



MERRY XMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Season's greetings!

Wells folks, it's that time of the year again, when the man in the red suit is due for another visit. Maybe with the credit crunch and as a consequence of Santa's sack being a little lighter this year his old back will not get too much abuse.....As preparations continue for the festive season we would wholeheartedly like to thank all of you for your continued business and friendship through the past year.

So what was 2008 like for you? We experienced a rapid growth in clients with a number of new staff members electing to join us. On the wider scale we have watched, with concern, as HSE accident /injury figures have dramatically increased as well as monitoring the development of the economic downturn over the past few months. Despite these setbacks we must all remain focused on our objective to deliver quality products safely.

At BSA, we are really looking forward to the challenges that 2009 will present. We are busily planning for new ways to help you develop your business practices. If you have any suggestions please do get in touch we would love to hear from you!

Once again, thank you all and have a great holiday from all the guys and gals at BSA! **Bernie.**

Is it the right time for training?

Due to work and other commitments getting people together for training can be difficult at times. Most Managers and Directors will say that they have been too busy to carry out training and of course we all know about the economic downturn

Our politicians have told us that we will be back to boom times within two years. Investment in public housing and infrastructure construction projects will be widespread with the demand for manufacturing and service provision forecasted as being high. Now is the time to take stock and look at what personal development is required in preparation for the boom.

We tailor courses to suit your needs which can be carried out at your offices, on site, or at a convenient location. Course durations vary from 1-2 hours up to one or two days depending on your requirements. Courses will generally accommodate up to 12 persons per session and a certificate for successful candidates will be issued on completion.

Our courses include:- Asbestos awareness, CSCS, Health and Safety at Work Act, Manual Handling, Work at Height, Fire Safety, Induction, CDM Regulations, Site Waste Management etc. For further details contact Roger on 01483 467279

Man arrested on Suspicion of Manslaughter

A worker has been arrested and charged with manslaughter after another man was hit on the head and killed by the bucket of an excavator. The men were working on the first phase of the Docklands Light Railway extension. It appears the cause, again, was a semi automatic quick hitch device on an excavator.

Cherry Pickers

Over the last few years mobile elevated work platforms have become a common feature on our sites. Whilst we welcome any move to prevent falls from height, you should be aware that these machines present other dangers.

Namely; overturning and trapping the operator against structures. There have now been a number of occasions where operatives were thrown from the platform. Had they been wearing suitable harness equipment they might have survived.

BSA can offer advice on the use of MEWP's and harnesses. bsims@bsims.co.uk



BSA Health & Safety News



H&S - The Fun Police

It seems that almost daily we hear wildly inaccurate stories of 'elf & safety' banning traditional or seemingly harmless activities. Including, children who aren't allowed to throw snowballs and swimmers who can't take their traditional winter dip in the local lake. Health and Safety gone mad some would say and BSA agree!

We believe that if you spend time on the trivial risks then you are more likely to miss the most important ones. We need to focus on finding ways for things to happen, not reasons to stop them – a sensible approach to managing risk focuses on practical action to tackle risks that cause REAL harm and suffering.

Buncefield Update

Do you remember the huge fire and explosion at the Buncefield fuel depot near Hemel Hempstead? It happened in December 2005, caused widespread damage and left 43 people injured.

Well, following an extensive enquiry the Environment Agency has started criminal proceedings against four companies. Early findings indicate that the management had failed to plan for the worst case scenario. It begs the question how good is your Fire Risk Assessment?

HSE Inspection Blitz

HSE has started a rolling inspection programme and will be 'targeting house building and property refurbishment projects'. In 2006/07 these sectors accounted for 60 percent of all accidents in construction, but represents only 40 percent of all construction activity.

During an initiative in February 2008 enforcement action was taken in 103 out of 187 visits. HSE warn that projects should expect robust enforcement action where poor H&S standards are found.

So far South West London, the North West and Cheshire have been targeted. Will you be next?

A Worrying Trend

The most recent set of figures from the HSE reveal a rise in the incident rates for major and over-three-day injuries for the first time in almost a decade.

Sadly, over the last period there have been a string of deaths on high-profile sites, including two on Laing O'Rourke projects one on a Bouygues hospital scheme and another working for Cemax. There have been 36 deaths so far this year

Cost of Accidents

HSE estimate the cost of a fatal accident at £1.5m



Important message from BSA

This Christmas please do not Drink and Drive



BSA Now Offering Portable Appliance Testing

In a new development BSA can carry out portable appliance testing. PAT Testing is legally required for all electrical items that your workforce use as part of their work activities. It includes items such as computers, TV monitors, extension leads, drills, and electric powered tools.

For further information contact Roger on 07841663442 or Roger.K@bsims.co.uk



BSA Health & Safety News

Competency Assessment - Not another one!



Checking the basic health and safety know-how of construction contractors before they tender for work is, of course, a sound idea. The aim of CDM 2007 was to 'reduce the burden of unnecessary paperwork'. Has it worked? We all know how frustrating it can be to spend considerable time and effort endlessly repeating the exercise.

So we have developed a Competency Statement, which we complete and you can use over and over again. Contact Antoinette on 01483 467282 for further details

H&S Files

As you all know the CDM Regulations 2007 demand the production of a H&S File for completed projects. At the request of some of our Clients, BSA have developed an electronic format for the H&S File, which it is believed will cut down on unnecessary paperwork!

For more details on this format contact Steve Arnold on 01483 467270 or Stephen@bsims.co.uk

Holiday Arrangements

Both offices will close down at 13:00hrs 24th December 08. Guildford office will reopen Friday 2nd January 2009. Urgent enquiries will be dealt with by Glenn on 07726692819. glenn.c@bsims.co.uk



Party Wall Round Up - Court halts unauthorised works

In a case last year (Udal v Dutton) the England and Wales High Court awarded an interim injunction against a Building Owner who proceeded to demolish parts of a party fence wall separating the gardens of the two properties, with a view to rebuilding it without an Award.

An earlier Award had been agreed which did not contemplate this work and, whilst the revised works had been discussed by the surveyors and a draft Award had been issued, the details not been agreed at the point when the Building Owner started to demolish the party fence wall.

Judge Peter Coulson QC said *"the Defendants are guilty of trespass and wrongful interference with the Claimants' property. ... Unhappily, all too often in these circumstances, the party doing the work goes ahead with those works before the agreement has been completed. The whole point of the Act is to provide a mechanism by which agreements can be reached or disputes identified, and to avoid this sort of sly destruction."*

Again, the Courts have highlighted that shortcuts to the procedural requirements of the Act are undesirable and a Building Owner should not commence works until all the details have been agreed. For your Party Wall needs Contact Antoinette on 01483467270 or Antoinette@bsimsoco.uk

Bernard Sims Associates – Contacts

For CDM Coordinators, Health & Safety Risk Assessments / Fire Risk Assessments / Party Wall / Training / Consultancy, Advice, Policies and Plans - Call BSA in Guildford on 01483 467270, our Northern Office on 01924 480473 or e-mail us via enquiries@bsims.co.uk



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