

National Irish Safety Organisation

# Update!

*NISO is a not-for-profit voluntary body,  
dedicated to the promotion of health  
and safety in Irish workplaces*

50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL



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Celebrating  
**50**  
years

# Update!

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Pauric Corrigan, president, National Irish Safety Organisation

## NISO president, Pauric Corrigan, reflects on the celebration of NISO's 50th anniversary.

The year 1963 saw the Minister for Justice, Charles J Haughey, announce that the government proposed to abolish the death penalty, John F. Kennedy visited Ireland, Dublin beat Galway in the All Ireland Final and the Beatles played in Dublin. 1963 also marked the beginning of the National Industrial Safety Organisation, supported by the late Jack Lynch under his Ministerial leadership at the Department of Industry and Commerce.

### National Industrial Safety Organisation

The National Industrial Safety Organisation (NISO's first name) was formed as a voluntary body representative of the social partners, government, employers' and workers unions' to promote safety and health in the workplace through education and training. In the first five years of existence, a grant of £2,000 was given to NISO, this grant increased in 1969 to £10,000 by way of a vote from the Finance Bill. At this time, NISO also began publishing a bimonthly journal called *Sciath* which was distributed to affiliated members of NISO.

During its time, the National Industrial Safety Organisation saw the transfer of the NISO secretariat from the Department of Industry and Commerce to the Department of Labour (1966), the first NISO Occupational Health and Safety Foundation course (1988) and the establishment of the Health and Safety Authority (1989) under the terms of the *Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989*.

### Compliments paid during Dail debate

On 9 February 1989, during a Dáil debate on the *Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Bill, 1988*, Mr John Dennehy, T.D., paid tribute to the National Industrial Safety Organisation. He said "There must always be at least one individual specifically assigned to the area of safety. I do not just mean policing legislation and hounding people about wearing safety helmets, I mean engaging in research to ensure that every work practice is constantly questioned, that materials used are constantly checked, that there is ongoing research into less hazardous materials and ways of working and generally promoting

safety. Up to now much of that has been done voluntarily by members of the National Industrial Safety Organisation. I was involved with them through safety quizzes and the State could not compensate them for their work up to now. They worked in areas where there was a shortage of legislation in a purely voluntary capacity with total commitment in their efforts to improve the safety record in industry. We can build on what they have achieved. I highly commend their industrial safety quiz to all companies because it ensures that employees who participate in it will get a knowledge totally outside their own work. They will learn about first aid, electricity and various other matters which will benefit them. The efforts of NISO should be supported and encouraged."

### National Irish Safety Organisation

On 22 March 1991, NISO became known as the 'National Irish Safety Organisation'. On 13 January 1992, NISO became a limited company by guarantee, a not for profit, membership-based organisation, operating independently of the HSA and Government. Since then NISO has fostered a relationship with its sister organisation the Northern Ireland Safety Group (NISG). This relationship preceded the peace process and the Good Friday agreement and as is often stated, 'safety has no borders'.

NISO has stood the test of time and its members, regional committees and staff are still committed to promoting and fostering good health and safety standards in the Irish workplace. The workplace and its technologies have changed over the years and NISO has adapted and changed to meet the new challenges encountered.

Some may say 13 is unlucky, however, as the 13th president in the 50th year of this great organisation, I am proud to say I was a member of NISO and honoured to have been elected to the office of president. As NISO commemorates the past, we look forward to the future and look forward to meeting our members at NISO events throughout the year.





Martin O'Halloran, CEO,  
Health and Safety Authority

## Martin O'Halloran, chief executive of the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), writes on NISO's achievement of 50 years in existence.



Celebrating  
**50**  
years

My first involvement with NISO came in 1988 and in 1992 I signed their memorandum and articles of association. I was safety manager with Telecom Éireann (now eircom) at the time and little did I know then that 24 years later I would be writing an article as chief executive of the HSA congratulating NISO on their 50th anniversary. The landmark of 50 years is a great triumph and credit has to go to the volunteers of NISO, both past and present, that founded the organisation back in 1963 and kept it operating with the goal of improving workplace health and safety. I recently found in my home a NISO glass paper weight marking their 25th anniversary.

The Health and Safety Authority is the national statutory body with responsibility for enforcing occupational safety and health law, promoting and encouraging accident prevention and providing information and advice to all companies, organisations and individuals. We participate on the executive committee of NISO and it is our policy to actively collaborate and work with other organisations in the promotion of the health and safety message, this applies to both statutory bodies and voluntary bodies working in this space. The HSA also have a key role in relation to occupational illness and preventing illness associated with workplaces.

### Sideshows

I have commented recently on what I call 'sideshows' presenting a major challenge to occupational safety and health. These sideshows include stopping children running due to 'health and safety reasons', or the ferry company operating to the Aran Islands banning passengers from bringing bicycles on board due to 'health and safety'. The proactive management of safety and health is a serious business and it is not made any easier when one reads of various activities and events being cancelled or curtailed because of 'health and safety'.

Occupational safety and health is about stopping accidents which are foreseeable and preventable. I would ask readers of the NISO Update to challenge these 'sideshows' and allow common sense to prevail.

