

NATIONAL IRISH SAFETY ORGANISATION

Update!



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

WINTER 2024 V OL.7 0

NISO Annual Conference 2024

Safety Awards Winners 2024



NATIONAL IRISH SAFETY ORGANISATION

Update!

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the NISO Update!

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President's Message

Annual Safety Conference and Awards

The last few weeks have been very busy for NISO as in addition to the normal activities including providing information, running workshops, seminars and training courses for our members, we have also hosted our 60th Annual Conference and, together with the Northern Ireland Safety Group, held our 33rd All Ireland Safety Awards.

The conference was very well attended and delegates heard excellent presentations from our panel of speakers. I wish to express our appreciation to the speakers, chairpersons on the day and all our sponsors for their continued support of the NISO conference and the All Ireland Safety Awards.

Our appreciation also to all those organisations that participated in the Health and Safety Trade Exhibition during the conference. Thank you.

Many thanks also to Conor O'Brien, Chief Executive Officer of the Health and Safety Authority, who was the guest of honour at the All Ireland Awards Presentation Dinner.

Safety Awards

Congratulations are due to all the entrants who continue to showcase their efforts to pursue the highest standards of health and safety in their organisation - your efforts were clearly visible.

The high standard of the submissions received for the NISO/NISG Awards is a testament to the development that we have seen across all sectors in occupational safety and health.

This year, the Supreme Safety Award was won by Ryobi Aluminium Casting (UK) Ltd. Winthrop Technologies Ltd. won the gold award, Actavo (Ireland) won the Silver award and John Sisk & Son (Holdings) won the bronze award.

Congratulations to them and to all this year's award recipients.

A full list of winners is included in this edition of Update.

All Ireland Safety Quiz

As we move towards year's end, preparations are already underway for the Regional Heats for the 50th All Ireland Safety Quiz 2025 which will commence in spring 2025.

Over the next few months, organisations interested in participating in the All Ireland Safety Quiz now have the opportunity to get a team together and get employees involved in this fun and informal way to learn about safety.

Some organisations run internal safety quizzes with the winners representing the organisations in the Regional Heats. This is a great way to generate additional interest in safety and health matters within the organisation. For any organisation thinking of holding internal safety quizzes, be assured that we in NISO are available and willing to assist and support you in this regard. This is a great opportunity for your organisation and your employees to become Regional and All Ireland Safety Quiz Champions.

Work Shops and AGMs

We are currently planning our work programme for 2025 and if there is some area of safety, health and welfare at work you would like us to address please let us know.

The NISO staff and the volunteers would be delighted to hear suggestions and new ideas to promote safe working.

NISO is a member-based organisation and the more members we have participating in NISO activities, the stronger the organisation becomes.

In the near future we will be circulating the dates and



**Fergal McKeivitt, President,
National Irish Safety Organisation**

venues for the regional AGMs. Please watch out for your regional AGM and try to attend.

Each region is always seeking to attract new members to join the local committee as new members bring new energy to the committee. Regions typically meet about six times per year, normally in conjunction with a safety promotion workshop. It is a great way to meet likeminded people and build friendships within the safety community.

Golf Classic for Charity

On 21 June we hosted a Golf Classic at the Seve Ballesteros Golf Course in the Heritage Resort, Co. Laois, with all the proceeds this year going to the Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind.

We will be running the event again in June next year. Look out for our notices early next year seeking golfers and sponsors. Again, the proceeds will be donated to charity.

Finally may I wish all members, volunteers, supporters and their families and colleagues a safe and healthy Christmas.

Stay safe, healthy and active and I look forward to seeing many of you as soon as possible.

*Fergal McKeivitt,
President National Irish Safety
Organisation*

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DEPENDABLE PRODUCTS WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

HSA Campaign Highlights Employers' Duty to Protect Workers

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) has launched a new awareness campaign aimed at helping employers effectively manage and mitigate the risks associated with work-related violence and aggression. This initiative comes as part of the HSA's continued commitment to promoting safer workplaces and addressing key risks around employee occupational health.

The campaign is designed to raise awareness among employers of their legal duties in protecting employees from potential threats of violence or aggressive behaviour from external parties in the workplace. It also provides guidance on implementing best practices and preventive measures to create safer, more supportive working environments for workers.

Focus on Employer Responsibility and Worker Safety

The new campaign highlights the growing need for vigilance and proactive management in industries where employees may be particularly vulnerable to work-related violence and aggression from the general public such as healthcare, retail, hospitality, and public services. It emphasises that employers have a duty to assess risks, provide appropriate training and establish clear procedures to handle such incidents effectively.

Dr Adrienne Duff, Assistant Chief Executive, Occupational Health, HSA, stated "The safety of employees must be a top priority for every employer. Work-related violence and aggression can have a devastating impact on both the physical and mental health of workers, as well as the overall productivity of businesses."

Dr Duff continued, "This campaign aims to ensure that all employers understand the steps they need to take to safeguard their staff and to provide the necessary resources for preventing and managing incidents."

Work-related violence and aggression is a key hazard in workplaces, particularly in frontline roles where employees are in direct contact with the public. Data from the HSA shows that the vast majority of incidents involving violence and aggression occur in Public Administration and Defence, Education, Retail, Health and Social Care and Transport sectors.

Comprehensive Resources for Employers

The HSA has a suite of resources to help employers better understand their obligations and implement practical solutions which includes their latest Guidance on Managing the Risk of Work-Related Violence and Aggression. To support this recent guidance the HSA is developing a free e-learning course for employers and duty holders to use.

For further information and to read the press release in full please visit hsa.ie.

ENSHPO welcomes new President

The European Network of Safety & Health Professional Organizations (ENSHPO) has announced its new president, Mr. Francesco Santi. ENSHPO is the most representative organization in Europe for associations and professional societies working on Health, Safety and Sustainability.



Francesco Santi

Stepping into his new role, Mr Santi said:

The legacy of the previous board and the former president is at the same time a clear path forward and an example of success in the development of our ENSHPO, through enormous work developed by the President and the Board itself.

I am sure that all together we will make many more steps forward to develop an international network and a collaborative environment to achieve our ultimate goal: a working environment where the culture of prevention, the scientific approach, human rights and respect for environment are the cornerstones of all work.

The outgoing ENSHPO president, Ms Mireya Rifá, said "I will continue to support ENSHPO, its organisations and its members, I am a practising health and safety professional and I hope to continue to participate in one way or another in the defence and positioning of our profession."

