

NISO Safety Observer
March 2025; Issue 86

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Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

March 2025 - Issue 86

Welcome to the March 2025 edition of **The Safety Observer**, the newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation. The Safety Observer contains information that is current, informative and useful to subscribers. We keep you up to date on what is happening in occupational safety and health. NISO Update, the quarterly magazine, was circulated on 27 January last and the next edition for NISO members is scheduled for April 2025. The last edition of the Safety Observer was distributed on 19 December 2024.

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NISO NEWS

Safety Awards Workshop (online)

The final NISO / NISG All Ireland Safety Awards Workshop is taking place Online on Monday, 3 March. Register your place here.

Safety Quiz Regional Heats

The NISO/NISG All Ireland Occupational Safety Quiz Regional Heats are continuing throughout spring 2025 with the Quiz Finals taking place in Mullingar on 17 May 2025. Book your Team here.

NISO AGMs

NISO's regional AGMs will be taking place throughout spring 2024. The NISO National Annual AGM is taking place in Dublin on 10 April 2025. Keep an eye on niso.ie for updates

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Topics... Safety news... Fatalities and Accidents... In the Courts... Inquests... Statistics... Publications... Guidance... Research Reports... Safety in Podcasts... Training and Events...

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- New EU survey reveals top workplace H&S concerns
- New EU-OSHA strategy 2025–2034
- Preventing workplace-related cancer

IRISH NEWS

Female retail staff more likely to be attacked by customers

According to a recent survey, a fifth of Irish retail workers experience abusive language and behaviour from the public on a weekly basis with a portion of respondents saying their treatment was “violent, aggressive or threatening” and involved discriminatory language. The survey of 500 retail staff found women were significantly more likely to suffer from abusive customers (75%) compared to 60% of men. Younger staff between the ages of 18 and 24 were also found to have experienced abusive behaviour more than people over the age of 65.

<https://tinyurl.com/4y2d4hkv>

Union calls for safe pass system for farms

There have been calls for the introduction of a safe pass system for farms following the publication of the latest work-related deaths and statistics in January. A construction sector organiser at one of Ireland’s major unions commented that the farming sector does not have a safe pass programme and there is no formal training. He suggested that organisations within the farming community need to look into developing a safety programme similar to the safe pass training in construction.

<https://tinyurl.com/mvzavp26>

Increased assaults on city council workers

A major Irish union has warned that there has been a marked increase in assaults on city council workers in Dublin. The union is calling for action to safeguard staff from physical assaults while carrying out their duties in communities. The union said it is highlighting the need for vigilance and proactive management responses to protect public sector and wider services

industries workers who may be vulnerable to work-related assaults. The city council said that control measures are in place to reduce the risk of work-related violence to employees including recent training on dealing with aggressive behaviour for staff across a number of departments.

<https://tinyurl.com/k2d6r82m>

Rise in teachers and SNAs taking leave after assaults

There has been a significant rise in the number of teachers and special needs assistants (SNAs) who had to take leaves of absence following assaults in schools. In 2022, there was a 62% increase with 260 teachers and SNAs across primary and secondary education taking a leave of absence due to an assault. In 2023, the figure was 412. The difference between primary and secondary schools is significant. There were 13 teachers and SNAs at secondary level who took a leave of absence following assault last year. This compared to 391 teachers and SNAs at primary level, representing 97% of the cases. A union spokesperson said this difference is a result of special schools coming under the primary sector but having students beyond primary school age.

<https://tinyurl.com/v8tax6fc>

Majority of medics frequently burnt out and exhausted

Worrying new survey findings show more than six in 10 doctors are frequently burnt out and exhausted. One in five respondents said their mental wellbeing was “of concern”. The findings come from a survey of 548 doctors carried out by the Medical Protection Society (MPS). An MPS council member has said the society hopes that the new government will “work with the HSE and private healthcare providers to ensure healthcare professionals are in supportive environments with resources such as counselling, peer-support networks and specialist support available as standard.”

<https://tinyurl.com/ybjxyfxv>

Working Time Directive implemented for Defence Forces

An EU directive which sets out statutory rights for employees in respect of daily breaks, weekly rest, maximum working times and annual leave, is to be implemented across the Defence Forces. Ireland had originally excluded the Defence Forces when it transposed the Working Time Directive but it has since been determined through EU case law that exemptions from the directive may only apply to specific activities as opposed to a sector in its entirety. Due to their specific nature, some military activities will be exempt from the provisions of the Working Time Directive but other health and safety measures, including rest periods, have been introduced for those involved in such tasks.

<https://tinyurl.com/2r4yb6t5>

HSA inspection campaign focussing on livestock

The HSA conducted a two-week farm safety campaign which commenced at the end of January 2025. The focus of this campaign was on the safe management of livestock during calving season when the risk of injury to farmers increases significantly.