### Awards

NISO run many events throughout the year including their conference, safety awards and safety quiz (awards and quiz organised in conjunction with Northern Ireland Safety Group). I have been lucky enough to attend these events and I must say that there has always been a sense of occasion, a friendly atmosphere, a positive attitude towards safety and health and a real sense of achievement by all of the participants.

In 2011, while at the safety awards in Killarney, I was both surprised and humbled to be the recipient of the Roll of Honour Award. It is very satisfying to be rewarded for a job that I enjoy and I can only hope that I continue to justify the confidence placed in me. The Award stands with prestige in my office and I am very grateful to NISO for such an honour.

There were 47 workplace fatalities recorded in 2012 with 28 of these fatalities in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector. 6,265 non fatal incidents were also recorded in Irish workplaces in 2012. Although we have come a long way in occupational safety and health there is still more progress to be made and I would ask NISO to continue their good work in promoting health and safety in the workplace. We must continue to strive for zero workplace illness and injury.



## Safety Representative Seminar

This seminar will inform delegates of the Safety Representative's role and the benefits of Safety Representation in your workplace.

**DUNDALK 29 January  
2013 (10:00-12:30)**

**WATERFORD 30 January  
2013 (14:00-16:30)**

**CORK 4 February 2013  
(14:00-16:30)**

**LIMERICK 14 February  
2013 (14:00-16:30)**

**SLIGO 21 February 2013  
(10:30-13:00)**

**DUBLIN 6 March 2013  
(14:00-16:30)**

For further information  
and to book a place on  
this seminar, visit:  
[www.niso.ie](http://www.niso.ie)

National Irish Safety  
Organisation in  
association with the  
Health and Safety  
Authority



Herbert Mulligan, editor,  
*Health and Safety Review*

## NISO conference 2012 hears health and safety is our wealth

The many facets of why safety and health is our wealth were explored at the 2012 NISO annual conference, which drew a large number of the country's leading organisations and health and safety professionals to the Sligo conference venue.

Government policy, a focus on health, education for health and safety, driving safely at work, the business case for health and safety, rounded off by a packed house for the All-Ireland Health and Safety Awards were all ingredients of an information packed conference, which was hosted by the NISO north-west region.

### Conference opening

Opening the conference, Lucinda Creighton, T.D, the Minister of State for European Affairs said there are "clear economical reasons to minimise risk". One benefit for employers is reduced absenteeism. Later in the day Minister Creighton's focus on the business case for health and safety was taken up by Tom Stephenson, group HSE director with the Balcas Group, who gave facts and figures about the company's health and safety performance. The company operates in the traditionally high risk sawmill industry. As Mr Stephenson put it, the culture of the industry was, if you did not have a digit missing from a finger you were not a proper sawmill operative.

That had to change and in 1999 the company launched a major safety initiative. The outcome was that between 2000 and 2005 the accident frequency rate reduced by 59%, while the severity rate fell by 66%. Then in 2006, in a three month period, there was a setback. There were two fatalities and one major accident. The company redoubled its efforts so that

by 2011 the accident frequency rate was reduced to 4.3, compared to 16.14 in 2000 and the cost of liability claims was reduced from £1.26m to £37,000. Mr Stephenson's message re-enforced the message from Dr Su Wang, specialist occupational physician, who has worked with some of the UK's largest employers. The occupational physician spoke of her experience at the Royal Mail. Presenting a case study on how investment in health and safety saved the Royal Mail £227m over a three year period, she said attendance improved by 25% and at one depot £1m was saved on operational costs, and days lost due to injury and ill-health were reduced by 50%.

Dealing with the difficulty of getting management to engage she said, in relation to smoking at work, she talked to them about Business 2+2. She demonstrated to managers that smokers were losing two working weeks a year through what she called "lighting up time" and a further two weeks a year in sickness absence.

### Education

The need to embed health and safety in the educational curriculum was articulated by the HSA's education manager, Joanne Harmon, who said the benefits of engaging with the education system are that learning influences behaviour, it can be assessed and all future workers go through the education system. The Authority has published 'Guidelines for Managing Health and Safety in Post-Primary Schools' and an online learning course, which can be accessed at [www.alison.com/hsa](http://www.alison.com/hsa). For those in the 15 to 19 year age group the Authority has developed 'Haphazard', an online game, which can be accessed at [www.hsasafetygame.ie](http://www.hsasafetygame.ie).

What is emerging as one of the most topical issues in health and safety, behavioural safety was addressed by the HSA's occupational psychologist, Patricia Murray when she told the conference, "If you want to change behaviour you have to engage people". Engagement is "most important". When you set goals they should be difficult but not too difficult. The importance of health was stressed by David Mahedy, director of sport and recreation at the University of Limerick.

Bringing the conference to a close, the message about driving safely at work was addressed from a different to usual perspective by two articulate speakers. Dr Gerry Lane, consultant in emergency medicine at Letterkenny General Hospital, told delegates that "Road deaths are no accident. It is people who kill people. Road collisions are not an act of God: they are preventable".

Looking at the causes of accidents, Dr Lane said the simple truth is "people are not behaving sensibly". Some drivers are tired, some are distracted, some have taken drink or drugs and some drivers and passengers do not use seat belts.