Source: enshpo.eu



Lighthouse Club Construction Industry Charity – Summer Lunch

The Lighthouse Club Construction Industry Charity held its Summer Lunch event in the Mansion House, Dublin on June 14 2024. All proceeds from the event directly funds free charitable services aimed at improving the wellbeing and welfare of the Irish construction workforce and their families.

www.lighthouseclub.org

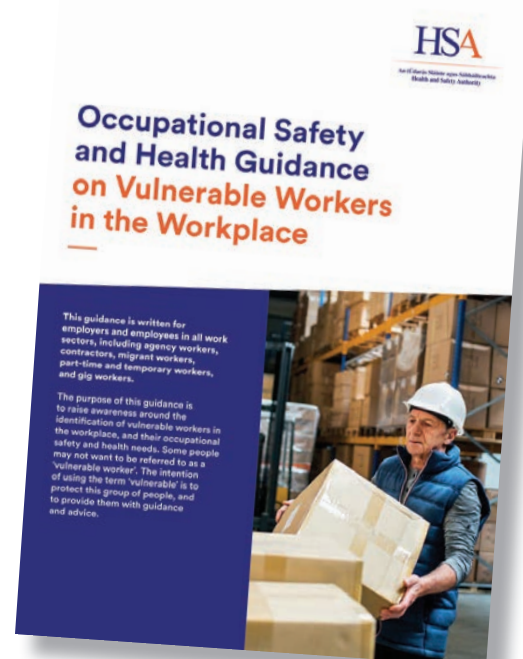


L-R. Carole Ann Clarke, Alan Worrall, Hamish Adams, Derek Murphy, Fergal McKevitt, Sharlene Mawdsley, Michael McKillop, Sarah Ennis.

Health and Safety Resources New Guidance and Training on Vulnerable Workers

The HSA has recently published two new resources on the theme of vulnerable workers.

1. New guidance: Occupational Health and Safety Guidance on Vulnerable Workers in the Workplace is written for employers and employees in all sectors (including agency workers, contractors, migrant workers, part-time and temporary workers, and gig workers). The purpose of this guidance is to raise awareness around the identification of vulnerable workers in the workplace, and their occupational safety and health needs. The new guidance is available from has.ie
2. New course on hsalearning.ie: Vulnerable Workers: A Short Course for Employees is designed for employees, including those who are vulnerable workers. The course will also be helpful to employers, managers, supervisors, safety personnel, and to organisations or educational bodies that are helping vulnerable persons to prepare for the workplace. The course is available at hsalearning.ie





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New Online Tool to Identify Carcinogens at Work

The updated Roadmap on Carcinogens website provides practical help for organisations and workers that may be exposed to cancer-causing agents. Starting from the sector or occupation, or a carcinogenic substance (if known), this tool helps identify whether there is a potential risk (carcinogen + exposure). From there, it proposes targeted solutions on how to protect employers and gives information on the legal provisions.

Know what you are working with

Every year in the EU around 100,000 people die from cancer that was caused by exposure to carcinogens at work and over 120,000 people are diagnosed with work-related cancer. By providing this to-the-point information, the Roadmap on Carcinogens helps employers and workers to assess whether carcinogens are relevant for their work and points at adequate risk management measures for sectors and their occupations.

Entry points

If you want to know whether cancer-causing agents can be found in your sector or occupation, you can access this information, starting from the sector or occupation, at this page: stopcarcinogensatwork.eu/search-occupations/

Many solutions and examples are provided regarding protection measures, following the STOP-principle (starting with Substitution, Technical measures, Organisational measures and Personal protection as a last resort). Learn more here: stopcarcinogensatwork.eu/stop-carcinogens-at-work/

If you already know that you work with carcinogens, or that carcinogens are being generated during a process (e.g. welding fumes), you can find all important practical and legal information in the respective comprehensive factsheets here: stopcarcinogensatwork.eu/facts/

Practical, easy to understand information

One of the main goals of this new website is to make the growing volume of information on carcinogens accessible, within the context of work. All necessary information is provided in short and easy to understand fact sheets. From identifying carcinogenic substances, you are guided to measures and solutions. Once you know what you are working with, it is always possible to dig into further details if you need to.

For further details visit www.stopcarcinogensatwork.eu.

Source: hsa.ie

NEW MEMBERS

National Irish Safety Organisation would like to welcome all of the organisations that have recently joined. As a not for profit organisation with charitable status, your membership of NISO supports our endeavours to promote health and safety in Irish workplaces.

Contact NISO on 01 465 9760 or email info@niso.ie for further information on NISO membership and to receive a copy of our Membership brochure.

Organisations that have recently joined NISO include:

Boston Scientific Clonmel Ltd.

Certus Project Solutions Ltd.

Citius Ltd.

Climate Tec Hhygiene

Sundstrom Safety AB



Sundström 

Sundström Safety

Sundström Safety protects people from contaminated air. Our aim is to always design and manufacture the best and most comfortable respiratory protection equipment. We can present a compatible and modular product range that is flexible and adaptable to both personal comfort and the needs and requirements of the workplace.

www.srsafety.com

All Ireland Safety Quiz 2025

To qualify for the All Ireland Safety Quiz Finals you need to participate and win the relevant category in one of the eight regional or Northern Ireland quizzes.

East Region

[covering counties Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow]
20 February 2025; Venue TBC

NISO North East

[covering counties Cavan, Louth, Meath, Monaghan]
5 March 2025; Errigal County house Hotel, Cootehill, Co Cavan

NISO Southern Region

[covering counties Cork, Kerry]
5 March 2025; Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Little Island Cork

NISO Midland Region

[covering counties Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath]
6 March 2025; Sheraton Athlone Hotel, Gleeson Road, Athlone, Co Westmeath

NISO Western Region

[covering counties Galway, Mayo, Roscommon]
6 March 2025; Oranmore Lodge Hotel, Oranmore, Co Galway

NISO North West Region

[covering counties Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo]
14 March 2025; Clayton Hotel, Clarion Road, Co Sligo

NISO Mid West Region

[covering counties Clare, Limerick, Tipperary North]
26 March 2025; Greenhilss Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick



NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Quiz Final

Saturday, 17 May 2025 | 14.30hrs
Mullingar Park Hotel, Dublin Road,
Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

NISG Northern Ireland

[covering counties Antrim, Armagh, Derry, Down, Fermanagh, Tyrone]
Date & Venue TBC

NISO South East Region

[covering counties Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary South, Waterford, Wexford]
Date & Venue TBC

How to book:
Visit niso.ie/shop/
[Booking page available soon]

All Ireland
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY QUIZ

Rising Personal Injury Claims and Employer Liability

The Injuries Resolution Board reported a 10% increase in personal injury claims in 2023, with a notable rise in motor liability cases and a slight increase in employer liability claims. The total number of claims was 20,263, which, despite the rise, is still 35% lower than pre-pandemic levels in 2019. Awards totalling €170 million were issued with the median award for employer liability claims standing at €16,531 – a reduction of nearly 30% since 2020.