<https://tinyurl.com/4m2n92pv>

Parole Board losing staff to burnout and trauma

A review of the Parole Board found it was losing staff to burnout and the psychological trauma of dealing with murderers and those serving sentences for the most serious crimes. The review said the staff were placed in the Parole Board without being screened or given the proper training to deal with “harrowing information or to effectively engage victims and applicants.” It added that the risk of burnout was high and that it was “imperative” that staff dealing with victims of horrific crimes had access to “clinical supervision and trauma training”. The review said staff were exposed to information about violent crime that could lead to psychological distress or vicarious trauma. It also said that at the time of the review there was no dedicated officer for health and safety, with the role shared by other already overstretched staff.

<https://tinyurl.com/rdtf4u4t>

City and Council traffic wardens commence safety trial

A City and County Council in the Mid West has announced the commencement of a six-month trial of body-worn cameras (BWCs) for traffic wardens in the district. This initiative aims to enhance the safety and security of traffic wardens while they perform their duties. The trial follows a public consultation period where feedback was gathered to shape the implementation of this initiative. The primary objective of introducing BWCs is to reduce incidents of violence and aggression towards traffic wardens, providing them with safer environments.

<https://tinyurl.com/42ch8kkm>

UK NEWS

Rail operator fined £3.75m over worker deaths

A judge has fined a rail operator £3.75m over the death of two of its employees who were killed after being hit by a train. The rail infrastructure operator pleaded guilty to breaching health and safety regulations in relation to the incident that happened in South Wales six years ago. The Crown Court heard that the two men, aged 54 and 58, were carrying out track maintenance work in

July 2019 when they were struck by a passenger service and suffered fatal injuries. The pair did not have site or distant lookout protection and there was no line block to prevent trains travelling on the section they were working on. The rail operator pleaded guilty to a single breach of Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, was fined £3.75m plus £175,000 in costs.

<https://tinyurl.com/bdf49bfu>

Firmed fined £1m after two workers hurt in six months

The operators of a Scottish chipboard factory have been fined £1,148,000 after safety failings caused serious injuries to two different workers within six months. The company admitted multiple breaches of health and safety at its plant near Stirling in Scotland. One worker suffered serious injuries after his leg was caught in moving parts in a storage bunker, while another fell more than 3.96m (13ft) after a rusty plate gave way on a rooftop gantry. In 2022, the company was fined £2,125,000 for an incident at the plant in which an employee suffered fatal burns.

<https://tinyurl.com/bdez5v5x>

Engineering firm fined £800,000 after workplace fatality

An engineering firm has been fined £800,000 over the death of a 23-year-old labourer during the construction of a wind farm on the Shetland Islands. The fine comes six months after the company received a £2.3 million fine in relation to the death of a worker who drowned in a river while removing debris from the bottom of a weir in Yorkshire. The 23-year-old man was removing dried concrete from a skip at a wind farm construction site when the skip's bale arm fell on top of him. Colleagues performed CPR on him and administered a defibrillator but he was pronounced dead at the scene by the emergency services. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that his employer failed to identify the risks of the bale arm falling and had failed to put a safe system in place that would have protected anyone using, cleaning or maintaining the skip from harm. The company pleaded guilty to breaching two sections of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, was fined £800,000 with a £60,000 victim surcharge.

<https://tinyurl.com/mu6yv5z5>

Drinks giant fined £500k after worker sustains serious burns

An international drinks manufacturer has been fined half a million pounds after an employee sustained burns to over 30% of his body. The mechanical engineer had been repairing a defective pump at a distillery in Scotland in 2021 when he was burned by pot ale. He sustained burns to his arms, hands, shoulders, back, chest, lower legs and ankles before spending two weeks in

intensive care where he was placed in an induced coma. A Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation found that his employer failed to do all that was reasonably practicable to ensure maintenance operations could be carried out without a worker being put at risk of injury. The drinks manufacturer pleaded guilty to breaching five sections of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £500,000.

<https://tinyurl.com/zpjvsnjf>

Company fined £120k after worker breaks leg

A company has been fined £120,000 after an employee broke his leg while working on a property in southern England. The man, who was 23 at the time, had been adjusting a solar panel on the roof of the house when he slid and fell four metres (13.12 ft) to the ground below, sustaining a broken femur as a result. An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that his employer had not properly planned the work at height and failed to take suitable steps to prevent a fall. The company pleaded guilty to breaching a section of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, was fined £120,000 plus £4,716 in costs.

<https://tinyurl.com/ymawh6mj>

Northern Ireland workplace fatality statistics released

Employers found guilty of health and safety breaches following a workplace death have paid a total of £1.2 million in fines over the past ten years in Northern Ireland, recently released figures have shown. There have been 139 workplace fatalities in Northern Ireland since 2014, with employers having been found guilty of health and safety breaches in 33 cases involving a workplace death. The two largest individual fines were both imposed in the 2019/20 financial year with a £150,000 fine in each case.