Conor Faughan, director of consumer affairs with the AA, told the conference that while our road safety record is improving "Irish road death figures are still unacceptably high". Remarking on the improvements in the Irish road network, he said fatigue is a significant cause of road accidents.



Celebrating  
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years

# Safety Award Winners 2012

AWARD	PRIZE WINNER	AWARD	PRIZE WINNER	AWARD	PRIZE WINNER
Supreme Award	MSD, Brinny	Distinction Consistent		Highly Commended	Walls Construction Ltd
Platinum Award	Diamond Innovations Irish Operations	High Achiever 2008 - 2012	GE Healthcare Cork	Highly Commended	Bristol-Myers Squibb Cruiseraeth
Platinum Award	Masonite Ireland	Distinction Consistent	Helsinn Birex Pharmaceuticals	Highly Commended	Cagney Contract Cleaning
Platinum Award	PSE Kinsale Energy Limited	Distinction Consistent	SIAC Butlers Steel Ltd	Highly Commended	Coffey Construction (I) Ltd
President's Award Construction	Roadbridge	Distinction Consistent	Sierra Support Services Group	Highly Commended	Dalkia Ireland
President's Award: Large Size Organisation	Lake Region Medical Ltd	High Achiever 2008 - 2012	Xerox Technology	Highly Commended	DocMorris / Unicare Pharmacy
President's Award: Medium Size Organisation	Road Maintenance Services Ltd	Overall Regional / Northern Ireland Award	Northstone Materials	Highly Commended	Griffin Brothers Contracting Ltd
President's Award: New Entrant	Pfizer, Little Island	Regional Award (East)	RPS Group Ltd	Highly Commended	Hertel (Ireland) Ltd
President's Award: Small Size Organisation	Cold Chon (Galway) Ltd, Sligo	Regional Award (North East)	Obelisk Group	Highly Commended	Inland Fisheries Ireland
Public Service Award	Commission for Communications Regulation	Regional Award (Mid West)	Kirby Group Engineering Ltd	Highly Commended	Irish Asphalt Ltd
Manufacturing Award	Waterford Stanley Ltd	Regional Award (South)	MSL Engineering Ltd	Highly Commended	Irish Bulk Liquid Storage
Transport Award	Sky Handling Partner Ltd	Northern Ireland Award	John Graham Construction Ltd	Highly Commended	L & M Keating Ltd
Medical Devices Award	Medtronic	Regional Award (South East)	Winthrop Engineering Ltd	Highly Commended	Lagan Asphalt Ltd
Chemical / Pharmaceutical Award	Pfizer Ireland Pharmaceuticals at Grange Castle	Regional Award (Midlands)	Westmeath Local Authorities	Highly Commended	Lagan Bitumen Ltd
Medical Services Award	Bon Secours Hospital Cork	Distinction	Acacia Facilities Management Ltd	Highly Commended	Lagan Construction Ltd
Food / Drink Award	Pfizer Nutritionals Ireland Ltd T/A Wyeth Nutritionals Ireland	Distinction	Alkermes Pharma Ireland Ltd	Highly Commended	Leitrim County Council
Agricultural Produce Award	Connacht Gold Co-Operative Society Ltd	Distinction	Bon Secours Hospital Galway	Highly Commended	MJ Conroy Construction
Local Authority Award	Fingal County Council	Distinction	Dairygold Quality Feeds, Lombardstown Feed Mill	Highly Commended	MAC - Interiors
Sport / Leisure Award	K Leisure	Distinction	Endesa Ireland Ltd	Highly Commended	Mercury Engineering
Facilities Management Award	Serco Services Ireland Ltd	Distinction	Genzyme Ireland Ltd	Highly Commended	Merit Medical Ireland Ltd
Service Award	Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Distinction	A Sanofi Company	Highly Commended	O'Connor Sutton Cronin
Best New Entry	Boston Scientific	Distinction	GMC Civil & Mechanical Engineering Ltd	Highly Commended	P & D Lydon
Large Size Organisation Award	Clonmel	Distinction	H & J Martin	Highly Commended	PWA International Ltd
Best New Entry Medium Size Organisation Award	JCDecaux Ireland	Distinction	Healy Brothers Ltd	Highly Commended	Queen's University Belfast
Best New Entry Small Sized Organisation Award	adman Civil Projects Ltd	Distinction	Hermitage Medical Clinic	Highly Commended	Richard Nolan Civil Engineering Ltd
Construction - Mineral Extraction / Quarrying / Concrete Product	Lagan Cement Ltd	Distinction	Hollister ULC	Highly Commended	Saint Joseph's Private Hospital, Garden Hill, Sligo
Manufacturing Award	John Sisk & Son (Holdings)	Distinction	JMA Contracts Ltd	Highly Commended	SIAC Roofing & Cladding Ltd
Construction - Industrial / Commercial Award	Whitemountain Quarries Ltd	Distinction	John Paul Construction	Commended	Acuman Facilities Management
Construction - Civil Engineering Award	Electricity Network Solutions Ltd	Distinction	Kilcawley Construction	Commended	Astellas Ireland Co, Ltd (Kerry Plant)
Construction - Utility Services Award	Jones Engineering Group	Distinction	KN Network Services Ltd	Commended	Caroline Connolly Childminding Services
Construction - Building Services Award	Abbott Ireland Division (Sligo)	Distinction	KTL	Commended	Coffey FM
Regional Award (North West)	Cold Chon Galway Ltd (Chemoran)	Distinction	PM Group	Commended	Cork County Council
Diagnostic	Abbott Diagnostics Longford	Distinction	Roankabin Modular Building Systems	Commended	Element Six Ltd
Regional Award (West)	Allergan Pharmaceutical	Distinction	TLI Group	Commended	John Craddock Ltd
Distinction Consistent	Designer Group	Distinction	Univar Ireland Ltd	Commended	Maveric Contractors
High Achiever 2008 - 2012	Engineering Contractors	Distinction	Veolia Water Ireland	Commended	The Galway Clinic
Distinction Consistent		Distinction	William & Henry Alexander (Civil Engineering) Limited	Commended	P&S Civil Works
High Achiever 2008 - 2012		Highly Commended	Aramark Healthcare at University Hospital Galway	Merit	Sandvik Mining and Construction Logistics Ltd
Distinction Consistent		Highly Commended	Aramark Workplace Solutions	Recognition	Envia Ireland Ltd
High Achiever 2008 - 2012		Highly Commended	Aura Sport and Leisure Management Ltd	Recognition	Lake Region Medical International Research & Development Centre Galway
Distinction Consistent		Highly Commended	BAM Building Ltd	Recognition	Superquinn / MOPI
High Achiever 2008 - 2012		Highly Commended	BAM Civil Ltd	Recognition	VNE-Logistics



