

Health & Safety Update



Established 1996

**Maximising your health and safety at work
Together we can do something wonderful for you,
your employees and your business.**

Health and Safety/ Human Resource Trainers & Consultants

3 Waterville

Enniscrone

Co. Sligo

Tel: 096 37608

Mob: 086 2437677

Email: info@darlington.ie

Website: www.darlington.ie

We welcome your views, ideas and suggestions on this Newsletter at any time – please email your thoughts to: info@darlington.ie. You are receiving this Newsletter because you are on Darlington Consulting's database of clients, colleagues and friends. Feel free to share or forward it on to colleagues and friends.

The aim of this monthly Health and Safety Update is to keep you informed about Health, Safety and Welfare and HR News. **Darlington Consulting is here to get you out of trouble - not get you into it!**

Do you know someone looking for a job?

In August 2011 there were 469,713 people signing on the Live Register and the standardised unemployment rate was 14.4% (figures courtesy of Central Statistics Office). If you are looking for work you need to package yourself professionally in terms of your CV, your letter of application, your performance at interview etc. Mary Darlington is now offering a suite of services to help job seekers as follows: Job Hunting Plan, CV Writing, Interview Preparation, Mock Interview and Presentation Skills Training. These are one-to-one and confidential. Mary is a Chartered Fellow of CIPD and has 20+ years recruitment experience hiring people at all levels in small and large companies. She has also chaired top level interview boards for the Public Service. For more information call Mary on 086 2437677. [Click here](#) to see her Top 10 CV Tips for job seekers.

Kick from 'spooked' horse led to fatality

An experienced horsewoman died after she was kicked by a horse which became "spooked" when she grabbed it by the head-collar, an inquest has heard. The woman was with a friend who was

bringing in two horses from a field at his home, when she was kicked by one of them in June 2011. HSA Inspector, Peter O'Connell, said it was an "unfortunate accident" For more [click here](#)

Farming Safety

Speaking at a recent HSA/Teagasc international farm safety event, HSA CEO, Martin O'Halloran, said that the major challenge in Ireland is to change the culture to a strong 'safety first' mindset. "Our farm safety visits and prevention activities are very much geared towards influencing a positive change in attitudes. This year our 3,000 farm safety visits are focusing on the main danger areas; tractors & machinery and working with livestock. We are also prioritising efforts aimed at children and the elderly on farms, both of whom are particularly vulnerable." [Click here for full press release](#). Farm fatalities stood at 17 at 31st August 2011 – [click here for more statistics](#).

N.I. worker left brain damaged after forklift truck accident

Meat processing company Linden Foods Ltd has been ordered to pay £25,000 after an employee was left "close to a vegetative state" when packing crates fell on

top of him at the Dungannon premises. The forks on the pallet truck the worker was using had forks one metre long but the Euro pallet he was lifting was only 80cm deep so the forks "protruded out by 20cm and into the stack behind" adding that when he lifted it, they fell on him. The electric pallet truck he was operating had no overhead protection against falling objects. He suffered severe head injuries when and now lives in a nursing home and cannot communicate in any way or do things for himself. **For more click [here](#)**

Fire occurs at Glasgow fire station

Fire-fighters based at Polmadie Community Fire Station in Glasgow have tackled a blaze at their own station. Two rooms were damaged in the incident, which took place after an electrical fault triggered a fire in the station's ceiling and light smoke filtered through to other areas in the station. **For more click [here](#)**

Health and Safety Training

Now that we are all back at work after our Summer break it is time to plan your health and safety training programme for 2011/2012. Where do you start – you might ask? Look at the near misses, incidents, accidents or injuries you are having. Look at the overall health and safety performance of your organisation and at the issues that are causing you problems in the workplace. Another key area to look at is the level of safety management skills your Management Team does not have and that will also guide you. If you are keen to develop Safety Leadership skills among your Management, Team Leaders and key staff then Mary Darlington can develop a course specifically for your organisation. Training is never wasted. It is one of the best investments you can make. Together we can do something wonderful for your staff and your business. **For more click [here](#)**

Absenteeism costing €1.5bn annually

Absenteeism is costing businesses in Ireland €1.5bn per year, according to a new report from IBEC. The study found that a total of 11 million days are lost as a result of absence each year and the cost of absenteeism runs to about €818 per employee. Employees missed 5.98 days from work on average, an absence rate of 2.58pc, but this rate was down on the average of 3.38pc recorded in its last absenteeism study in 2004. Call centres recorded the highest absence rate at 3.67pc, while software

firms had the lowest rate at 1.56pc. **For more click [here](#)**

Recent Riots in UK – health and safety issues

In view of the recent riots in UK and the impact on retail businesses and staff Amy Paxton, a senior employment consultant at Croner explores some of the issues including: dealing with violence, the safety of staff travelling to and from work and the issues arising if staff are arrested for being involved in the riots. **For more click [here](#)**

Lack of support for pregnant workers

“Pregnancy At Work: A National Survey” was published recently by the Crisis Pregnancy Programme in conjunction with the Equality Authority and the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). Women who were pregnant while employed reported the following:

- Dismissed while pregnant - 5% ,
- Loss of salary/bonus/denial of promotion - 10%
- Being given unsuitable work/workloads 12%
- Receiving unpleasant comments from managers or co-workers - 8%
- Being discouraged from attending ante-natal appointments during work-time - 8% – even though this is a legal right.
- Overall a third of mothers in work during their pregnancy say they experienced “unfair treatment”. **For more click [here](#)**

New Factsheet on Legionella from Europe

The European Safety Agency has just released a new Factsheet on Legionella and Legionnaires disease. It includes details on: conditions for growth, risk systems for exposure, control and management and details several European initiatives to combat it. **For the Factsheet click [here](#)**

Darlington Consulting can provide advice and training on all of the issues raised in this Newsletter. We are here to advise, guide and train you in all aspects of employee health and safety and HR management. We want to solve problems and ultimately add value to your business. Please call Mary Darlington on 096 37608 or 086 2437677 and or visit our website: www.darlington.ie. If you do not wish to receive this Newsletter please send a blank email with “unsubscribe” in the subject line to: info@darlington.ie and we will remove your email.