<https://tinyurl.com/57yjn85h>

NISG appoints new chair

Northern Ireland Safety Group (NISG) has announced the appointment of Wendy Moore to the role of NISG Chair following election at the 2025 AGM in January. Ms Moore is a professional qualified Civil Engineer and has now been on the NISG Executive Committee for 10 years. Thanks was given at the AGM to the outgoing Chair, Wendy Beatty, for her service. Ms Beatty now moves to the role of Immediate Past Chair & Chair of the Development and Governance sub committee.

<https://tinyurl.com/3x29nppv>

Study on Grenfell firefighters exposed to toxic smoke

More than a quarter of firefighters exposed to toxic smoke during the Grenfell Tower fire have had long-term health disorders, a study has shown. Ministers are facing demands for an urgent review after data from 524 firefighters who risked their lives at the 2017 disaster showed that over the first three years, 136 reported life-changing conditions. These included 11 cases of cancer, 64 respiratory diseases, 22 neurological disorders and 66 digestive illnesses. A world-leading expert in toxicity, who co-authored the report, found that most of the firefighters disclosing health disorders had not worn respiratory protection at all times because of the urgency of the disaster which killed 72 people.

<https://tinyurl.com/58pwv4v5>

The impact of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007

This article takes a look at the key prosecutions under the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 so far. This article covers the remit of the Act, how many have been prosecuted and future action.

<https://tinyurl.com/5n88z6mp>

EUROPEAN NEWS

Eleven killed in blast at Turkey explosives plant

A powerful blast has ripped through an explosives plant in northwestern Turkey killing eleven people and injuring seven others, officials have said. Eight women and three men were killed in the blast. Two of the seven injured were “under observation” in hospital. The plant makes munitions, explosives and flares for the domestic and international markets. Security forces took measures in case of a second blast. Authorities have ruled out sabotage and prosecutors have launched a thorough investigation.

<https://tinyurl.com/5n738kbj>

Forty hazardous chemicals added to PIC Regulation

From 1 March 2025, EU exporters are required to notify their intention to export 40 additional hazardous chemicals. This requirement follows the recent decision of the European Commission to add new chemicals to the EU’s Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Regulation. The latest 40 chemicals added to the Annex I of PIC include 35 pesticides and five used as industrial chemicals. A chemical’s inclusion in Annex I means that companies need to make an export notification to ECHA before starting their exports.

<https://tinyurl.com/ztdfpbd8>

New EU-OSHA strategy 2025–2034

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) has published its strategy for 2025–2034. The new strategy addresses evolving challenges in occupational safety and health. The strategy focuses on three lines of action: providing knowledge for policy making, developing tools to prevent risks and raising awareness to foster a culture of prevention, all while remaining environmentally and socially sustainable.

<https://tinyurl.com/9d3z6hni>

Preventing workplace-related cancer

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) released a new presentation with data from the *Workers' exposure survey on cancer risk factors in Europe (WES)* on World Cancer Day. The presentation highlights key findings on workers' probable exposure to 24 cancer risk factors such as radiation and respirable crystalline silica. It details how these exposures vary by worker demographics and working conditions. It also reports on the use of protective measures.

<https://tinyurl.com/2s3h5fn5>

New EU survey reveals top workplace H&S concerns

The 2024 European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER) highlights the risks identified by European workplaces across all sectors. As in 2019, the top two risk factors in 2024 are related to musculoskeletal disorders - prolonged sitting (64%) and repetitive hand or arm movements (63%). The survey also reveals psychosocial challenges and the growing impact of digitalisation on workplace safety and health as organisations deal with new work practices.

<https://tinyurl.com/5n8e5e72>

Only 37% of construction workers feel completely safe on site

Significant concerns about safety conditions in construction have been raised by a new survey which found that only 37% of workers across Europe feel completely safe on site. The recent report was published by a power tool and construction accessory manufacturer, based on a survey of 3,200 construction workers across 14 European countries including Ireland. Almost two in three respondents (63%) expressed that they do not feel entirely safe in their workplace, reflecting the longstanding reputation of the construction industry as one of the most dangerous sectors in Europe. Alarming, over half of the surveyed workers (52%) reported having experienced between one and five accidents in their careers, while a small but significant portion (200 respondents), said they had encountered more than 10 accidents. The data also highlighted various risks that workers face daily. The most frequently

reported dangers included working at height (50%), slips and trips (41%) and issues with faulty tools or equipment (37%). The findings underscore the urgent necessity for construction businesses to invest meaningfully in safety equipment and training, moving beyond a focus solely on cost.

