

AKEVA UPDATE



Another month has gone by and many of you have been keeping us busy with writing/updating Health & Safety Policies, Safety Management Files, Risk Assessments, CDM Plans and carrying out Fire Audits.

CDM Co-ordinator

Kev has attended and passed an APS (Association for Project Safety) approved CDM Co-ordinators course. He has received his certification and will soon be applying for membership with APS. Please email us if you need a copy of these certificates or Kev's updated Curriculum Vitae.

OHSAS 18001

Several of you have shown an interest in this international Health and Safety standard, as mentioned in last month's newsletter. Therefore Kev has been booked on a one day introductory course on 17th September to find out more about the standard before embarking on the full Auditor's course next year. We will provide more information in later newsletters, so watch this space.

New Service from Akeva

Contractors Questionnaires—we have recently been asked by a couple of our customers if we could carry out the approval process for the contractors they use. We have now decided to offer this as a standard service so if anyone is interested, please contact us.

We have revamped the Contractor Questionnaire form, so for those you that already have this form, will receive an updated version soon. (See Page 3 article on contractors questionnaires).

Free Advertising

In addition to the monthly customer feature slot, we are offering to include a page for all of our customers to advertise their services / products. Our newsletter is not only provided to all our customers but to potential customers too. Those interested should forward a copy of their advert to us by email.

£50 Voucher

We have chosen to reward any of our members who recommend / introduce a new client, who subsequently takes our membership, with a £50 Voucher to be used against any of the Akeva Open Courses.

New Office

With our customer base expanding, room is getting tight. So we are moving into a bigger office that has access to conference room facilities for training courses. Current contact details still apply.

EXCAVATOR OPERATOR CONVICTED OF MANSLAUGHTER!

In July last year, following 4 fatal injuries involving quick hitches, the HSE released guidance on what actions it expected companies to take with regards quick-hitches on excavators. This information was quickly disseminated around relevant organisations who then took subsequent action. In September last year there was yet another accident involving a semi-automatic quick hitch which resulted in the injured person dying three days later.

The quick hitch was made by Miller who took an immediate interest in the accident and dispatched its quality



systems manager to investigate. On reaching the site he found that the safety pin was in place, but there was no evidence of wear and tear considering it had been 'used' for 4 years!

An HSE investigation ensued which resulted in the excavator driver pleading guilty to manslaughter and was then sentenced to 12 months in prison.

The article I read started with the words 'What a pity somebody had to die and another go to jail to highlight the bad practice that is going on in industry'. That statement says it all. I work reasonably closely with most of you who are currently reading this and

I can honestly say that most of you are serious about health and safety. Unfortunately there are individuals who think it is never going to happen to them, or because of them, but it does.

On one site recently I spoke to an operative using a Kango without hearing protection and he thought it was his lookout if he lost his hearing because he 'volunteered' for the risk. So how can we change this behaviour or influence these attitudes? Well it will continue to be a long hard struggle but we need to carry on with inductions, toolbox talks, monitoring and re-introduce a long forgotten tradition, the safety awareness course. With perseverance, we will get there!

TELEHANDLER DRIVER RECEIVES 400 VOLT SHOCK

A telehandler driver received a severe electric shock from hidden live underground cabling that his employers knew about. The incident happened at an East Yorkshire construction site where two new detached houses were being built.

One of the telehandler drivers duties, at the end of each shift, was to tidy the site and clear debris from the site roads. On the day of the accident, the driver went to part of the site to clear an area of bricks and

mortar on the ground near where a termination box had been buried by the local electricity company. However the cabling was on a busy site road which had been considerably churned up and subsequently exposed the box.

Thinking it was a piece of plastic, the driver went to pick it up and received a nasty 400-volt electric shock.

The telehandler drivers employers were criticised because they knew about

the cable but had made no attempt to protect it or provide cable plans showing its location.

The company pleaded guilty to breaching reg.3(1) of the Management Regulations 1999 by failing to make an adequate assessment of the risks posed to workers from live underground cables, and under reg.14 of the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989, for its failure to take appropriate



measures to ensure the safety of persons working in proximity to live underground cables. It was fined £2000 for each breach and told to pay £1616 in full costs.