# NISO – the beginning and progression of NISO

As quoted by NISO's first president, Benedict Daly, "the question is often asked as to how the National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) in fact began. The simple answer is, in a way, NISO happened by accident."

In *The Factories Act 1955*, section 127 provided for a Factories Advisory Council and this came into effect immediately. That Council's principal role was mainly two fold:

- 1) Advising the Minister for Industry and Commerce in relation to such draft regulations submitted to it from time to time, and,
- 2) Similar advice in regard to suitable methods of promoting safety, health and welfare of persons at work in such places covered by the Act.

The Council, however, had no function, nor had they the resources or funds to engage in such a promotion. In such circumstances, in their combined wisdom, the Council recommended to the Minister the setting up of an organisation which through education and training would carry out this work. There followed a direction from the Minister to initiate discussions with the then Federated Union of Employers, the Congress of Trade Unions, the Accident Offices Association of Insurers and other interests represented on the Council as to the feasibility of forming such an organisation.

In time, resulting from these discussions, a provisional committee of an organisation styling itself the 'National Industrial Safety Organisation' was formed in 1963. The aim of this organisation was, by education and training and other such suitable means, to promote the highest standards of safety, health and welfare in factories in the state.

## Early days

The early days of NISO's existence was chiefly concerned with formation of policy, funding, membership recruitment and the setting up of local branches and regional committees. It also involved the introduction of safety

training and educational courses. Fortunately, at that early stage, government provided staff and personnel, accommodation and initial funding. It must be acknowledged that in addition to the work of the management committee and members generally, much of the success of the various ventures undertaken must be attributed in no small measure to officers of the Department and members of the then factory inspectorate.

It must be remembered that safety legislation in the workplace at this time was by and large in respect of those employed in factories, although even then the duties and obligations of both employers and employees were quite comprehensive.

NISO reached a new stage in its development in the passing of new advanced safety legislation, namely the *Safety In Industry Act, 1980*. The Act with its improved conditions with regard to existing safety committees and the added obligation on employers to provide and implement an adequate safety statement, resulted in an increased workload for NISO.

## Expansion of activities

The following *Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989* resulted in a very considerable expansion of NISO's activities. By reason of the added scope of places of employment, now covering almost every aspect of employment in the State including farming industries, fishing industries, hospitals and other institutions. This Act also established the Health and Safety Authority who were given the overall responsibility for the administration and enforcement of health and safety at work in Ireland.

Finally, reference must be made to the



Benedict Daly, first President of NISO

findings of the Barrington Commission which subsequently resulted in NISO becoming a limited liability company with a change of name. On 22 March 1991, in order to keep pace with the vastly expanded area of safety legislation in relation to persons employed in the workplace, the National Industrial Safety Organisation became the National Irish Safety Organisation.

## Editors Comment

This article on the history of NISO would not have been possible without the transcripts written by the late Benedict Daly (1918-2009). Benedict was a member of the Factories Advisory Council, the statutory body established under the Factories Act 1955, and he was a founder member and first president of NISO from 1963-1968. Benedict remained involved with NISO and indeed spoke at the 40th anniversary celebration of the organisation in 2003 and attended the 2007 Safety Awards dinner in Killarney.