The board's data reveals trends with implications for employers. The stability of employer liability claims and

the reduction in award values reflect the impact of the 2021 Personal Injury Guidelines which have lowered award amounts. However, the consistency of employer claims suggests that companies must remain vigilant about workplace safety to manage potential liabilities.

The report highlights a significant shift towards faster, lower-cost claim resolutions through the Injuries Resolution Board, saving an estimated €75 million in litigation expenses. This has raised questions from industry groups about why reduced costs have not translated to lower insurance premiums.

With employers increasingly under scrutiny, the report underscores the importance of maintaining safe workplaces and proactive claim management to mitigate liability and insurance costs.

Source: rte.ie

Product Safety Alert - Terberg OmniDEKA Hydraulic Bin Lift with Sonar N1 Sensor

A safety alert has been issued regarding the Terberg OmniDEKA Hydraulic Bin Lift with Sonar N1 Sensor.

Har d Description

When the refuse collection vehicle (RCV) is operating in automatic mode without a bin present, operatives or members of the public may inadvertently access the dangerous moving parts of the lifting machinery. This situation poses numerous risks, including unintentional activation of the lifting mechanism, leading to the potential for severe injuries.

Identified Risks

1. Risk of Entanglement:

- o Operatives or bystanders may get caught in the moving parts of the lifting machinery, leading to possible injuries such as lacerations, fractures, or bruising.

2. Risk of Being Lifted:

- o Individuals in proximity to the lifting mechanism may be unintentionally lifted by the machinery, which can result in being tipped into the vehicle hopper, causing serious injury or entrapment.

3. Risk of Crushing:

- o The automatic compaction mechanism may activate unexpectedly, posing a significant risk of crushing injuries to those who are nearby or within the operating area of the compaction system.

Corrective Action:

The product has been voluntarily recalled from the Irish market by the manufacturer, the model was replaced with a new version in December 2023.

The manufacturer is actively engaging with stakeholders and are working on designing a retrofit option to ensure the safety of existing machines delivered prior to December 2023.

Terberg Machines B.V. have initiated a communication campaign already underway in Ireland, with letters being sent to all Irish customers known to be affected by this Alert, highlighting the importance of (and encourage the uptake of) the additional safety features for product to be retrofitted free of charge to eliminate risk. The HSA strongly recommends that (if not already updated) owners of RCVs utilising this product contact their supplier for further information.

Source: hsa.ie

Incorrect expiry dates on defibrillators

The Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) has advised users of Defibtech defibrillator pads in Ireland to check them immediately as some pads may have incorrect expiry dates due to unauthorised labelling. This issue affects pads for Defibtech Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), specifically those with labels applied outside Defibtech's control. The incorrect labels could cause expired pads to be used which may reduce the effectiveness of the defibrillator by delivering insufficient energy to a patient.

There are approximately 6,200 Defibtech AEDs in Ireland and users are urged to review their pads. Defibtech has released a Field Safety Notice with guidance on identifying and replacing the affected pads. The HPRA has also contacted a number of organisations directly to ensure compliance.

The affected products are as follows:

- DDP-100 Adult Defibrillation Pads:
For use with AED Models: Lifeline and Lifeline Auto (DDU-1XX Series)
- DDP-200P: Pediatric Defibrillation Pads
For use with AED Models: Lifeline and Lifeline Auto (DDU-1XX Series)
- DDP-2001: Adult Defibrillation Pads For use with AED Models: Lifeline View Auto, Lifeline Pro, Lifeline ECG, Lifeline View (DDU-2XXX Series)
- DDP-2002: Pediatric Defibrillation Pads For use with AED Models: Lifeline View Auto, Lifeline Pro, Lifeline ECG, Lifeline View (DDU-2XXX Series)

Users with these pads should promptly contact Oxygen Care, the Irish distributor, to arrange a return and replacement. www.oxygen-care.com

Source: rte.ie

Safety Behaviour — The “Swiss Cheese” Accident Model

Domino Theory

American Industrial Safety pioneer, Herbert William Heinrich (1886–1962), believed in the theory of accident proneness. To demonstrate this, he devised the Domino Theory of accident causation which stated that accidents are a result of a linear sequence of events and that accidents actually come out of somewhere. If there is a cause for accidents, then they can be prevented.

In other words, Heinrich believed that accidents were caused by people and that some people tended to be accident prone. The Domino Theory of accident proneness was a novel theory at the time because up to that point, in the early 20th century, it was believed that accidents just happened and were a part of life.

He believed there was a sequence that occurred that would result in an accident actually happening. He demonstrated this by using five dominoes with each preceding domino representing a factor that could contribute to the accident. To prevent an accident was simply a matter of lifting one of the dominoes out of the line.

This idea of layers of defence needing to topple and providing barriers against accidents persisted up to the 1960s and 1970s.

The Domino Effect



Management Theory at the time strongly believed that the individual who was involved in an accident caused the accident to happen and that it was their own agency that brought about their own misfortune. The fault of the person brought on unsafe conditions that led to a loss or accident and then ultimately result in an injury.

Heinrich proposed that that all management had to do was either put in a block to the dominoes or take one of those elements out to prevent the cascading effect from occurring so that the accident could be stopped. This idea persisted until the 1960s and 70s.

The Change in Thinking

By the 1970s and 1980s, several events had driven large disasters back onto centre stage including the Tenerife airport disaster, Flixborough disaster, Challenger Space Shuttle disaster, Three Mile Island nuclear accident, Bhopal disaster, Chernobyl, the MS Herald of Free Enterprise sinking and Kings Cross underground fire.

These disasters were inescapable and a new way of explaining accidents had to be considered.

