
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.**

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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. **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.**

Darlington Consulting is here to get you out of trouble - not get you into it!

Happy New Year to you all

A new year represents a new beginning. Let us all pledge to educate, inform and protect all of those at work that we have a chance to influence. May I wish you all a very happy, safe and prosperous New Year.

Safety Leadership – thoughts for 2012

I have written some of my thoughts for 2012 on the subject of Safety Leadership. In it I provide some statistics to prove that we need it, some comments about what leadership is not as well as a flavor of the latest thinking about leadership – to go to the document on my website click [here](#).

Planning for Health and Safety in 2012

Now is the time to plan your health and safety programme for 2012. Consider the following: When did your Senior Management team last have a Legal Safety briefing? What training do your Line Managers/Team Leaders need this year? What aspects of your business have changed – products,

technologies, equipment, vehicles, chemicals etc. – have all of these changes been implemented safety, with relevant staff trained, procedures updated and the Safety Statement changes to reflect it all? When did you last have a full Safety Audit done by an external person who perhaps can spot hazards and issues that you cannot see? What risk assessments need to be updated? Does your Safety Representative or Safety Committee need further training? Darlington Consulting can assist you to design and implement your plan for 2012.

Fatalities in 2011

According to HSA website updated on 4th January 2012, there were 55 fatalities during the year. Agriculture, forestry and fishing accounted for 27 with 8 in Transportation and Storage and 6 in Construction. See full list – click [here](#)

I'm the lucky one – Farm Campaign

The HSA has launched a hard-hitting new safety campaign aimed at halving the number of fatalities in the farm sector. Entitled 'I'm the lucky one', the

campaign features pictures of a Carlow farmer who lost an arm in an accident involving a diet feeder. Farming remains the most dangerous occupation in Ireland, with 21 people losing their lives in farm related accidents up to 23rd December 2011. For more click [here](#)

Child Safety Wallchart

The Health promotion Section of HSE have produced this this very colourful comprehensive Child Safety Wallchart. It would be a great addition to the kitchen walls in many homes where there are small children. To get the chart click [here](#)

UK Medics accused of putting health and safety before saving lives

Fourteen year old Shannon Powell suffered a violent fit and fell on a muddy track during a cross country race course in January. An ambulance was called but it took nearly an hour for them to finally reach her. When they did, they announced that they couldn't carry the teenager off the muddy hill 'because it's health and safety and we might fall over'. Furthermore, a paramedic said she didn't want to pick up the dying teenager because she might hurt her back. Instead bystanders carried Shannon to the ambulance - she then suffered a second seizure and died. The coroner said Shannon probably would have lived had there not been a 'significant delay' in taking her to hospital because of 'health and safety' concerns. For more click [here](#)

Bosses are the biggest H&S rule-breakers

British bosses lead from the front when it comes to health and safety gaffes in the workplace, according to ELAS. In its survey of 1000 business managers, 88 per cent admitted to breaking at least one basic health and safety regulation in the previous week including:

- 51% admitted to heavy lifting without following the correct procedures
- 49% admitted to using electrical equipment that hadn't been safety tested
- 44% admitted to leaving a slip, trip or fall hazard on the workplace floor
- 26% admitted to risking a fall from height by balancing on the edge of a table or chair to change a light bulb, or reach a high shelf.

For more click [here](#)

UK Company director fined £80,000 over worker's death

A construction company and its managing director have been sentenced after a worker was crushed to death when a crane overturned in Liverpool in 2007. He died when a 50-tonne crane toppled over while moving a steel column. The Court heard the crane had been used to lift the six-tonne steel column when it was nearly 18 metres away, taking it well outside its safe lifting capacity for that distance. The HSE investigation found the crane had not been properly maintained, the external alarm could not be heard by those working nearby and the override switches were also faulty. For more click [here](#)

VW gives workers a rest from Blackberry messages

Volkswagen has agreed to grant workers in Germany rest from e-mails relentlessly filling the inboxes of their Blackberry devices out of hours. The Company has agreed with worker representatives to have the e-mail function deactivated at night. Workers will only receive e-mails from half an hour before the start of flex-time working hours until half an hour after they end, but will still be able to receive and make phone calls. For more click [here](#)

Driver awarded €25,000 for ageism

A 67-year old man has been awarded €25,000 for discrimination on age grounds following his dismissal by a Mayo based plant hire company where he had worked for more than 35 years driving JCBs and trucks. When he reached 66 he asked if he could continue working and his employer said he could continue working until he was 72. Later however he was told that business was bad and was laid off temporarily. His employer said that the younger men had to pay their mortgages. Meanwhile, a quarrying firm has been ordered to pay €10,000 and €5,000 to two eastern European workers for harassment and victimisation on the grounds of race. For more 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. 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.