<https://tinyurl.com/2jvjhk88>

WORLD NEWS

Six dead in South Korea construction site fire

A fire broke out at a resort construction site in the South Korean city of Busan killing at least six people, fire officials have said. About 100 workers managed to evacuate the site while another 14 were rescued by helicopter from the top of the structure. The Fire Department Chief said six people were found unconscious on the first floor of the structure, near to where the fire was believed to have started. All six were later pronounced dead at hospitals. At least another 25 people sustained minor injuries. The cause of the fire was not immediately clear.

<https://tinyurl.com/ys46uke8>

Landmark agreement signed to protect human life and promote decent work

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and International Seabed Authority signed a landmark agreement to advance decent work including improving and safeguarding occupational safety and health for workers in seabed-related activities. The agreement between the two agencies highlights a shared commitment to workers' rights, as interest in seabed activities and resources continues to grow.

<https://tinyurl.com/22w5pmmd>

Inside the Chinese factories fuelling Shein's success

This article from the BBC takes a detailed look at the Chinese factories fuelling the success of online retailer Shein and at the working conditions of the factory workers and suppliers.

<https://tinyurl.com/55py5h8x>

Work-life balance more important than pay

Work-life balance has soared in importance for workers around the world, becoming their top motivator and pushing pay into second place, according to an annual international survey of thousands of employees. It is the first time that finding or keeping a job that fits in with the rest of their lives outranked salary in the 22-year history of the international recruitment company's annual review of

the world of work, highlighting the corporate revolution caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://tinyurl.com/nv5hsby3>

Fifa rejects call for monitoring of migrant workers conditions ahead of World Cup

Fifa has rejected calls for an independent monitor to assess migrant workers' conditions in Saudi Arabia in the buildup to the 2034 World Cup. Football's world governing body has been urged by a trade union organisation that represents 18 million African workers to increase protections afforded to migrant workers as the Gulf state embarks on the massive construction programme required to deliver the tournament. In response, however, Fifa has argued that measures currently in place are sufficient. An estimated 10 million migrant workers are currently resident in Saudi Arabia and they are expected to make up the majority of the workforce needed to deliver the extensive World Cup infrastructure.

<https://tinyurl.com/34sd2ytz>

Gig economy linked with abuse of migrant workers' allegations

Meta, Uber and Deliveroo are among firms that have been linked to cases of alleged abuse against migrant workers last year, according to recent analysis. Research conducted by a non-government organisation found 665 cases and 489 named companies linked to cases. At least 218 migrant workers were reported to have died from alleged corporate abuse or neglect in the past year. Of these, 71 cases were linked to breaches in occupational health and safety standards. Mega-events and giga-projects, such as the 2024 Paris Olympics and Saudi projects like the Line city in the region of Neom, presented particularly intense risks to migrants and migrant construction workers. The sector with the highest number of reported deaths was manufacturing, with 44 across 15 cases, including seven factory explosions.

<https://tinyurl.com/bdha2t5a>

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

Man dies in workplace accident in Roscommon

A man in his 70s has died in a workplace accident at a concrete manufacturing plant in Co Roscommon. Gardaí and emergency services arrived within minutes but the man was pronounced dead at the scene despite their efforts. The Health and Safety Authority has confirmed that it has launched an investigation into the circumstances of the incident.

<https://tinyurl.com/yt235w2a>

Driver who died was “just doing his day’s work”

A man who died after his car entered a canal in Co Kildare was “just doing his day’s work”, a local councillor has said. The 47-year-old was driving, delivering food, when the accident occurred. Gardaí issued an appeal for anyone who may have witnessed the incident to come forward.

<https://tinyurl.com/euv5s35h>

Man dies in workplace accident in Co Donegal

A man in his 60s has died in a workplace accident in Co Donegal. Gardaí and emergency services attended the premises in Co Donegal and the man was pronounced dead at the scene. The HSA was notified and attended the scene. A file will be prepared for the Coroner’s Court.

<https://tinyurl.com/yw744a3d>

Man dies in workplace accident in Co Wicklow

A man in his 30s has died in a workplace accident in Co Wicklow. It is understood that he was fatally injured during attempts to remove a forklift truck from a ditch at a premises in Co Wicklow. A Garda spokesperson confirmed that the man was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident. The HSA was notified and attended the scene.

<https://tinyurl.com/ydr2un57>

Fisherman fatally injured on Cork-based trawler

A fisherman has been fatally injured while fishing for prawns on an Irish trawler off the coast of Cork. The experienced fisherman suffered a fatal blow to the head while working on the trawler. Originally from Ghana, the man had been living in Cork with his family for a number of years and had been working on board the trawler for the past eight years. Investigations by An Garda Síochána and the Marine Casualty Investigation Board into the circumstances surrounding the death are underway.

<https://tinyurl.com/y8dwxt3f>

Man dies in incident on farm in Leitrim

A man in his 60s has died following an incident on a farm in Co Leitrim. A Garda spokesperson confirmed an investigation into the incident is underway. The HSA also confirmed that it is aware of the incident and has launched an investigation.