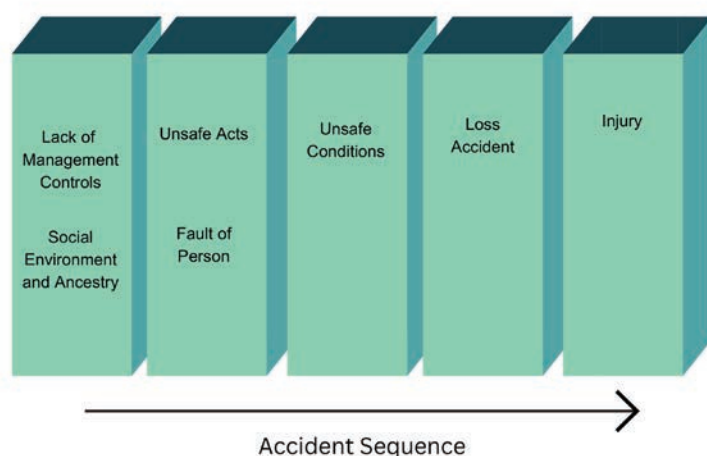
James Reason

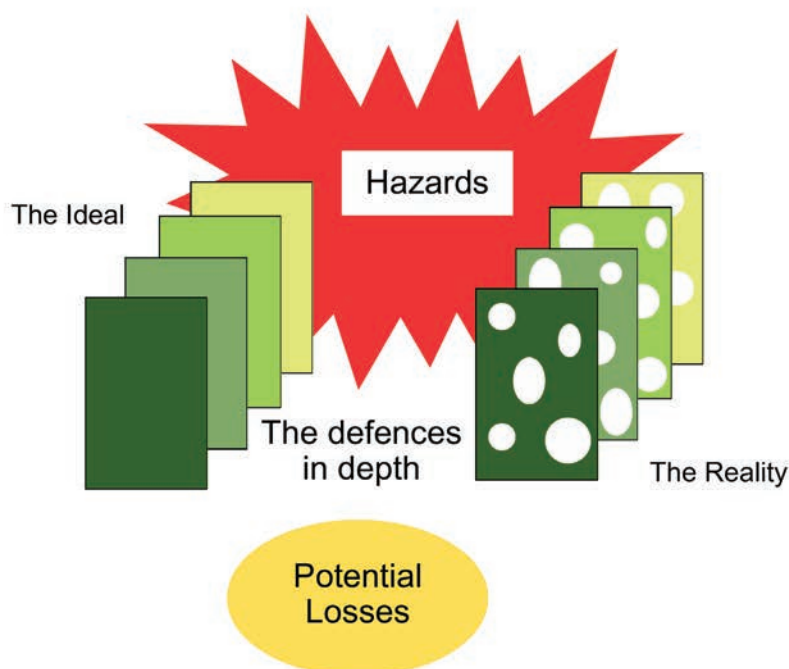
James Reason was a Professor of Psychology in Manchester University. He proposed a concept that in complex systems lies potential pathogens and latent errors. These lay nestled as root causes deep inside the system long before the accident occurred. Major disasters in well defended systems were never caused by a single factor. To illustrate this concept, the “Swiss Cheese” model was developed.

“Swiss Cheese” Model of Defences

- In an ideal world, all defence layers would be intact allowing no penetration by possible accident trajectories.
- In the real world, however, each layer has weaknesses and gaps.

The Dominoes





The ideal and the reality for Defences in Depth

- In the Swiss Cheese model, the defence layers and their associated “holes” are shown as fixed and static; in reality, they are in constant flux.
- Each defence layer is coming in and out of the frame according to local conditions.
- Particular defences can be removed deliberately during maintenance or testing or because of errors or violation. Similarly, the holes within each layer could be seen as shifting around, responding to operator actions and local demands.

Accident Trajectory

- An accident trajectory passing through corresponding holes in the

layers of defences, barriers and safe guards.

Conclusion

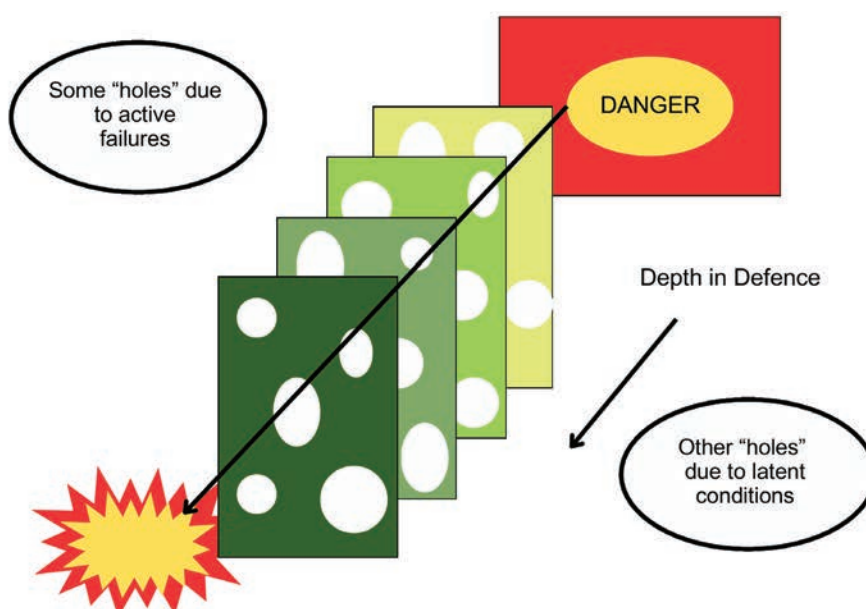
- Adequate account of human error is impossible without considering the relationship between peoples’ assessments and actions.
- The features of operations in organisations also influenced the possibility of accidents occurring.
- Past decisions can lay nested undetected until the accident occurs.

The Swiss Cheese Model is covered in greater depth as part of the NISO CPD Certificate Course in Behavioural Safety Management in association with Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin).

Behavioural Safety Management Course – Contents

- Introduction to Behavioural Safety Management
- Workplace Taskings effects of safety behaviour
- Factors effecting Individuals
- Teams development and cohesion of individuals
- Organisational structure effects on team and individual performance.

For further information on this innovative health and safety training programme please visit niso.ie/cpd-certs-dip/



SAFETY AWARD WINNERS 2024

The National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) and Northern Ireland Safety Group (NISG) congratulate all organisations that received a Safety Award this year for their achievements in the area of health and safety.



Ryobi Aluminium Casting (UK) Ltd. was presented with the highest honour – the Supreme Safety Award

The Supreme Safety Award, sponsored by Irving Oil Whitegate Refinery, is presented to the organisation that has shown consistently good or continuously improving health and safety performance over a number of years and an outstanding contribution to occupational safety, health and welfare during the previous year.

