the ceiling, hitting her on the shoulder. She was taken to hospital with injuries to her head, shoulder and left arm and was off work for two weeks following the incident on 22 September 2010.

CONSTRUCTION

HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS



The HSE investigation found contractor, Jason Lunt, allowed re-felting work to start on the flat roof before adequate protection had been installed. It meant that as Gregory Wright, a self-employed roofer contracted by Mr Lunt, moved one of around six rolls of roof felt that were stood up on the roof, another one toppled over and fell through an unguarded roof light.

Jason Lunt pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, and Gregory Wright pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(2) of the same act.

They both received sentences of 18 weeks, suspended for 12 months on the condition that they complete 280 hours of community service. In addition they were both ordered to pay £2,114 costs each by Derby magistrates on 7 November 2011.

Birmingham tradesman fined over asbestos release

A Birmingham handyman has been prosecuted after releasing asbestos fibres while refurbishing a kitchen at a flat in Solihull.

HSE Inspectors found William Rogers, a carpenter and general handyman, had removed partition walls containing asbestos insulating board at the premises in Masons Way, Olton, on 27 January 2011.

Solihull Magistrates' Court, on 7 November 2011, heard Mr Rogers had wrongly assumed he was dealing with asbestos cement, which does not require specialist contractors to remove it, and went ahead with the job. As a result, both he and the tenant, who has asked not to be named, were potentially exposed to asbestos dust.

Mr Rogers spread asbestos debris in the kitchen and on the communal stairs and loaded the removed pieces of asbestos insulating board into his car. By law it should have been disposed of by an approved carrier of asbestos waste.

The incident was discovered when a licensed asbestos removal contractor, who was working elsewhere in the building, spotted pieces of asbestos outside and alerted HSE. The court heard the area and Mr Rogers' car had to be decontaminated.

William Rogers pleaded guilty today to breaching Regulation 5 and Regulation 11(1)(a) of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006. He was fined £600 and ordered to pay £1,799 costs.

Chicken company fined after worker fractures back

A Norfolk chicken processing firm has been fined after one of its employees fell from a ladder and broke his back.

Factory worker Peter Sherwood, 61, was carrying cladding boards up an unsecured ladder at Crown Chicken Ltd's factory in Weybread, Diss, when it slipped from under him and he fell about 2.5 metres to the concrete floor. He suffered broken vertebrae in his lower spine which meant he had to wear a back brace and was off work for six months. He has since returned to work but is only able to carry out light duties.

The investigation by the HSE found that on 24 July 2010 a supervisor at the Crown Chicken factory had allowed Mr Sherwood to help another employee in carrying out a maintenance task, but the work was not adequately planned and the company had not provided information to its staff on how to use ladders safely.

Crown Chicken Ltd admitted breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 at Lowestoft Magistrates' Court on 10 November 2011 and was fined £3,500 and ordered to pay costs of £3,000.

After the hearing, HSE Inspector Saffron Turnell said: "Mr Sherwood was taken from his usual duties and asked to carry out a task for which he was neither properly trained nor supervised. As a result he suffered a serious and extremely painful

CONSTRUCTION

HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS



injury which caused him to be off work for months....”

There are a number of guides aimed at improving ladder safety available on the HSE website:

- ❑ Safe use of ladders and stepladders - an employer's guide:
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg402.pdf>
- ❑ A toolbox talk on leaning ladder and stepladder safety:
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg403.pdf>
- ❑ Top tips for ladder and stepladder safety:
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg405.pdf>

Firm fined after roofer fall

A roofing firm has been sentenced after one of its employees was injured when he fell from a garage roof in Broughton.

Hawarden Roofing Supplies & Contractors Limited was prosecuted by the HSE following the incident at a domestic property on Madeley Close in Broughton on 13 October 2009.

Mold Magistrates' Court heard that 23-year-old Mark Cain, from Broughton, was working on the removal and replacement of a garage roof when he fell more than two metres to the ground below.

He suffered whiplash and two broken bones in his lower back, and has been unable to return to work due to persistent back pain.

The court heard the company failed to notify the HSE of the incident and therefore an inspector did not visit the site to ensure work was being carried out in a safe manner. HSE was eventually made aware of the incident and a subsequent investigation was launched. It found the company had failed to properly plan and supervise work at height activities, and ensure that appropriate measures were in place to control the associated risks.

Hawarden Roofing Supplies & Contractors Limited pleaded guilty to breaching

Regulation 4(1) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005. It was fined £3,000. It also pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 3(1)(b) of the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 and it was fined £1,000. The defendant was also ordered to pay full costs of £2,500.95.

Scaffold collapse leads to fine for director

The director of a scaffolding company from Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, has been fined after a roofing contractor was injured during a scaffold collapse.