NEW EQUIPMENT

During recent site inspections I have come across some new innovations for working at height, well they are new to me anyway, and I must say that I was very impressed. The 2 items are a mobile tower and set of podiums. What's new about that I hear you say? Well these items are folding and easily portable.

RAZOR DECK

Razor Deck is the first non-powered self erecting tower. Each height is achieved simply by pushing each section into place and each move is assisted by internal pre tensioned springs making the controlled ascent and decent smooth and effortless.



With Razor Deck there are no loose components to lose or to assemble in the incorrect manor, so making the product safe to use after minimal training. The unit unfolds from a compact easily manoeuvred base and simply opens out to the desired heights. Adjustable integral outriggers provide additional stability and the ample deck provides space and support for the operative and tools.

Small enough to fit in the back of a large estate car, yet big enough to give a working height of up to 4 metres.

U-GO PODIUM STEP

A podium step is a low level work platform which has been designed to replace step ladders. The U-Go Pak-Flat Podium meets the WAHR requirements and is ideal for use in place of steps and ladders. Ideal for air conditioning engineers, ceiling fitters & electricians.



The podium comes in 2 sizes

- the Pak-Flat 950 has platform heights of 750mm and 950mm and weighs just 25kg
- the Pak-Flat 750 has platform heights of 500mm and 750mm and weighs 23kg

There are no detachable parts and the podium takes just 30 seconds to erect. The platforms can take a load of 150kg.

FIRE SAFETY ORDER COMPANY FINED



A company that was attacked by arsonists twice in a 12 hour period was prosecuted by the local Fire and Rescue Service.

An investigation following the fires revealed that there had been a build up of combustible materials throughout the premises. These combustible materials had even been allowed to build up around a number of gas cylinders.

The company was prosecuted for breaches of the Fire Safety Order for:

- Failing to take general precautions to ensure employees' safety
- Failing to ensure fire fighting equipment was accessible and fire call points were clear.
- Failing to keep emergency exits clear.

The prosecution resulted in a £3,000 fine for the company and each of its two Directors plus a total of £1,255 in costs.

CUSTOMER'S SLOT

We are continuing with our regular slot in which one of our customers has the opportunity to make themselves known in our newsletter. In this edition, the 'slot' features a reasonably new customer to us but one that has shown an immediate interest in developing its Safety Management Systems. This customer is Saffron Commercial Tiling Ltd.



Saffron Commercial Tiling Ltd

SAFFRON COMMERCIAL TILING LTD

Including Project
Management of Commercial Interior Finishes.

SCT cover a whole range of internal finishing trades, which is a great benefit to the client. The client interfaces with just one sub-contractor instead of having to deal with 4 or 5 separate trades on the same project. The Directors of SCT originate from professional backgrounds which include; Project Management, Quality Assurance and Quantity Surveying, it enables SCT to approach and plan projects in a professional manner. SCT will manage all trades as a "One Stop Shop" in line with the Health & Safety Requirements which gives the client more freedom to concentrate on other aspects of their project, knowing that they can rely on SCT to deliver within the expected time frame and on budget. SCT also take into consideration the quality and finishing aspect that SCT's clients clearly deserve.

Our Company offers the following in relation to Interior Finishes;

- Paint & Decorating
- Wall & Floor Tiling
- All Floor Finishes (Altro, Amtico, Carpets, Wood Flooring etc)
- Floor Levelling (Latexing)

If you are interested in our service please contact Perry or Chris Francis by email on perryfrancisct@btconnect.com / chrisfrancisct@btconnect.com or

HOW SAFE ARE YOUR CONTRACTORS?

Most of you have been spending the time and money making sure that your safety management systems are in place but are you leaving yourselves exposed by not ensuring that the contractors you use are working to the same standards?

So who are contractors? Well they are the specialists that you use, but do not employ directly, to carry out works on your behalf such as plumbers, electricians, builders and even the cleaners in your offices.

The way contractors work can have an affect on your company that could leave you open to litigation. So, it is important that you only employ contractors that are competent.