L to R: Trish Leahy, HR Operations Manager Irving Oil Whitegate Refinery; Fergal McKeivitt, President, National Irish Safety Organisation; Philip Joyce, HSE Officer, Ryobi Aluminium Casting (UK) Ltd.; Wendy Beatty, Chair, Northern Ireland Safety Group; Conor O'Brien, CEO, Health and Safety Authority



Winthrop Technologies Ltd.
Winner of the Gold Award

L to R: Fergal McKeivitt, President, National Irish Safety Organisation; Ivan Conway, EHS Director, Winthrop Technologies Ltd.; Sean Downey, Director of Safety, Education & Training, Construction Industry Federation; Wendy Beatty, Chair, Northern Ireland Safety Group; Conor O'Brien, CEO, Health and Safety Authority



Actavo (Ireland)
Winner of the Silver Award

L to R: Fergal McKeivitt, President, National Irish Safety Organisation; Willie Ryan, Global EHS & IT Director, Actavo (Ireland); Sean Downey, Director of Safety, Education & Training, Construction Industry Federation; Wendy Beatty, Chair, Northern Ireland Safety Group; Conor O'Brien, CEO, Health and Safety Authority



John Sisk and Son (Holdings) Ltd.
Winner of the Bronze Award

L to R: Fergal McKeivitt, President, National Irish Safety Organisation; Edel Brennan, Senior Health & Safety Manager, John Sisk and Son (Holdings) Ltd.; Sean Downey, Director of Safety, Education & Training, Construction Industry Federation; Wendy Beatty, Chair, Northern Ireland Safety Group; Conor O'Brien, CEO, Health and Safety Authority

Mihail Cazac, Shareridge Civil Engineering and Derek Russell, Collen Construction

Joint winners of the NISO Safety Representative of the Year Award in association with The Cpl Institute



L to R: Mihail Cazac, Supervisor, Shareridge Civil Engineering; Fergal McKeivitt, President, National Irish Safety Organisation; Wendy Beatty, Chair, Northern Ireland Safety Group; Derek Russell, Safety Representative, Collen Construction; Conor O'Brien, CEO, Health and Safety Authority

John Graham Construction Ltd.

Winner of the Healthy Workplace Award sponsored by Healthy Ireland



L to R: Fergal McKeivitt, President, National Irish Safety Organisation; Wendy Beatty, Chair, Northern Ireland Safety Group; Biddy O'Neil, National Policy Lead, Healthy Ireland, Department of Health; Conor O'Brien, CEO, Health and Safety Authority; Heather McKinstry, Vice President, Northern Ireland Safety Organisation

McAleer and Rushe

Winner of the President's Award: Construction, sponsored by the Construction Industry Federation



L to R: Fergal McKeivitt, President, National Irish Safety Organisation; Sean Downey, Director of Safety, Education & Training, Construction Industry Federation; Cathal Magee, Regional Health & Safety Manager, McAleer and Rushe; Wendy Beatty, Chair, Northern Ireland Safety Group; Conor O'Brien, CEO, Health and Safety Authority

John Graham Construction Ltd.

Winner of the Occupational Health Award sponsored by the Occupational Health Award sponsored by the HSA and the HSENI



L to R: Fergal McKeivitt, President, National Irish Safety Organisation; Wendy Beatty, Chair, Northern Ireland Safety Group; Conor O'Brien, CEO, Health and Safety Authority; Heather McKinstry, Vice President, Northern Ireland Safety Organisation

Actavo (Ireland)

Winner of the Driving for Work Award



L to R: Fergal McKeivitt, President, National Irish Safety Organisation; Wendy Beatty, Chair, Northern Ireland Safety Group; Willie Ryan, Global EHS & IT Director, Actavo (Ireland); Conor O'Brien, CEO, Health and Safety Authority


































O'Connor Sutton Cronin


































Winner of the President's Award: Overall Regional / Northern Ireland














L to R: Fergal McKeivitt, President, National Irish Safety Organisation; Sean Downey, Director of Safety, Education & Training, Construction Industry Federation; Douglas Silva, Safety Officer / ISO Co-Ordinator, O'Connor Sutton Cronin; Wendy Beatty, Chair, Northern Ireland Safety Group; Conor O'Brien, CEO, Health and Safety Authority

SAFETY AWARDS WINNERS 2024

WINNING ORGANISATIONS	AWARD	ACHIEVER
Ryobi Aluminium Casting (UK) Ltd.	Supreme Award	
Winthrop Technologies Ltd.	Gold Award	
Actavo (Ireland)	Silver Award	
John Sisk and Son (Holdings) Ltd.	Bronze Award	
PM Group	President's Award — Large Size Organisation	
O'Connor Sutton Cronin	President's Award — Overall Regional/Northern Ireland	
W & H Alexander Ltd.	President's Award — Small Size Organisation	
SK biotek Ireland Limited	President's Award — Chemical/Pharmaceutical	
McAleen and Rushe	President's Award — Construction	
Northern Group	President's Award — Medium Size Organisation	
Designer Group	Construction — Building Services Award	
Jones Engineering Group	Regional Award (East)	
Bon Secours Hospital Dublin	Healthcare Provider Award	
Baxter Healthcare Irish Manufacturing Operations	Manufacturing Award	
Aura Holohan Group	Sport / Leisure Award	
Cork County Council	Local Authority / Council Award	
DB Schenker Leixlip Warehouse	Transport / Distribution / Storage Award	
Intel Ireland Ltd.	Electronic / Electrical Manufacturing / Assembly Award	
Barretstown	Voluntary, Social and Community Award	
AirNav Ireland	Public Service Award	
Controlled Environments Company (CEC)	Service Award	
Boston Scientific Galway	Medical Devices Award	
Aramark Ireland	Facilities Management and Services Award	
MJM Marine Ltd.	Specialist Contractor Award	
Kerrygold Butter Packing Ireland Ltd.	Food / Drink Award	
Weltec Engineering Ltd.	Construction — Industrial / Commercial Award	
GEA Process Technologies Ireland Ltd.	Construction — Consulting Engineers Award	
Longford County Council	Regional Award (Midlands)	
Altrad Services Ireland	Regional Award (Mid West)	
Walls Construction Limited	Higher Distinction	
Cork City Council	Regional Award (South)	
Leo Lynch	Higher Distinction	
Fingal County Council	Higher Distinction	