<https://tinyurl.com/ycyj8rv8>

Man in his 60s dies in Kerry farm incident

A man in his 60s died in a farm incident that took place in north Co Kerry. An Garda Síochána attended the scene when responding to a reported medical emergency. The man was pronounced dead at the scene and a file is to be prepared for the coroner. The HSA confirmed that it is aware of the incident and has launched an investigation.

<https://tinyurl.com/4eex2kvp>

Man dies in workplace accident on Co Donegal farm

A man has died in a workplace accident in Co Donegal. The man, who is in his 60s, was working on a farm when the accident happened. Gardaí and emergency services were called but the man was pronounced dead at the scene. The HSA has been informed of the incident.

<https://tinyurl.com/yz6pwvk4>

Man seriously injured in fall from height in Limerick

A man is being treated in hospital for serious head injuries after he fell from a height while helping to build a new block at a hospital in Limerick. The construction worker fell several feet and landed on an elevator shaft, sustaining the injury. Paramedics initially treated and stabilised the man where he fell before transferring him to the hospital's emergency department.

<https://tinyurl.com/3dhcv6nz>

Man in critical condition after workplace accident in Co Louth

A man in his forties is in critical condition in hospital after receiving life-threatening injuries when he fell from the roof of a business premises in Co Louth. Gardaí and emergency services were called to the scene of the incident. The man was airlifted to hospital in Dublin. The HSA confirmed that it is aware of the incident and is carrying out an investigation.

<https://tinyurl.com/yckac7cv>

Probe after trainee soldier injured by pyrotechnic device

The Defence Forces has launched an investigation after a trainee soldier was hospitalised when a pyrotechnic device detonated in a classroom at a barracks in Co Dublin. The soldier was taken to hospital following the incident but was discharged later that evening. The Defence Forces said there was no accidental discharge of a weapon during the drill at the barracks but that a “back-blast” simulator was accidentally triggered in a training room. In a statement it said the accidental activation of a pyrotechnic device was a “rare event” and an investigation is currently ongoing.

<https://tinyurl.com/tspsd7vt>

Fisherman rescued from sinking boat off Dublin coast

A fisherman had to be rescued after his boat got struck on rocks and began taking on water off the north Dublin coast. Two branches of the RNLI launched their all-weather lifeboats and the Coast Guard helicopter all attended the scene. A number of other fishing boats in the area offered assistance but were unable to get close due to the rocks. The lifeboats managed to secure a tow line and move the boat to safety. In a statement, the RNLI said that the rescue was a “great example” of two RNLI crews working together to save a life at sea and that the fisherman “did the right thing in calling for help when he realised he was in difficulty”.

<https://tinyurl.com/mrr3hfy4>

IN THE COURTS

City Council fined €25k for workplace bullying

A City Council has been ordered to pay €25,000 compensation to an employee over what a Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) official described as “one of the worst cases of bullying I have ever seen.” The WRC ruled that the local authority had breached the Employment Equality Act 1998 by discriminating against a council road sweeper by failing to provide him with reasonable accommodation for a disability. The complainant, who joined the council in 2019, claimed he was subjected to bullying and harassment by his supervisor which caused him to suffer stress and anxiety. Ordering the council to pay the complainant compensation of €25,000, the WRC adjudicator said it was aware since May 2023 that the complainant was suffering from health complaints arising from his work situation.

<https://tinyurl.com/4cbjtyyk>

Company fined €15k following fatal incident

A container terminal company has been fined a total of €15,000 in the Central Criminal Court following a fatal workplace accident in Dublin on November 2018. The 42-year-old Able-Bodied Seaman from the Philippines tragically lost his life when the bottom most cargo container of a stack of four detached and fell onto him. The company pleaded guilty to breaching a section of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005.

<https://tinyurl.com/ubw54tkv>

Transport operator facing bullying and racial abuse allegations

A state-owned transport operator is facing claims in a lawsuit that one of its drivers was racially abused and bullied by colleagues over a prolonged period. The driver alleges he was subjected to a number of incidents of racial abuse,

racial discrimination and unfavourable treatment generally amounting to harassment and bullying between August 2005 and August 2009. The allegations involve 10 different personnel, only three of whom still remain working for the company. In addition to the racism and bullying claims, the driver also claims he suffered personal injuries in two incidents. A bid by the company to have the proceedings thrown out due to delays in the case coming to trial was rejected by the judge.

<https://tinyurl.com/mryvdp9b>

Property firm facing charges over workplace fatality

A property firm is facing trial accused of breaking health and safety legislation in connection with the death of a man after a fall at a Dublin building site three years ago. The firm faces six charges under section 15 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005. The firm is accused of failing to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that in the course of the work being carried out, individuals at the place or work, not being its employees, were not exposed to risks. According to the charges, the firm is accused of failing to provide the deceased with appropriate work-at-height equipment thereby exposing him to risks to his safety, health or welfare and as a result, he fell from a height, suffered personal injuries and died.