## NISO Past Presidents

YEAR	PRESIDENT
1963-1968	Benedict Daly
1968-1982	Des Gaffney
1982-1987	Pat Storan
1987-1990	Donal O'Sullivan
1990-1992	Jim Fitzgerald
1992-1997	Diarmuid Devereux
1997-2000	Paul Kerrigan
2000-2002	Mary Keane Broderick
2002-2004	Alan Thompson
2004-2006	Bill Kelly
2006-2007	John O'Shaughnessy
2007-2008	George Brett
2008-Present	Pauric Corrigan



Benedict Daly,  
NISO President 1963-1968



Bill Kelly,  
NISO President 2004-2006



John O'Shaughnessy,  
NISO President 2006-2007



*"During my years of involvement with the National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO), I learned what the phrase 'dedicated to the cause' really meant. Whilst serving as President, I travelled to every region in Ireland and met some of the most dedicated and hard working people one could ever wish to encounter. They carried the message of health and safety at work to countless numbers of employees and managers throughout the entire country, organising everything from probably the largest annual health and safety conference in Ireland, to health and safety quizzes, the arranging of lectures, seminars and many safety and information courses. All of this was, and still is, being carried out on a voluntary basis without any form of payment. This to me is what NISO is all about. I am proud of my involvement since 1988, which has been a time of rich rewards and full of great memories."*

**Alan Thompson,**  
NISO President 2002-2004



*"The period 1992-1997 was an era of total change for the National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO). Having come through a difficult financial period, the aim of the organisation was to achieve long-term stability through a major drive on membership and safety related activity. What followed was a total shake up with the annual conference becoming the premier safety event of the year with a line up of top class international and national speakers."*

*The single most rewarding aspect of that period was our joint approach to safety with the Northern Ireland Safety Group, a move which was endorsed by President Mary Robinson during her visit to the NISO conference in Killarney in 1994. It is great to see this connection as vibrant today and still going strong."*

*They were exciting times and we all have very happy memories of great social events and gatherings. During my term as president, two names stand out for their drive, vision and sheer determination, these are Mary Keane Broderick and Ted O'Keeffe, I again say thank you on behalf of us all."*

*May NISO continue to play a massive part in education and industry. The current difficult business environment is another window of opportunity for NISO to engage as a low cost member driven safety and health provider."*

**Diarmuid Devereux,**  
NISO President 1992-1997



*"During my time as president, the National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) became more independent, moving firstly from the HSA offices to Blackrock and then to our current premises in Calmount, a first for NISO owning its own premises. That period was also note worthy for the very good relationship and support with the then Minister for Labour Affairs, Mr Tom Kitt. I am still involved with NISO at a regional level and it is very positive to see the organisation as strong and active as ever."*

**Mary Keane Broderick,**  
NISO President 2000-2002



**Jim Fitzgerald,**  
NISO President 1990-1992



# Hall of Fame - 21 years of Supreme Award winners



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years

2012	MSD, Brinny
2011	Diamond Innovations Irish Operations
2010	Masonite Ireland
2009	PSE Kinsale Energy Ltd.
2008	Swords Laboratories
2007	Baxter Healthcare Irish Manufacturing Operations
2006	Helsinn Birex Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
2005	Roadbridge Ltd.
2004	Helsinn Chemicals Ireland Ltd.
2003	Bausch & Lomb Ireland
2002	GE Superabrasives Ireland
2001	Merck Sharp & Dohme (Ireland) Ltd.
2000	Aughinish Alumina
1999	Janssen Pharmaceutical Ltd.
1998	Bausch & Lomb Ireland Sunglass Operation
1997	Olin Chemicals BV
1996	Intel Ireland Ltd.
1995	Janssen Pharmaceutical Limited
1994	Merck Sharp & Dohme Ireland
1993	Irish Refining plc
1992	Arthur Guinness & Son (Dublin) Ltd.



Celebrating  
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*"Winning the NISO/NISG Supreme Award was a great achievement and a great boost for all Swords Laboratories employees. Having won a number of regional awards in previous years, we were absolutely delighted to be awarded the Supreme Award and to be recognised not only for maintaining but for improving on our safety management systems and resultant safety performance. It was also good for our employees to get external recognition for their focus, dedication and effort."*

**Carmel Connolly,**  
Safety Engineer,  
BMS Swords Laboratories



*"Helsinn Birex has long been a supporter and participant of the NISO/NISG Safety Awards. We believe that the ethos of the award scheme reflects Helsinn's commitment to continuous improvement and our drive to attaining excellence in safety. Winning the Supreme Award in 2006 was a major achievement for Helsinn Birex. It is something we are very proud of and it is an award we hope to win again in the near future."*

**Tomás Hopkins,**  
EHS Manager,  
Helsinn Birex Pharmaceuticals



*"Masonite Ireland had been involved in the awards scheme for ten years before securing the Supreme Award in 2010. During these years we were very proud of our achievements and each time we attended the conference and awards ceremony it spurred us on to improve our performance and develop our safety culture. Receiving the Supreme Award was a momentous achievement for us. It endorsed the company's commitment to continuous improvement and validated the endeavours of all employees who consider safety in every action they take. I would encourage any business to undertake the awards application process. It really is a great tool to analyse your health and safety systems and to benchmark your performance with others in your industry."*

**Ray Sweeney,**  
Safety and Training Manager,  
Masonite Ireland







*"Winning the Supreme Award in 2005 was one of Roadbridge's proudest achievements in its many years in business. It has raised the profile of the company and has opened doors to new clients who have safety to the fore in their organisations. Great credit is also due to NISO who do wonderful work in promoting health and safety in the workplace. Congratulations to NISO on their 50th anniversary."*