WINNING ORGANISATIONS	AWARD	ACHIEVER
Merit Medical Ireland Ltd.	Higher Distinction	
BAM Ireland	Higher Distinction	
GMC Utilities Group Ltd.	Higher Distinction	
John Cradock Ltd.	Higher Distinction	
Mainline Group	Higher Distinction	
John Paul Construction	Higher Distinction	
P&D Lydon Ltd.	Higher Distinction	
Coffey	Construction — Civil Engineering Award	
Glenveagh Properties PLC	Construction — House Building Award	
Alexion, AstraZeneca Rare Disease, Ireland	Biopharmaceuticals Award	
Gilead Sciences Ireland UC	Chemical/Pharmaceutical — Pharmaceuticals [Fill Finish] Award	
Mivan Ltd.	Construction — Specialist Contractor Award	
Circet Ireland	Construction — Utility Services Award	
Viatrix Dublin Respiratory	Chemical/Pharmaceutical — Consumer Products Award	
John GRAHAM Construction Ltd.	Northern Ireland Award	
Specialist Technical Engineering Services - STS Group	Regional Award (South East)	
MDE Installations	Regional Award (North East)	
King & Moffatt Building Services	Regional Award (North West)	
Shareridge Group	Regional Award (West)	
Flynn	Higher Distinction	
Collen Construction Ltd.	Higher Distinction	
PJ Hegarty	Higher Distinction	
Inland and Coastal Marina Systems Ltd.	Higher Distinction	
Suir Engineering Ltd.	Higher Distinction	
Conack Construction	Higher Distinction	
Bon Secours Hospital Cork	Higher Distinction	
MSL Engineering Ltd.	Higher Distinction	
Jones Lang LaSalle (Based on Intel Account)	Higher Distinction	
Cumnor Construction Limited	Higher Distinction	
Elliott Group	Higher Distinction	
TLI Group Ltd.	Higher Distinction	
Compass Group Ireland	Higher Distinction	
Kiernan Steel	Higher Distinction	

SAFETY AWARDS WINNERS 2024

WINNING ORGANISATIONS	AWARD	ACHIEVER
Vision Contracting Ltd.	Higher Distinction	
H&MV Engineering	Higher Distinction	
ISS Facility Services	Higher Distinction	
Cagney Contract Cleaning	Higher Distinction	
Dominic O'Connor Ltd.	Higher Distinction	
Secto Services Ltd.	Higher Distinction	
Tritech Engineering	Higher Distinction	
Adman Civil Projects Ltd.	Higher Distinction	
Surecom Network Services Ltd.	Higher Distinction	
LMC FM	Higher Distinction	
Dornan Engineering Ltd.	Higher Distinction	
AG Paving & Building Products Ltd.	Higher Distinction	
DB Schenker Cork Branch	Higher Distinction	
New Children's Hospital - BAM Ireland	Higher Distinction	
Electric Skyline Ltd. Lighting Specialists	Higher Distinction	
Mercury	Higher Distinction	
Sysco Ireland	Higher Distinction	
Reach Active Group	Higher Distinction	
Murphy Geospatial	Higher Distinction	
Bunzl Ireland	Higher Distinction	
Global Rail Services Ltd.	Higher Distinction	
Stewart Construction	Higher Distinction	
Campion Pumps	Higher Distinction	
The GEM Group	Higher Distinction	
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	Higher Distinction	
Bord na Móna PLC	Best New Entry: Large Size Organisation Award	
McAdam Design Ltd.	Best New Entry: Small Sized Organisation Award	
Carey Building Contractors	Distinction	
Tiergaul Limited t/a Extraspace	Distinction	
Road Safety Operations Ireland	Distinction	
Sensori Facilities Management	Distinction	
Tirlán Lough Egish	Distinction	
Bulgari Ireland Ltd.	Distinction	
McCloskey International Ltd.	Distinction	
Veolia Fermoy Transfer Station	Distinction	
J. Vaughan Electrical Contractors Ltd.	Distinction	

WINNING ORGANISATIONS	AWARD	ACHIEVER
Moston Construction Ltd.	Distinction	
Linde TMM	Distinction	
Bretland Construction Ltd.	Distinction	
Clancy Construction	Distinction	
Clonmel Enterprises Limited	Distinction	
Entegro	Distinction	
Intel Ireland, Veolia Operations Team	Distinction	
MMD Construction (Cork) Ltd.	Distinction	
Energia Group	Highly Commended	
Northern Ireland Water	Highly Commended	
Farrans Construction t/a Northstone (NI) Ltd.	Highly Commended	
Cairn	Commended	
Dynamic Safety Solutions Ltd.	Merit	

 Excellence in Safety Award (>15 years)

 Exceptional High Achiever Award (10 years)

 Consistent High Achiever Award (5 years)



The All Ireland Safety Awards photos are available at safetyawards.ie/downloads

Additional Awards

Driving for Work Award Winner

Actavo (Ireland)

Occupational Health Award Joint Winners

Sponsored by the Health and Safety Authority and the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland

John GRAHAM Construction Ltd.

Healthy Workplace Award Winner

Sponsored by Healthy Ireland

John GRAHAM Construction Ltd.

Safety Representative of the Year Award – Joint Winners

Sponsored by The Cpl Institute

Mihail Cazac, Shareridge Civil Engineering and Derek Russel, Collen Construction

Safety Representative of the Year Award Runner Up

Ronan Molloy, Baxter Healthcare



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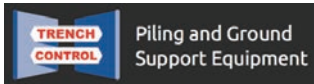
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Ballymore Eustace Watermain Replacement



To safeguard the water supply to 1.7 million customers in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) a major trunk watermain that connects Ballymore Eustace Water Treatment Plant and the Saggart Reservoir was replaced. Specialist crews from Uisce Éireann and Local Authorities turned off the water to the trunk main on Monday night with repair and excavation crews working around the clock to repair the pipeline. Critical repairs were completed in the early hours of Wednesday morning and water is now refilling the network.

Finglas Merville 38Kv FCC Replacement

The Finglas Merville 38kV FCC replacement project was in collaboration with ESB Networks. This upgrade initiative entails the replacement of approximately 2km of aging power cables along the R135. Given that the existing cables have surpassed 60 years in service, the installation of new cables is crucial to ensuring the ongoing reliability of electricity supply in the Finglas Merville area.



Greenlink UXO in Wales



GMC Utilities has completed UXO (unexploded ordnance) and archaeological investigation on behalf of Sumitomo Electric and Greenlink Interconnector. The works happened in the Devil's Quoit area of Freshwater Beach, Pembrokeshire, in West Wales, in preparation for the offshore drill works. As part of the investigations, a standing stone, associated cremations, and flint finds, have been discovered. These finds are prehistoric and are somewhere in the region of 4,000-6,000 years old.

