

Meridian Insite

9/11 survivors didn't evacuate immediately

- *Delaying action can mean life or death. 9/11 valuable lesson*
- *Changes to Factories Act 1961 & Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963*
- *Are your employees safety trained? How can we help?*
- *What are the HSE banning next?*
- *HSE safety alert texting service*
- *Building control to report your safety failings to HSE*

Recent research involving face-to-face interviews of 9/11 survivors may save many lives in the future

Research has found that almost all survivors of the 9/11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre delayed their evacuation in order to carry out non essential tasks.

More than 90% sought further information or undertook a range of duties such as saving documents or changing footwear before leaving.

Most survivors did not leave for up to half an hour while they gathered papers, turned off their computers or went to the bathroom.

Less than a tenth fled as soon as the alarm was raised.

Occupants seeking information about what was happening took between 1.5 and 2.6 times longer to respond

Congestion on the stairs was the main cause of delay, even though the Twin Towers were less than one-third full.

Computer simulations of the evacuation of the North Tower suggest that had the building been fully occupied at the time of the attack, some 7,592 people would have died in the North Tower alone.

Five rules that could mean life or death in an emergency :

- Lesson 1:** Don't do anything to delay your departure
- Lesson 2:** Know your way out of the building
- Lesson 3:** Don't stop to call



Less than one tenth fled as the alarms were sounded

- and reassure friends or family
- Lesson 4:** Don't discard your shoes on the stairs
- Lesson 5:** Know how long it will take to get out

Inside this issue:

Legal changes that may effect you	2
Health and safety law case studies	2
HSE health and safety myths	2
Meridian Safety and Training Solutions	3
National asbestos campaign	3
HSE text messaging safety alert service	4
Rouges gallery	4

Has health & Safety gone mad again?

Qualifications required to wear Wellington boots

Staff of local District Council were unable to retrieve a dustbin from a four-inch deep stream because they weren't qualified to wear Wellington boots and a safety harness.

Instead, local residents had to wade in to clear the bin and its load of filthy rubbish after a bizarre ruling from Chichester District Council.

One astounded villager said "it's an absolute joke. The bin had been placed on a footpath by a resident for passers-by to put litter into it. But when it ended up in the stream, they contacted the council who said – 'We don't have anyone qualified to wear Wellingtons'.

71-year-old grandmother added: "It was easily accessible. I could get down there quite easily."

A Council spokeswoman said: "We do have health and safety

strategies for all members of staff."



Wellington boot training required!



Legal changes that may effect your organisation

Employer failed to provide adequate safety training or an adequate risk assessment



To ban or not to ban! That is the question

Health, safety & environmental legal changes

Repeals and Modifications to the Factories Act 1961 and Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

The HSE are consulting on proposals that would have the effect of removing some form-filling requirements for UK businesses operating from factories, offices, shops or certain railway premises.

In the opinion of the HSE, certain legal requirements could be removed without affecting current health and safety protection, in particular:

- ◆ **Premises Notification** – At present, this must be completed by employers to inform the HSE or the local authority about any factory, office, shop and certain railway premises where employees work.
- ◆ **General Register** – This is a set of records that must be held by factory employers.

Standard Release Dates for Health & Safety Legislation Changes

Domestic changes to UK health and safety regulations will only be implemented on two days each year, namely 6th April and 1st October.

The aim is to ease pressure on those who have to implement the changes. This should benefit smaller organisations that do not have the resources to constantly monitor changes throughout the year and it will help everyone to coordinate their activities in preparation for implementation.

This only applies to UK legal changes. The HSE are unable to impose the same control over legislation changes arising from Europe but will attempt to align their introduction where possible.

Lack of training contributes to major injury

Failure to provide safety training contributed to accident

A firm has been found guilty after a failure to offer safety training to an employee contributed to an accident resulting in major injuries whilst working at height.

Demolition Dismantling Services was fined £3,350 plus £3,000 in costs after a labourer fell from a roof at a site on the Wirral.

Pleading guilty to its breaches of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, the firm

admitted liability for the five metre fall which caused serious leg and pelvic injuries.

The company had not provided suitable safety training, conducted an adequate risk assessment or provided equipment which could have reduced the damage.

An HSE inspector said "The labourer was given a job for which he had absolutely no training, was working from an inadequate platform and there was no other form of fall protection. This accident could easily have resulted in this employees death.

HSE bans this, that and the other!

The HSE are banning all sorts. Or are they? What are the facts?

There have been many reports that the HSE are responsible for banning all sorts of things. For example, flip flops at work, knitting in hospitals, conkers in schools, use of stepladders etc.

It was widely reported that a fire station was built without the traditional pole for 'health and safety' reasons. The county's Chief Fire Officer said: 'Whilst every consideration regarding health and safety was taken into account, the reason a pole was

not included was purely due to space restrictions.' Poles are not banned and fire-fighters in the UK continue to use them.

Truthfully, HSE has banned very little outright, apart from a very few high-risk exceptions (e.g. asbestos which kills over 5,000 individuals a year). HSE believes that health and safety should be about taking practical steps to manage real risks, not bureaucracy leading to the banning of everyday activities.