**Michael Ryan,**  
Health and Safety Manager,  
Roadbridge



PSE Kinsale, 2009



Irish Refinery, 1991

## NISO 2012 SUPREME AWARD WINNER



MSD Brinny

*"Congratulations to MSD Brinny, Supreme Award winners 2012, and all other award winners at the 2012 All-Ireland Safety Awards. The Safety Awards gala dinner was an overwhelming success for those in attendance. Submissions increased on previous years as did the number of companies attending the gala dinner and presentations. The awards were co-presented by John Perry, T.D., Minister of State for Small Business; Priscilla Woods, Chair, Northern Ireland Safety Group; Dermot Carey, Head of Safety Services, Construction Industry Federation; Sheila Byrne, Training and Quality Manager, NIFAST; Neil O'Carroll, Lead Executive, Phillips 66 Ireland; Pauric Corrigan, President, National Irish Safety Organisation."*

*NISO looks forward to your participation in 2013, this being our 50th year."*

**Pauric Corrigan, President,**  
National Irish Safety Organisation



# All Ireland Safety & General Knowledge Table Quiz – Hall of Fame

## PREVIOUS ENTRANTS CATEGORY

2012	Abbott Ireland Diagnostics Division Sligo
2011	Covidien - Cornamaddy
2010	Endesa Ireland Ltd.
2009	Endesa Ireland Ltd.
2008	Janssen Pharmaceutical Ltd.
2007	ESB Great Island
2006	Janssen Pharmaceutical Ltd.
2005	Merck Sharp & Dohme Irl Ltd.
2004	Janssen Pharmaceutical Ltd.
2003	Gallagher Ltd.
2002	Janssen Pharmaceutical Ltd.
2001	Janssen Pharmaceutical Ltd.
2000	Janssen Pharmaceutical Ltd.
1999	Janssen Pharmaceutical Ltd.
1998	Janssen Pharmaceutical Ltd.
1997	Gallagher Ltd.
1996	Janssen Pharmaceutical Ltd.
1995	ESB Great Island
1994	Premier Periclase
1993	Klinge Pharma, Killorglin
1992	Cold Chon (Galway) Ltd.
1991	Premier Periclase
1990	Telecom Eireann, Skibereen
1989	Syntex Ireland
1988	Harp Ireland
1987	Pfizer Chemical Corporation

1986	Youghal Carpet Yarns, Cork
1985	Bord na Mona, Attymon
1984	Irish Fher Laboratories, Cork
1983	CIE Limerick
1982	FMC International, Cork
1974-1981	Various

## NOVICES CATEGORY

2012	Abbott Ireland Diagnostics Division Sligo
2011	Abbott Ireland Diagnostics Division Sligo
2010	Helsinn Birex.
2009	Helsinn Chemicals Ireland Ltd.
2008	ESB Turlough Hill
2007	Janssen Pharmaceutical Ltd.
2006	Pfizer Pharma
2005	Janssen Pharmaceutical Ltd.
2004	Janssen Pharmaceutical Ltd.
2003	Cambrex Profarmaco
2002	M&J Gleeson
2001	ESB Inniscarra
2000	Dundalk Packaging
1999	Great Northern Brewery, Dundalk
1998	Bord na Mona, Blackwater Works
1997	Iarnrod Eireann, Inchicore
1996	Schering Plough Brinny
1995	Shannon Aerospace



*"We at Great Island Power Station have always entered at least one team in the NISO Quiz at Regional level and have represented the south-east region at the National finals over the last number of years.*

*We feel that regular testing of health and safety knowledge and awareness is an excellent way of maintaining good health and safety practices and standards in the workplace. While representing ESB and Endesa Ireland in the past we found that the commitment demonstrated by our employees in preparing for the quiz always improved the strong safety culture here on site. Going forward as part of the SSE Generation Ireland team and with the new CCGT construction on site well underway we believe the experience that many of our employees gained from the quiz down the years will further enhance our safety culture. At SSE, we look forward to continued participation in the quiz over the coming years."*



**Pat McGovern, Safety Services Officer,  
SSE Generation Ireland Limited**



Bill Kelly, vice-president,  
National Irish Safety  
Organisation



Celebrating  
**50**  
years

## All Ireland Safety & General Knowledge Table Quiz – A few memories of the first year

**Bill Kelly recalls the very first Safety and General Knowledge Table Quiz, which he participated in himself in the Spring of 1974.**

This year is the 40th anniversary of the quiz which commenced with a pilot in the mid-west region. Being such a long time ago I will certainly be found guilty of some errors/omissions and would like to apologise in advance for same.

National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) mid-west region at that time had a room in a Georgian office building on O'Connell Street, Limerick and the preliminary rounds of the quiz were held in that room. The instigator of the quiz was the then chairman, Pat Storan, who later went on to become president of the organisation. He was assisted by his committee which included Jim Meehan, Pat Deegan, John Audley and others.

### Quiz format

The teams consisted of four participants and a team manager. The format of the quiz was that each participating team member was asked two questions worth two marks, two questions worth four marks and one question worth six marks. A team could achieve a maximum score of 72 marks. There were

teams from CIE, Ranks, Mattersons, Irish Cement, ESB Limerick, ESB Ardnacrusha and I am sure there were others that I cannot recall.