NISO's annual conference highlights workplace mental health

With current trends in safety showing a strong focus on mental health, it is no surprise that employee wellbeing and psychological hazards was a common theme at NISO's 60th annual conference. This hugely successful conference event and trade exhibition was followed by the NISO/NISG (Northern Ireland Safety Group) Annual Safety Awards in Killarney on October 11th.

Opening the conference event, NISO president Fergal McKevitt welcomed a huge turnout of delegates from a diverse range of sectors and industries across Ireland.

WorkPositive tool

The first speaker, Conor O'Brien, chief executive officer of the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) spoke about striking a balance between regulation and influencing. Referring to the new strategy for the Authority in 2025, he said they would continue to prioritise occupational health and related workplace inspections. He encouraged delegates to use Work Positive, a free tool for psychosocial risk management, emphasising its applicability for both private and public sector companies.

Delays in claims

On the topic of injury claims, Hilary McGouran, head of mediation with the Injuries Resolution Board (IRB)



NISO president Fergal McKevitt



(formerly Personal Injuries Assessment Board [PIA]) said that mediation can expedite claims and avoid delays which can cause hardship and distress for those involved.

Mediation services are now available for employer liability claims and public liability claims, she said. Motor accident claims, which form the majority of claims, would be available for mediation before the end of 2024.

Corporate memory loss

Next to speak was Kay Doyle, director of health and safety with Irish Rail. Compliance, she said, is very important, specifically referring to the European Railway Agency's Safety Management System. The 'Rule Book' is key part of the safety management system, she added, which is essential to reduce the risk from accidents. Irish Rail is currently developing a "Just Culture" approach to safety. This encourages an environment where people are not punished or blamed for making mistakes, said Kay.

Wellbeing and menopause

Brian Crooke, founder of Workplace Wellbeing Ireland, spoke about the meaning of a healthy workplace. Pointing to the role of health and safety professionals, he said they are in a prime position to avail of organisational roles involving employee wellbeing. Upskilling and training in the area of wellbeing is also important he said, and useful resources include the ISO 45003 Psychological Health and Safety at Work standards, and the Health & Safety Executive Management Standards.

Menopause

Continuing on the topic of employee health, Grainne Schmitz from the Menopause Hub told her story of working whilst experiencing menopause symptoms. She said symptoms such as insomnia, anxiety and brain fog were the hardest to deal with. She talked about struggling to do her job and the reassurance she received from her manager at the time, which helped her to cope. Pointing to



L to R: Tony Joyce, Jones Engineering Group; Dr Victor Hrymak, TU Dublin; Quentin Guimont, Kratos Safety; Fergal McKeivitt, NISO President.

startling statistics, she said that 77% of women did not tell their employer their real reason for time off work when it related to menopause symptoms. She called for better training and awareness for managers in particular.

Two darts

Next to speak was Louise Dennison O'Shaughnessy, founder of the Dennison Training Academy, an EHS International company. She focused on three areas: understanding your thoughts, managing stress, and reducing workplace conflict. The importance of being aware of one's thoughts cannot be underestimated with 80% of our thoughts being negative and 90% repetitive, she said. In relation to stress, she said it causes 90% of all physical health issues and practising gratitude can help lower stress levels.

Fall protection

Moving onto safe work at height practices, Quentin Guimont, sales and countries manager with Kratos Safety highlighted the risk from falls from Mobile Elevated Work Platforms (MEWPs). The right equipment should stop the fall, on the shortest distance,

with the smallest amount of impact energy on the user, he explained. Recommending the use of I-be Safe, he said it is a helpful tool to calculate the minimum clear distance under the operator's feet.

Fire safety

Dr Victor Hrymak, lecturer, researcher and consultant in fire and safety, who works in Technological University Dublin, spoke about the topic of competence, building safety legislation and fire risk assessment. In particular, he referred to the Grenfell Tower fire in 2017. He recommended that engaging a person with the relevant training, experience and knowledge was essential for fire safety.

Safety cynics

Michael O'Connor, the QEHSS (Quality, Environment, Health, Safety, Sustainability) director with Mercury Engineering spoke about recognising we are surrounded by everyday risk takers and safety cynics. These are the people we want to get home safe every day. Safety is not a roadblock to productivity, he said. It is about changing some of the language, for

example, Mercury have replaced "clean as you go", with "nothing on the floor". Instead of "stopping the programme", they use "pause the programme".

Future risks

A report developed by Arup in conjunction with the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH), "Towards a safe and healthy future of work", was discussed by James Pomeroy, director of global health and safety at Arup, an engineering and professional services firm.

It is broken into three key chapters, explained Mr. Pomeroy. The future of work, future risks and opportunities for health, safety and wellbeing, and the evolving occupational safety and health profession. The report's what if questioning style is useful to prompt workplace discussion on future risks. "What if industries aren't equipped to meet the needs of an ageing workforce? What if climate becomes the primary health and safety risk? What if gig work becomes the norm leading to fewer social protections for workers?"

Margaret Kirby



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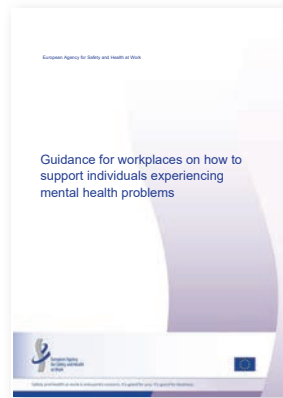


Find out more

New Publications

Guidance for workplaces on how to support individuals experiencing mental health problems

Workers experiencing mental health problems usually want to continue to work. This report offers workplaces practical information on measures that can be taken to support these workers to work or return to work after sickness absence.



A primary recommendation is that mental health problems should be treated in the same way as physical health problems. Equally important is preventing work-related risks that could impact workers' mental health and wellbeing. The report provides practical examples of inexpensive and simple accommodations that can help them support and retain workers.

Available at osha.europa.eu

Occupational safety and health in Europe: state and trends 2023

The report describes the state of occupational safety and health in the EU, and covers current trends and the developments. It uses data that were compiled in the frame of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work activity 'EU OSH Information System' and combines quantitative indicators with explanatory and analytical descriptions.



The report covers trends that reach back between 10 and 25 years — depending on the availability of reliable data and methodological issues. It also takes into account relevant contextual factors and OSH infrastructures. Finally, it concludes with an overview on improvements, stagnating and ambiguous developments, and areas of concern.