Next time you hear of a so called 'ban', if in doubt check it out on the HSE's website: www.hse.gov.uk/myth/index.htm

Meridian SAFETY & TRAINING SOLUTIONS

Health, Safety & Environmental Consultancy; Site Monitoring; CDM Coordination; Accident Investigation; Training; Safety Management System Development & Audit

Meridian specialise in safety solutions for the construction industry. However, through our network of experience advisors and trainers we can also meet the needs of other allied industries. We can provide a range of professional services for the ever changing needs of your organisation. Whatever your Occupational health, safety and environmental needs are, Meridian will tailor a solution for your company that is both practical and meets the requirements of today's complex legislation. We all agree that 'the safe way is the right way', but it usually comes at a price! At Meridian, we subscribe to the idea that safety is a cheap and effective insurance policy. It isn't expensive, its priceless! Ignoring safety is not an option for any sensible company. So why not invite Meridian Safety Solutions to assist your organisation and provide a cost effective service.

Our training courses offer exceptional value for money, being competitively priced and tailored, where possible, to suit your specific training needs. Each course has been carefully developed and mapped, where applicable, to statutory requirements and national occupational standards. Each course can be held in the comfort of your own companies facilities, where suitable, or at a carefully selected venue convenient for your company. Here is a selection of our courses:

Site Safety Plus (CITB Construction Skills):

- ◆ Site Management Safety Training Scheme (5 day - £585 or 2 day refresher - £355)
- ◆ Health and Safety Awareness for Managers and Supervisors (2 day - £355)
- ◆ Health and Safety Awareness for Building Operatives (1 day - £130)

Work at Height Safety Training:

- ◆ Safe Working at Height (1 day - £145)
- ◆ Scaffolding Awareness and Inspection (1 day - £125)
- ◆ Advanced Scaffolding Awareness and Inspection (2 day - £275)
- ◆ PASMA Prefabricated Tower Scaffold (1 day - £125)

CDM and Risk Assessment:

- ◆ CDM Regulations and Implementation (1 day - £145)
- ◆ Risk Assessment for Managers and Supervisors (1 day - £95)

Practical Operative Training:

- ◆ Abrasive Wheels (½ day - £75)
- ◆ Manual Handling Principals (½ day - £75)
- ◆ Fire Safety (½ day - £85)
- ◆ First Aid at Work (4 day - £230); Appointed Person (1 day - £90); Refresher (2 day - £150)

If the course you require is not shown in the list above please contact Meridian Safety Solutions. Bespoke and in-House courses may also be arranged. Prices are per delegate and exclude VAT. We will provide all the necessary learning materials, handouts, workbooks and certificates etc.

Asbestos: The hidden killer

HSE Asbestos Awareness Campaign

After the success of a North West Pilot campaign, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is carrying out a nationwide asbestos campaign to increase awareness among tradesmen of the risks of being exposed to asbestos.

The campaign entitled 'Asbestos: The hidden killer', launched in October, is aimed at making tradesmen more aware of asbestos and the risks to their health and lives.

Every year 4000 people die of asbestos, which is more than those killed annually in road traffic accidents. In Great Britain we are in the middle of an epidemic due to a legacy from years gone by. It is now expected that asbestos deaths will peak to nearly 5000.

Meridian Safety Solutions can now provide a one day comprehensive Asbestos Awareness training course for your company. Please call for further information.



Meridian Safety and Training solutions for your organisation

Managers and supervisors require safety training

Operatives need suitable practical safety training

Are your employees competent?



Are you aware of the health risks from this?



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
www.meridiansafety.co.uk

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A text from the HSE!

HSE are trialing a new SMS text message safety alert service for the construction industry

Sign up to receive news and other information via text message to your mobile phone. Texts will summarise what's new and include links to the relevant HSE web pages for further details. It's completely free (although users will be charged at their standard mobile network rate to subscribe and unsubscribe). See HSE website for further information: www.hse.gov.uk/construction/infonet.htm



Text alert!

Site Safety Under New Scrutiny

Watch out, building control inspectors will soon be reporting health and safety failings to the HSE

We understand that the relationship between the Building Control Regulations and health & safety and the Construction Design and Management Regulations 2007 (CDM) has changed. Building Control will now be supporting the HSE during their building control site inspections.

A joint inspection regime is being trialled by the HSE's Luton Office (which covers Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire and includes the Milton Keynes, Luton and Aylesbury areas).

Building Inspectors will report and photograph dangerous working practices to the HSE as part of their site visits.

The CDM Regulations 2007 introduced the requirement to ensure that buildings are not just safe to build, maintain and demolish, but also "safe for use". This appears to have aligned CDM with Building Control Regulations. Safe for use has always been a building control issue. Now it seems that they're joining forces!

Peter Galsworthy, HSE's principal inspector in Luton, says that the initiative will focus on high risk activities such as falls from height. If this scheme proves to be successful, it will eventually be rolled out nationally.



Will your building control officer be telling on you?

Rogues gallery:

Send us your good or bad practice pictures. Either post them or email them to admin@meridiansafety.co.uk