The final two teams left after the preliminary rounds were ESB Limerick and ESB Ardnacrusha. The stage was set for a battle of epic proportions, there being a healthy rivalry between the two sections of the one organisation. The ESB Limerick team included Liam Reddan, later honorary secretary of the NISO mid-west region, Clem Cusack, Tony Cusack and an other. The ESB Ardnacrusha team included Pat Mackey, Mick O'Brien, Eddie Storan and myself (Bill Kelly). We were ably managed by Tom O'Sullivan.

### The final

The final was set for the Shannon Arms Hotel on Henry Street on a Friday night. ESB Ardnacrusha went on to win what was a very close contest. We were presented with our prize, a £100 note. It was the first time many, if not all, of us saw one of those notes.

In the years immediately following, the quiz spread to the south and midland regions and then nationally. The format was changed many times and eventually it became a table quiz to make it more user friendly. Personally, I think the original format was more challenging for everybody involved, even if a little more stressful!

### Conclusion

Finally, a number of companies in the past have used the quiz as part of their training program, especially for new employees, and this has proven to be very effective. I would like to think that many of the companies who were involved in the past will support the quiz on this its 40th year.

This year, the mid-west region quiz is on Wednesday 13 March in the Greenhills Hotel, Limerick. The winning team from both the Novice and Previous Entrants categories will proceed to the All Ireland Finals on Saturday 13 April in the Radisson Blu, Ennis Road, Limerick.



*"Abbott Ireland Diagnostics Division Sligo are very proud to have won both the Novice Category and the Previous Entrants Category of the 2012 NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety and General Knowledge Quiz. Each year the site enters teams and each year the enthusiasm and commitment of employees increases with five site teams entering the process in 2012.*

*Quiz team members do a lot of preparation for the competition and the entire site population get behind them. The NISO quiz has become an important event in the site safety calendar. It provides an additional safety focus point, which results in the creation of invaluable positive safety awareness for all employees."*



**Aoife Conway, EHS Manager,  
Abbott Ireland  
Diagnostics Division Sligo**

# Roll of Honour

2008	Herbert Mulligan
2009	Benedict Daly
2009	Michael Henry
2010	James McConnell
2010	Paul Kerrigan
2011	Diarmuid Devereux
2011	Martin O'Halloran
2012	Conor O'Brien
2012	Pat O'Halloran



Celebrating  
**50**  
years



*"I think as those who were near me on the night when, while I was busily writing down Harry Galvin's words, it dawned on me that he was speaking about me that my reaction was one of the utmost surprise that I was to be the recipient of the Roll of Honour Award. All I had done was to do my job, which I do among a community of people whom I like and find it a joy to work with and whom I believe do tremendous good work of national importance. To be awarded such an honour in those circumstances is gratifying and humbling. I only hope that the work I continue to do justifies the confidence that was reposed in me that night. The award plaque stands on a place of honour on the bookshelves of my home office, beside the photo of the football team I had the honour to organise when I was a student a long long time ago. Put simply, it means a lot to me."*

**Herbert Mulligan, Editor, Health and Safety Review**



*"To have been nominated by my fellow peers for the Roll of Honour Award was a sense of great pride, but the fact that my contribution in the Civil Defence was part of that award meant that the award was also for all volunteers that contribute to health and safety in their community."*

**James McConnell, Civil Defence Officer, Dublin Civil Defence**



**Benedict Daly presented with the Roll of Honour Award by Pauric Corrigan, NISO President (2009)**



**Diarmuid Devereux, Martin O'Halloran with Pauric Corrigan, NISO President (2011)**



# NISO Honorary Life Members



Celebrating  
**50**  
years

Pat Brangan  
Tim Daly  
Diarmuid Devereux  
Sean Duffy  
Joe Finegan  
John Fitzgerald  
John Flanagan  
Gerry Fogarty  
Pat Goulding  
Jim Jeffers  
Mary Keane Broderick  
Bill Kelly  
Paul Kerrigan  
Tim Kirby  
Gerard Mawn  
James McConnell  
Des McNamara  
Jim Meehan  
Joe Millar  
Margaret Morrissey  
John O'Shaughnessy  
Sean O'Dwyer  
Michael T O'Neill  
Ann Scanlon  
Jim Shaw  
Martin Shields  
Bob Shine  
Pat Storan  
Alan Thompson  
Tony Tierney  
Edward Twohig  
Seamus Upton



Ann Scanlon and Pauric Corrigan (2012)



Joe Millar, Pauric Corrigan and Edward Twohig (2010)

## Obituary Dr. Tom O'Connor, R.I.P.



Dr. Tom O'Connor has been a member of the National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) since 1978. He was elected as Honorary Life Member on 24 March 2000 and presented with his Honorary Life Membership on 7 June 2000. His recent death has been a shock to all in NISO.

Tom held the position of co-ordinator for the NISO Health and Safety foundation course run at NUIG. He also lectured in the area of occupational hygiene, noise, vibration and air quality, and represented NISO on the HSA western region advisory committee.

In his years of service on the western committee, Tom quietly and positively contributed to promoting health and safety within the workplace. He carried out his role on the committee

with due diligence and respect for the views of others. Tom brought a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the committee.