<https://tinyurl.com/45xnuejh>

Manufacturing firm facing criminal charges over fatality

A leading Irish agricultural equipment manufacturing firm is facing criminal charges in connection with the death of a father of four and dairy farmer in Co Limerick. The company was before the Circuit Criminal Court on foot of alleged breaches of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 and European machinery regulations. The defendant is alleged to have breached safety, health and welfare legislation in respect of the supply of an air-operated gate to the rear entrance of a milking parlour at a farm located in Co Limerick on a date in January 2020. The 77-year-old man was fatally injured after he was caught in a pneumatic gate on the farm. The judge granted an application by the prosecution barrister for the matter to be adjourned.

<https://tinyurl.com/mrr888wd>

Crew member who allegedly fell settled claim

A member of an Irish airline's ground crew who allegedly fell and injured herself while walking on an airbridge in Dublin Airport has settled her High Court action over what a judge was told was "a simple accident". The 54-year-old sued the airline and the airport operator over the accident at the tunnel of an airbridge, which joins the plane to the terminal, in November 2017. She claimed that after

entering the tunnel of the airbridge she was caused or permitted to be thrown forward and fall, incurring multiple injuries. She claimed there was, among other things, a failure to ensure the airbridge was free from defects and/or hazards and a failure to take all reasonable care for her safety while carrying out her work. The defendants denied the claims. Senior Counsel for the airline said there should be an order that the settlement, for which no figure was given, should be 80% in favour of the airline and 20% for the claimant. The judge noted the settlement and ordered that liability for the airline be reduced by 80% due to contributory negligence and degree of causation. He said the costs are yet to be agreed between the parties and adjourned the matter for a month.

<https://tinyurl.com/3adpx3zs>

Company fined after Irish man dies on New Zealand farm

A contract company in New Zealand has been fined \$25,000 after an Irish farm worker died after he was electrocuted while working on a North Island farm. The man, who was originally from Co Laois, was a mechanic by trade and had been working on machinery when he died just days away from his 25th birthday. The company he had been working for at the time of the incident has been fined for failing to identify overhead power lines as a hazard. They were ordered to pay \$100,000 in reparations and fined \$25,000 after admitting charges under the Health and Safety at Work Act.

<https://tinyurl.com/ijbu25ya>

Technician settles action over exposure to dangerous chemicals

A former air corps technician who claimed he was allegedly exposed to various dangerous chemicals when he worked at an aerodrome has settled a High Court action. The 51-year-old also claimed that he was allegedly “tubbed”, which involves being immersed in a bath containing unspecified chemicals, solvents and old oil, while working at the aerodrome. All of the claims were denied and the State parties contended a safe system of work was provided along with proper equipment and training. It was also asserted that it did not follow inappropriate work practices in relation to the way employees worked with chemicals. The settlement is without an admission of liability. Outside court, sources indicated that settlement was for a seven-figure sum.

<https://tinyurl.com/hfaf6yk9>

INQUESTS

Man died after falling 30 feet from telecom mast, inquest hears

A man who was killed in a workplace incident at Garda Headquarters in Dublin last year died as a result of multiple traumatic injuries after falling from a 30-feet

height, an inquest has heard. The inquest heard that the deceased had regularly worked on masts in garda stations around the country for 40 years. An inspector with the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) applied for a six-month adjournment of the inquest under Section 25 (1) of the Coroners Act on the basis that criminal proceedings are being considered in the case. The inspector told the coroner that the investigation into the death was still ongoing. The coroner adjourned the case for further mention to 14 July for an update on the progress of the HSA investigation.

<https://tinyurl.com/5ha4dc9h>

Family unhappy with site safety, inquest hears

The family of a scaffolder who sustained fatal injuries in a fall at a building site in north Dublin were unhappy about health and safety conditions at the construction project, an inquest has heard. An inspector with the Health and Safety Authority, who investigated the death, said that the scaffolding appeared to have been erected properly while others working on the site had been satisfied with its condition. The 43-year-old father-of-three died in hospital from a severe head injury sustained in the accident at the building site. A co-worker of the deceased told the coroner that his colleague would usually wear a hard hat and safety harness at work but not on the day of the incident. In reply to questions from the victim's family solicitor, the colleague said that practice at the construction company had now changed with more enforcement and the non-wearing of PPE now a sackable offence. A HSA inspector said that the Director of Public Prosecutions had directed that there would be no criminal prosecution in relation to the circumstances of the fatality. The hearing before a jury of six men was adjourned.

<https://tinyurl.com/4unbde48>

Boy removed armbands before drowning in hotel pool, inquest hears

A six-year-old boy who died in a drowning incident in a hotel swimming pool in Co Offaly three years ago had removed his armbands shortly after getting into the water, an inquest has heard. A verdict of death by misadventure was returned into how the boy sustained fatal injuries after getting into difficulty in the pool. An inspector with the HSA said the DPP had directed that no criminal prosecution should arise out of the case. He said that the HSA had conducted an inquiry as legislation also placed a duty on employers to persons other than their employees as well as a duty to carry out risk assessments.