The 48-year-old, from Nottingham, fell six metres and fractured his pelvis in four places after scaffolding built on behalf of David Knowles collapsed at a house in Montpelier Road, Nottingham, on 20 October 2009. He was off work for four months.

The HSE investigation found the scaffolding had not been built by a competent scaffolder, was not erected to a standard configuration and had not been tied correctly.

Mr Knowles was prosecuted for failing to ensure that people not in his employment were not exposed to risks to their health and safety.

David Knowles pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 at Nottingham Magistrates' Court on 14 October 2011. He was fined £5,000 and ordered to pay £3,944 costs.

Father and son fined for unsafe roof work

A roofer was caught on camera working on an industrial unit roof without any safety equipment, a court heard on 14 November 2011.

Nottingham Magistrates' Court fined Michael Hallwood and his son Michael Thomas

CONSTRUCTION

HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS



Hallwood, partners in Cladding Coatings, after a worker was seen risking his life on a roof at Farrar Close, off Brunel Drive, Newark, on 8 June 2010.

A member of the public reported the worker to the HSE after photographing him undertaking cleaning work on the roof, which contained around eighty potentially fragile roof lights, using no safety equipment, edge protection or harnesses to prevent falls.

Mr Hallwood and his son pleaded guilty to breaching section 4(1)(c) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005. They were fined £2,500 each and ordered to pay costs of £2,604 between them.

Scunthorpe firm in court after worker scarred for life

A construction company has been prosecuted for safety failings after a young worker was left permanently scarred when he struck an underground cable during digging work.

Richard Baisley, 26, received severe burns to his hands, arms, face and chest when he drilled through concrete and pierced a 415 volt cable. The location of the cable was not established by the company before the digging work started.

Scunthorpe Magistrates' Court heard Mr Baisley and a fellow employee had been instructed by a director of Kim Barker Construction Ltd to dig two holes outside their site entrance so they could erect a new company sign. The sign needed two large holes for the steel posts.

Part-way through the job, the two workers hired a drill to break through some concrete and took it in turns to use it. During Mr Baisley's turn, the concrete gave way and he pierced the cable, resulting in an electrical explosion.

Mr Baisley was in hospital for three days for treatment to his burns. He is unable to return to his original career as a welder

because of the affects of heat on his skin and for some six months after the incident in October 2009 he was unable to ride his motorcycle or play sport.

Kim Barker Construction Ltd pleaded guilty to a breach of the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 after an investigation was mounted by HSE. They were fined £13,000 and ordered to pay £2,039.10 in costs.

Partners fined for scaffolding collapse at Exeter trading estate

Partners in a company that erected unsafe scaffolding, which crashed to the ground in strong winds, were sentenced on 16 November 2011.

Terrence Foster, of Scaffolding Systems South West, was fined £8,000 and his partner in the business, Shaun Greenslade, was fined £5,000. Both were ordered to pay costs of £2,040 each in the case brought by the HSE at Exeter Magistrates.

A large section of scaffolding erected by the firm at a builders' merchants on 25 March, 2009 fell away from the building, seriously damaging a number of parked cars. The scaffolding had been erected to allow re-roofing to take place at the premises.

HSE inspectors told the court that netting had been fixed to the scaffolding but extended almost a metre and a half above the roof of the building. The netting was attached to the inside edge of the scaffold instead of the outside and acted as a sail to the prevailing wind causing the scaffolding to collapse.

The investigation also found there were inadequate stability measures on the scaffold to withstand foreseeable wind speeds, such as scaffolding ties.

CONSTRUCTION

HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS



Double-glazing firm in court over worker's ladder fall

The owner of a Blackpool double-glazing firm has appeared in court after one of his employees was seriously injured in a fall from a ladder.

The 68-year-old fell nearly five metres and landed on a concrete patio after climbing up a ladder to measure a bathroom window on a house in his village. The employee, who has asked not to be named, suffered a broken knee and ankle, four broken ribs, a punctured lung and a badly damaged right foot.

The owner of Direct Window Co, Craig Goss, was prosecuted by the HSE after an investigation found the worker had been allowed to work alone without anyone at the foot of the ladder to stop it falling.

Blackpool Magistrates' Court heard the worker has still been unable to return to work due to the extent of his injuries following the fall at the semi-detached house on Cavendish Road on 5 April 2011.

The court was told he had been allowed to work by himself on several occasions, without anyone monitoring what he was doing.

Craig Goss pleaded guilty to a breach of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 by failing to ensure the work was properly planned, adequately supervised and carried out in a safe manner. Mr Goss was fined £8,000 and ordered to pay £2,000 in prosecution costs on 23 November 2011.