Available at osha.europa.eu

A manual for managing chronic diseases and preventing the risk of acquiring disabilities

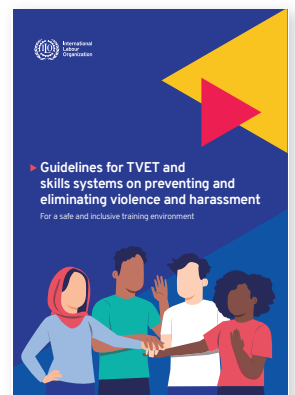
This European Commission manual aims to support people who have a chronic disease or a disability at work. It contains practical information and suggestions to improve their working conditions, explaining employers how to make a workplace safer and more inclusive by fostering active listening and communication, among others.



Available at osha.europa.eu

Guidelines for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and skills systems on preventing and eliminating violence and harassment

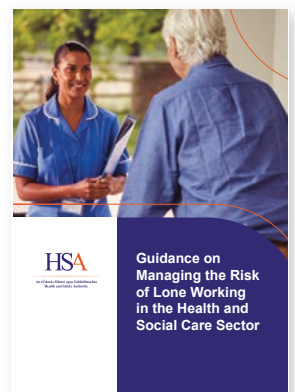
These guidelines from the International Labour Organization (ILO) are designed to support all stakeholders in TVET and skills systems including governments, employers' and workers' organisations, to champion inclusive, safe and healthy learning environments. They offer actionable strategies, checklists and campaign material to guide TVET managers and other actors on how to best protect learners, trainers, staff, and all those involved in skills development systems from all forms of violence and harassment.



Available at ilo.org

Guidance on Managing the Risk of Lone Working in the Health and Social Care Sector

This guidance document considers any employee working alone in the health and social care sector who can be described as a lone worker. It provides advice on how to ensure a safe and healthy working environment for health and social care lone workers in the health and social care sector.



Available at hsa.ie

Occupational Safety and Health Guidance on Vulnerable Workers in the Workplace

The purpose of this guidance is to raise awareness around the identification of vulnerable workers in the workplace and their occupational safety and health needs.

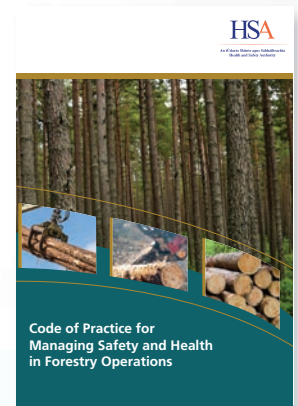
Available at hsa.ie



Code of Practice for Managing Safety and Health in Forestry

This updated Code of Practice was required due to many outdated references following various amendments to regulations since the Code's original publication (2009). The updated Code of Practice has also deleted references to several UK Arboriculture and Forestry Advisory Group (AFAG) guidance documents as the Authority developed ten relevant guides on this topic. The Health and Safety Authority guides are now referenced within the revised Code. This Code of Practice came into operation on 1 May 2023 and from that date it revokes and replaces the previous Code of Practice for Managing Safety and Health in Forestry Operations which was published in 2009.

Available at hsa.ie



FATAL WORKPLACE INJURIES BY ECONOMIC SECTOR 2013–2024 (NACE REVISION 2)

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
A Agriculture + forestry + fishing	10	16+1+3	14+0+0	10+1+0	20+0+3	20+0+3	15+1+4	25+0+2	21+1+4	18+1+5	32+0+1
B Mining and quarrying	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
C Manufacturing	0	1	0	5	4	2	2	0	2	3	3
D Electricity; gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
E Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	3	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	3	0
F Construction	4	10	7	10	17	12	5	6	10	11	6
G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and personal goods	4	2	1	2	4	2	2	3	2	3	5
H Transportation and storage	3	2	1	6	2	6	8	5	1	3	3
I Accommodation and food service activities	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
J Information and communication	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
K Financial and insurance activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
L Real estate activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M Professional, scientific and technical activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
N Administrative and support service activities	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	2
O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	5	1	4	0
P Education	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q Human health and social work activities	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
R Arts, entertainment and recreation	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	1
S Other service activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	28	43	28	38	55	49	39	48	48	56	55

Source: HSA, correct at 1 October 2024. Note that some accidents may be under investigation and may not have been recorded yet.

NISO TRAINING AND EVENTS

For further details and to book visit <https://niso.ie/shop/>

TRAINING SCHEDULED AT NISO TRAINING CENTRE, DUBLIN 12 AND/OR ONLINE

SOLAS Safe Pass (1 day)

Kilkenny: 9 November; 7 December
Clonmel: 16 November; 14 December
Carlow: 23 November
Wexford: 30 November

DSE-VDU Risk Assessor Course (Online)

NISO Certificate (1 day)
21 November

NISO Safety Representation Course (Online)

5-6 December

NISO CERTIFICATE IN SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE AT WORK

13 weeks / 2 hours per week (evenings)

Midland Region

Venue: TUS Athlone
Commencing February 2025

Dublin / Online

Venue: NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12 and/or online
Commencing 18 February 2025

Western Region

Venue: Castlebar ATU
Commencing February 2025

SEMINAR: NAVIGATING RETURN TO WORK PLANNING FOR ABSENT EMPLOYEES (Online) 21 November 2024

EVENTS IN THE REGIONS

East Region

NISO East AGM

Venue TBC
20 February 2025

Safety Quiz Heat

Venue TBC
20 February 2025

Midland Region

NISO Midland AGM

Sheraton Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath
26 March 2025

Safety Quiz Heat

Sheraton Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath
6 March 2025

Mid West Region

NISO Mid West AGM

Greenhills Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick
15 January 2025

Safety Quiz Heat

Greenhills Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick
26 March 2025

North East Region

NISO North East AGM

Errigal Country House Hotel, Cootehill, Co. Cavan
5 March 2025

Safety Quiz Heat

Errigal Country House Hotel, Cootehill, Co. Cavan
5 March 2025

North West Region

NISO North West AGM

Venue TBC
9 December 2024

Safety Quiz Heat

Clayton Hotel, Clarion Road, Sligo
13 March 2025

South Region

NISO South AGM

Radisson Blu Hotel, Little Island, Cork
5 March 2025

Safety Quiz Heat

Radisson Blu Hotel, Little Island, Cork
5 March 2025

South East Region

NISO South East AGM

Date & Venue TBC

Safety Quiz Heat

Date & Venue TBC

West Region

NISO West AGM

Oranmore Lodge Hotel, Co. Galway
6 March 2025

Safety Quiz Heat

Oranmore Lodge Hotel, Co. Galway
6 March 2025

NATIONAL EVENTS

NISO National 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