<https://tinyurl.com/2wh6u362>

Man died after fall from unsafe platform, inquest hears

A 66-year-old contractor who died from severe head injuries after a workplace

fall had been working on a “poorly constructed” platform, an inquest has heard. The man fell from a height of about four metres while carrying out maintenance work at an industrial premises in Kildare. The coroner’s court was told the platform, which was adjusted using a forklift, was unsafe and not certified. The deceased suffered multiple fractures, including a skull fracture, and died five days later in hospital. A HSA inspection found the platform was unsuitable for use. The jury returned a verdict of workplace-related fatality.

<https://tinyurl.com/5cjwcb29>

STATISTICS

Four people have been killed in workplace accidents since 1 January 2025 - Correct at 11 February. Source: www.hsa.ie

<http://bit.ly/34bJFyp>

SAFETY ALERTS

Safety Alert: Snorkel S3010E MEWPs

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) has issued a safety alert regarding the Snorkel S3010E Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP). It has come to the attention of the HSA that a number of Snorkel S3010E MEWPs, which were available on the market in Ireland from 2019 until 10 September 2024, may not have a correctly operational load sensing system as specified in the relevant EN280 harmonised standard associated with EU Directive 2006/42/EC on machinery. The HSA advises owners / operators of these MEWPs, purchased between 1 January 2019 and 10 September 2024, to contact the manufacturer for further information in advance of continued use of these machines to ensure any necessary corrective measures are completed.

<https://tinyurl.com/mu5bnmak>

PUBLICATIONS

Guidelines on First-Aid at Places at Work

This guidance from the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) is designed to assist employers, employees, safety representatives and others to understand the requirements set out in Chapter 2 or Part 7 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work General Application Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 299 of 2007) first-aid.

<https://tinyurl.com/ywm565es>

Guidance on Managing Fatigue with Farm Work

The aim of this guidance from the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) is to help

you make informed choices in the management of farm work and fatigue to reduce safety and health risks.

<https://tinyurl.com/5tjn847y>

A Short Guide to Health Surveillance in the Workplace

This short guide from the HSA aims to assist employers and health professionals working on their behalf in understanding their legal requirements regarding health surveillance in the workplace. It also highlights the key elements to consider when implementing a health surveillance programme.

<https://tinyurl.com/bp8623ma>

Occupational Safety and Health News - Europe (January 2025)

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work has published its January 2025 newsletter. This edition includes:

- AI in worker management: involving people to prevent risks
- Protecting farmers and farm workers' mental health
- IOSH webinar explores the role of technology in driving workplace safety and inclusion
- FIOH-s study: Dissatisfaction in the hybrid workplace: what's driving employees to stay home?
- OiRA provides better OSH protection for workers in the manufacturing industry
- EU news bites
- Multilingual publications
- News

<https://tinyurl.com/3u9s2c3p>

Occupational Safety and Health News - Europe (February 2025)

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work has published its February 2025 newsletter. This edition includes:

- Discover the finalists of the "Safety and healthy work in the digital age" Good Practice Awards
- EU Survey reveals key and emerging workplace risks
- Preventing workplace-related cancer on World Cancer Day
- New EU-OSHA strategy 2025–2034: protecting workers, delivering impact
- How can smart digital systems foster safety and health?

- Also includes updates about the Healthy Workplaces Campaign, Online interactive Risk Assessment (OiRA), OSHwiki article on Digitalisation and cyberviolence at work, and more.

<https://tinyurl.com/mrxxxmzy>

Towards AI-based and algorithmic worker management systems

New info sheet from European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), *Towards AI-based and algorithmic worker management systems for more production, safe and healthier workplaces*. This info sheet explores the rise of AI-based and algorithmic worker management (AIWM) systems which enhance productivity by automating decisions and optimising task organisation.

<https://tinyurl.com/8zsdfjyy>

How can smart digital systems foster health and safety?

This guide from the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) looks at the key principles to safely implement smart digital systems that monitor and improve occupational safety and health. The guide uncovers strategies for designing, implementing and scaling these transformative systems.

<https://tinyurl.com/yw8x4mh4>

Smart digital systems for improving workers' safety and health

New policy brief published by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), *Towards transparency: smart digital systems for improving workers' safety and health*. This policy brief addresses issues of data privacy and other potential negative implications for workers with the use of these systems.

<https://tinyurl.com/2chwt7sh>

Involving workers to boost their safety and health impact

Smart digital systems promise better workplace safety and health. This policy brief from EU-OSHA details measures that can be taken to gain the full benefits of implementing these systems while also alleviating concerns about possible negative implications.