One of the more common ways of checking the competence of contractors is to ask them to complete a questionnaire that will determine the suitability of their safety management systems. But is this enough? Well, quite frankly it isn't. Contractors need to provide evidence to support their replies to the questions you ask.

Once the questionnaire and supporting evidence has been returned, there must be a fair and reasonable way of assessing the results. Good contractor questionnaires need to have some kind of scoring system.

The most important part is that the

approval process is followed through to the end and that companies that employ contractors can justify their method of approval.

You may already have a questionnaire that fulfils your needs. If not, let us do the donkey work for you, we can complete the whole process from sending the form to final approval. However, you may feel that you only want assistance with part of the process, such as customising your own questionnaire or the assessment of those questionnaires. All you then have to do is manage the contractors on site, if approved.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to talk to us.

BRIEF HEADLINES

Illegal working platform

Darlington magistrates fined a construction firm £15,000 with £3,193 in costs and ordered to pay £5,000 in compensation to an injured worker for failing to have a safe working plan. The employee fell from a saw horse he was using as a working platform.

Health and safety penalties set to rise

The Health and Safety (Offences) Bill has passed through the House of Commons and is now on its way to the House of Lords. The Bill aims to raise the level of the maximum fines that can be given by the courts for breaches of health and safety legislation.

Britain to keep 48 hour opt-out

The EU have come to an agreement that will allow Britain to keep its opt-out from the 48 hour maximum working week. The

legal ceiling for total working hours per week will be reduced from 79 hour to between 60 and 65 hours

Teenager loses leg in forklift accident

A company was fined £5,500 and ordered to pay £1,900 costs after a teenaged worker had to have his leg amputated following a forklift accident. The 18 year old worker had not been trained to drive the forklift and the working area was not suitable for the machine as it was muddy and full of potholes.

PUWER fine overturned

A company had its fine overturned after the Court of Appeal ruled that it could not be held liable for a non-employee using a perfectly good ladder incorrectly. A computer engineer had taken the ladder, which was too short for his needs, and had subsequently fallen.

DON'T LET A DODGY LADDER SHATTER YOUR LIFE—EXCHANGE IT

Starting from **1st September HSE**, along with partner companies and Local Authorities around the country, will be participating in a GB-wide Ladder Exchange initiative which will seek to remove 5,000 dodgy ladders out of the workplace. As part of this initiative partner companies will offering up to 50% discount on a new ladder in part exchange for your bent, broken or battered ladder. Local Authorities will be conducting Ladder inspections as part of their visits. Ladders that are broken, bent or battered or unfit for purpose could result in enforcement action. For more information visit <http://www.hse.gov.uk/falls/>

TRAINING COURSES

CITB SITE SUPERVISOR SAFETY TRAINING SCHEME (SSSTS) - 2 DAY

Dates: 10th & 11th September 2008
Location: Harlow, Essex
Cost: £350.00 (+ VAT) per person*
This includes CITB publications per student Registration with the CITB Lunch and refreshments

CITB SITE MANAGERS SAFETY TRAINING SCHEME (SMSTS) - 5 DAY

Dates: 16th, 23rd, 30th Sept, 7th & 14th Oct 2008
Location: Cecil House, Harlow Common
Cost: £640 (+ VAT) per person*
This includes CITB publications per student Registration with the CITB, Lunch and refreshment

HEALTH & SAFETY FOR DIRECTORS & SENIOR MANAGERS

(incorporating the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007)
Dates: 21st October 2008
Location: TBA (Possibly West London)
Cost: £150.00 (+ VAT) per person*
This includes: Lunch and refreshments

CONSTRUCTION (DESIGN & MANAGEMENT) 2007

Dates: 21st October 2008
Location: Harlow, Essex
Cost: £150.00 (+ VAT) per person*
This includes: Lunch and refreshments

*If you are in-scope and registered with CITB-ConstructionSkills you may be able to claim a grant to offset the cost (full details can be found on www.cskills.org/grant).

Note: Minimum numbers are required for all courses to run.

Please contact us if you would like more information on one or more of the above training courses.

Akeva arranges open courses to suit our customers demands, if there is not a scheduled open course for the training you desire, please contact us.