Tom's involvement with occupational health and safety began in 1963. This was the same year that NISO was founded. In that year, Tom attended Harvard University School of Public Health in Boston in the Department of Industrial Hygiene, when he was awarded an Exchange Scholarship (Later Fulbright) for post doctoral study.

He was a regular attendee at NISO seminars and also at our annual conferences. His presence at these events will be greatly missed. In a personal capacity I have had the pleasure of knowing Tom for the past 16 years. I fondly recall his kind welcome and subsequent friendship upon my joining NISO in 1996. I acknowledge his support to me in my role as regional chairman and as national president. As members of NISO's western region, we will all greatly miss Tom. We extend our sincere and deepest condolences to his family.

*Suaimhneas síoraí dá anam uasal.*

*Pauric Corrigan, NISO President*



# National Irish Safety Organisation Events Diary

Please keep an eye on our website: [www.niso.ie](http://www.niso.ie), for forthcoming courses in 2013.

## 1. Courses scheduled at NISO Training Centre, Ballymount, Dublin 12

### Safe Pass Course

(Course Length: 1 day)  
8 February / 22 February

### VDU/DSE Assessors Course

(Course Length: 1 day)  
28 January

### Basic Manual Handling Course

(Course Length: Half day)  
13 February

### Health and Safety Representation Course,

L22487, FETAC Level 5  
(Course Length: 3 days)  
18, 19, 20 February

## 2. Courses and events in the regions

### EAST REGION

#### Transport Safety/Vehicle Risks in the Workplace

31 January  
Gresham Hotel, Upper O'Connell,  
Dublin (14:00-16:30)

#### Safety Representative Seminar

6 March  
Gresham Hotel, Upper O'Connell,  
Dublin (14:00-16:30)

#### Safety and General Knowledge Quiz

6 March  
Gresham Hotel, Upper O'Connell Street,  
Dublin (beginning at 19:30hrs)

### MIDLAND REGION

#### NISO Introduction to Occupational Safety and Health

Commences: 18 February 2013  
(Course Length: 13 weeks, Mondays for 2  
hours)  
Contact: Dr Sean Reidy – 090 642 4400 –  
[midland@niso.ie](mailto:midland@niso.ie)

#### Safety and General Knowledge Quiz

13 March  
Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore,  
Co Offaly (beginning at 20:00hrs)

### MIDWEST REGION

#### Safety Representative Seminar

14 February  
Greenhills Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick  
(14:00-16:30)

#### Safety and General Knowledge Quiz

13 March  
Greenhills Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick  
(beginning at 20:00hrs)

### NORTH EAST REGION

#### Safety Representative Seminar

29 January  
Crown Plaza Hotel, Dundalk (10:00-  
12:30)

#### Annual General Meeting

29 January  
Crown Plaza Hotel, Dundalk (beginning  
at 14:30hrs)

#### Safety Awards Workshop

6 February  
City North Hotel, Gormanstown, Meath  
(10:30-12:30)

#### Safety and General Knowledge Quiz

8 March  
Fairways Hotel, Dundalk (beginning at  
20:00hrs)

### SOUTH EAST REGION

#### Safety Representative Seminar

30 January  
Ramada Viking Hotel, Waterford (14:00-  
16:30)

#### Safety Awards Workshop

30 January  
Ramada Viking Hotel, Waterford (19:30-  
21:30)

#### Safety and General Knowledge Quiz

1 March  
Dooleys Hotel, Waterford (beginning at  
20:00hrs)

### WEST REGION

#### Farm Safety Seminar

February  
Athenry, Galway (09:30-16:00)

#### Safety and General Knowledge Quiz

21 February  
Oranmore Lodge Hotel, Oranmore,  
Galway (beginning at 20:00hrs)

### NORTH WEST REGION

#### Safety Representative Seminar

21 February  
Sligo Southern Hotel, Sligo (10:30-13:00)

#### Safety and General Knowledge Quiz

14 March  
Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo (beginning at  
20:00hrs)

### SOUTH REGION

#### Safety Awards Workshop

4 February  
Oriental House Hotel, Ballincollig, Cork  
(10:30-12:30)

#### Safety Representative Seminar

4 February  
Oriental House Hotel, Ballincollig, Cork  
(14:00-16:30)

#### Safety and General Knowledge Quiz

22 March  
Oriental House Hotel, Ballincollig, Cork  
(beginning at 20:00hrs)

### NORTHERN IRELAND – ORGANISED BY NISG

#### Safety and General Knowledge Quiz

22 March  
Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast (beginning  
at 19:00hrs)

## 3. National Events

#### NISO/NISG All Ireland Quiz Finals

13 April  
Radisson Blu, Limerick (beginning at  
14:30hrs)

#### NISO Annual General Meeting

13 April  
Radisson Blu, Limerick (beginning at  
12:00hrs)

#### NISO Annual Conference and Trade Exhibition

4 October  
Radisson Blu, Galway

#### NISO/NISG Health and Safety Awards Ceremony

4 October  
Radisson Blu, Galway



NISO, A11 Calmount Park, Calmount Avenue, Ballymount, Dublin 12.

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