Companies fined after Arsenal stadium injury

Three construction companies were fined after a worker helping build Arsenal's Ashburton Grove stadium was injured so badly, his leg had to be amputated.

A dumper truck drove over the right leg of Michael O'Donovan, 41, while he was

kneeling to clean steel 'shuttering' used to form reinforced structures and pillars.

His injuries were so severe his leg required amputation above the knee. His pelvis was also fractured in the incident on 30 June 2005.

Principal contractor Sir Robert McAlpine Limited and sub-contractors McNicholas Plc (now Skanska Utilities Ltd) and Maylim Limited were all prosecuted by the HSE over the incident.

The City of London Magistrates' Court heard the HSE investigation showed all three companies had failed to ensure vehicles and pedestrians were properly segregated on site. It also found the cleaning of shuttering was neither properly planned nor carried out safely.

Following the hearing HSE inspector Loraine Charles said: "Traffic needs to be managed effectively on all construction sites. Had proper controls been in place, this appalling incident would never have happened. As it is, Michael O'Donovan has suffered a severe injury and his life has been changed forever...."

Sir Robert McAlpine Limited admitted breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £19,000 and ordered to pay costs of £10,000.

Sub-contractor Skanska Utilities Limited admitted breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £17,000 and ordered to pay costs of £10,000.

Maylim Limited, sub-contracted by McNicholas Plc to undertake the work on the South Bridge area of the site, pleaded guilty to the same breach and was fined £18,000 and ordered to pay costs of £10,000.

CONSTRUCTION HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS



Contact details of organisations mentioned in this and other Newsletters

Ai Solutions Ltd
PO Box 5025, Leighton Buzzard LU7 1ZN
Tel: 01525-850080
www.aisolutions.co.uk

Association for Project Safety (APS)
12 Stanhope Place, Edinburgh EH12 5HH
Tel: 0845-6121-290
www.associationforprojectsafety.co.uk

British Approvals for Fire Equipment (BAFE)
Bridges 2, The Fire Service College, London Road
Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire GL56 0RH
Tel: 0844-335-0897
Email: info@bafefire.org.uk
www.fia.uk

British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS)
Tel: 01332-298101

British Safety Council (BSC)
70 Chancellors Road, London W6 9RS
Tel: 020-8741-1231
Email: mail@britsafe.org
www.britsafe.org/

BSI Customer Services
BSI Standards
389 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4AL
Tel: 020-8996-9001
<http://shop.bsigroup.com>

Container Handling Equipment Manufacturers Association (CHEM)
David Buxton, Honorary Technical Secretary
3 Berry Close, Farringdon, Oxfordshire. SN7 7FL
Tel: 01367 244992
Email: enquiries@chem.uk.com
<http://chem.uk.com/>

CITB ConstructionSkills
www.cskills.org

Construction Industry Publications
c/o BTB Mailflight Ltd
2B Viking Industrial Estate, Hudson Road, Bedford
MK41 0QB
Tel: 0870-078-4400
Email: sales@cip-books.com
www.cip-books.com

Construction Plant Hire Association
27/28 Newbury Street, Barbican, London EC1A 7HU
Tel: 020-7796-3366
www.cpa.uk.net

Department for Communities and Local Government
PO Box 236, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 7NB
Tel: 0870-839-7099
Email: odpm@twoten.press.net

Engineering Employers' Federation (EEF)
Tel: 020-7222-7777

Electrical Contractors Association
Tel: 020-7313-4800

F-Gas Support
P O Box 481, Salford, M50 3UD
Tel: 0161 874 3663
www.defra.gov.uk/fgas

FPA Publications Department
Tel: 020-8207-2345

Health and Safety Executive (HSE)
Incident Contact Centre Tel: 0845-300-9923
www.hse.gov.uk

Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI)
www.hseni.gov.uk

info4fire.com
www.info4fire.com

International Institute of Risk and Safety Management (IIRSM)
Suite 7a, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London, W6 8JA
Tel: 020-8741-9100
Email: info@iirsm.org
www.iirsm.org

Keeleys Solicitors
28 Dam Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS13 6AA
Tel: 01543-420000

National Underground Assets Group (NUAG)
www.nuaq.co.uk/

Office of Public Sector Information
www.opsi.gov.uk

Occupational Safety and Health Consultants Register (OSHCR)
www.oshcr.org

The Fibre Cement Manufacturers Association
Ghyll House, Cock Road, Cotton, Stowmarket
IP14 4QH
Tel: 01449-781577

The Loss Prevention Council
Tel: 020-8207-2345

The Stationery Office Ltd (TSO)
Tel: 0870 600 5522
www.tsoshop.co.uk

TUC Publications
Tel: 020-7467-1294

National Access and Scaffolding Confederation (NASC)
Tel: 020-7397-8120
www.nasc.org.uk