<https://tinyurl.com/4m372mcx>

RESOURCES

The Workers' exposure survey dataset is now available for research

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) has made the

Workers' Exposure Survey (WES) on cancer risk factors in Europe dataset available. The survey was conducted by local interviewers in several countries including Ireland. EU-OSHA makes several documents available, together with the dataset, so that researchers can find their way through the complex dataset, e.g. questionnaire, documentation, explaining note, list of related publications.

<https://tinyurl.com/twfjaa3r>

Safe automation of work with new OiRA tool

OiRA, the Online Interactive Risk Assessment, now offers a new EU-wide tool for businesses to assess occupational safety and health risks related to task automation. It guides companies in developing prevention action plans by addressing organisational and psychosocial risk factors. It also tackles risks related to physical and cognitive tasks, including highly repetitive or static movements, data fairness and process control.

<https://tinyurl.com/2p9xrhc6>

RESEARCH REPORTS

Protecting farmers and farm workers' mental health

A new EU-OSHA report explores how exposure to psychosocial risks affects farmers and farm workers, outlines initiatives to protect their mental health and increase awareness on this topic in agriculture.

<https://tinyurl.com/5s2e9exw>

AI in worker management: involving people to prevent risks

A new EU-OSHA report describes how involving worker representatives in implementing an AI-based system at a Swedish mining company helped mitigate the negative effects of using personal data for performance monitoring.

<https://tinyurl.com/5xtscm75>

SAFETY PODCASTS

Beyond Compliance: Ergonomics in the Workplace

A new episode of the HSA's podcast, Beyond Compliance, has been released, focussing on ergonomics in the workplace. This podcast episode discusses different aspects of ergonomics including risk assessments and ergonomics inspections.

<https://linktr.ee/healthandsafetyauthority>

Beyond Compliance: Safety Representatives

Episode 3 of the HSA's podcast, Beyond Compliance, is out now. This episode

focuses on Safety Representatives including the role of a safety representative, necessary training and legal requirements and the benefits for employers and employees.

<https://linktr.ee/healthandsafetyauthority>

Farmers must be H&S safety officers for their enterprises

Farmers have been urged to take on the role of health and safety officers on their farms. The unique mental health challenges faced by farmers, the importance of health and safety and initiatives to support their wellbeing were recently discussed on the *HSE Talking Health and Wellbeing* podcast.

<https://tinyurl.com/5x38utah>

How can we effectively tackle cyberbullying at work?

This episode of Eurofound Talks addresses what constitutes cyberbullying, how widespread the issue of cyberbullying at work is and whether there is sufficient legislation and workplace rules to address it effectively.

<https://tinyurl.com/369cmxsk>

NISO TRAINING AND EVENTS

Safe Pass - Carlow, Clonmel, Kilkenny

SOLAS (1 day); [BOOK NOW](#)

Clonmel: 8 March 2025

Carlow: 22 March 2025

Kilkenny: 29 March 2025

Training scheduled at NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12 AND/OR Online

DSE/VDU Risk Assessor Training (online); 25 March 2025 [BOOK NOW](#)

All Ireland Safety Quiz 2024 - Regional Heats

Book Your Quiz Team Here <https://niso.ie/product/safety-quiz-teams/>

Eastern Region: Online; Date TBC

Midland Region: 6 March 2025; Sheraton Hotel, Gleeson Street, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

Mid West Region: 26 March 2025; Greenhills Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick

NISG Northern Ireland: 3 April 2025; Ulster University - Belfast Campus

North East Region: 5 March 2025; Errigal County House Hotel, Cootehill, Co Cavan

North West Region: 13 March 2025; Clayton Hotel, Clarion Road, Co. Sligo

South: 5 March 2025; Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Little Island, Cork

South East Region: Online; Date TBC

West Region: Online; Date TBC

Regional AGMs

For updates visit <https://niso.ie/events/agm/>

Eastern Region: 20 February 2025; NISO, A11 Calmount Park, Ballymount, Dublin 12

Midland Region: 26 March 2025; Sheraton Hotel, Gleeson Street, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

Mid West Region: 15 January 2025; Greenhills Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick

North East Region: 5 March 2025; Errigal County House Hotel, Cootehill, Co Cavan

North West Region: 9 December 2025; Venue TBC

South: 5 March 2025; Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Little Island, Cork

South East Region: Date/Venue TBC

West Region: 13 March 2025; Oranmore Lodge Hotel, Oranmore, Co. Galway

National Events

NISO Annual General Meeting; NISO, A11 Calmount Park, Ballymount, Dublin 12; 10 April 2025

NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Quiz Final; Mullingar Park Hotel, Co. Westmeath; 17 May 2025

NISO Annual Safety Conference and Trade Exhibition; Killarney, Co. Kerry; 10 October 2025

NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Awards Gala Dinner; Killarney, Co. Kerry; 10 October 2025
