



Hi-Viz

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This newsletter is sent to clients and contacts of Bernard Sims Associates and people that we think might be interested in learning more about health and safety. If you wish to unsubscribe to this newsletter, please forward the email to marketing@bsims.co.uk Please do not 'Reply' to this email directly.

SITE SECURITY

HSE RE-LAUNCH ASBESTOS HIDDEN KILLER CAMPAIGN

HSE is re-launching its Hidden Killer campaign on 2 November 2009. This follows on from a complaint regarding the actual number of asbestos related deaths, which resulted in the complaint being removed from the public eye.

It is estimated, that every week 20 tradesmen die from asbestos-related disease. If you carry out work on a building that was built or refurbished before the year 2000, you could have been or could be exposed to asbestos, without even knowing it. It remains BSA's view that Asbestos is a hidden killer. So now's the time to get clued up on the facts, so that you, your workmates, your friends and family are protected. The BSA team have personal experience of family members contracting asbestos related illness and will do their level best to protect you. For further assistance please contact us at bsims@bsims.co.uk or why not follow the flowing link to HSE's asbestos home page.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/hiddenkiller/index.htm?ebul=cons/oct09&cr=1>

Plumber fined £10k for construction worker death

A plumber and sole trader has been fined £10,000 and ordered to pay £3,230 in costs, after a construction-site labourer was killed in October 2006.

Ajet Krasniqi, 24, was killed by a falling steel joist in Buckhurst Hill, Essex, on a house refurbishment project in Enfield.

Mr Krasniqi had been employed by Mr Gibson as a labourer to help with the complete refurbishment of the property. In October 2006, Mr Krasniqi was helping to lift the joist with four others when it fell and struck him on the head. He was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital.

HSE inspector Nicola Surrey reports: "This tragic incident could have been prevented if the employer had made sure his workers were not left exposed to unnecessary risks.

"There is plenty of advice and guidance available from the HSE to help people comply with the law and keep workers safe. However, for those who fall short of the law, the HSE will not hesitate to take action."

This accident confirms the ongoing trend of accidents occurring on residential and small scale refurbishment projects. We at BSA have relevant experience and are currently working with a number of developers to

With the extended Christmas break coming up make sure that arrangements for site security are prepared in advance: As well as making sure that the boundary is secure (no Harris fencing with just one bolt holding it closed) it is as well to prepare just in case kids or intruders do get in: Gas cylinders and hazardous materials should be stored correctly, any fall hazards properly fenced off and remove access to scaffolding. And don't forget to make sure the chimney's are kept clear (well you never know).

BURNING ISSUE

Ensure you have adequate fire safety protection: Appoint a competent person and keep up to date with your fire risk management in order to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order known as RRFSO 2005

For further advice contact BSA on 01483 467270 or bsims@bsims.co.uk

Retained Health & Safety Advisors (inc BSA Advice Line)

To have a competent health & safety resource is important: BSA offer a service which includes free phone or email advice, to be named as your competent advisor (certificate available) and to advise changes in health & safety legislation which may affect your company.

Since we first offered this service the response from you has been really

manage their sites. The question is do you need our help?

Striking Risk

An underground service strike can lead to injury or loss of life and the costs to your business can be substantial. On average there are 12 deaths and 600 serious injuries attributed to contact with the electricity network per year. In addition to the human cost, the financial impact to contractors can be significant. In some instances the repair costs can amount to many thousands of pounds.



The HSE estimates that the average cost of these and other uninsured losses can be 10 times the amount of insurance premium paid for the same period. Before starting work make sure you follow our 10 point action plan.

- 1 Obtain all relevant utility plans - Remember plans cannot be guaranteed as 100% accurate.
- 2 Are employees trained to read and understand plans?
- 3 Use the correct cable locating device.
- 4 Make use of any available 'dial before you dig' service.
- 5 Check for external evidence of services, eg. Gas meter service connection boxes, street lights, old trench work, manhole covers?
- 6 Are hand dig trial holes necessary to confirm the position of services?
- 7 Clearly mark all identified services with waterproof paint/marker.
- 8 Is emergency information available on site? Are emergency telephone numbers clearly displayed on site?
- 9 Ensure that risk assessments/method statements have been briefed out and signed for.
- 10 Are you familiar with and have you complied with HSG 47? Is there a copy on site?

Rail operator and contractor fined £1m

positive. Contacts have found the service, quick and cost effective in these hard times.

If you want to know more about the service please contact us on 01483 467270.

BSA Vision for the Future

"Working together to become the premier supplier, providing a safer environment, for all, throughout the United Kingdom & Ireland"

Join us via
bsims@bsims.co.uk
 or phone
 01483 467270

Remember we warned you that fines for H&S offences were about to increase?

Network Rail and Carillion have been fined £666,667 and £444,444 respectively following prosecutions by the British Transport Police arising from the deaths of David Pennington and Martin Oake in September 2004.

The workmen were hit by a reversing road rail vehicle whilst laying new track near Hednesford, Staffordshire. Three individuals who were involved in operating the vehicle were also prosecuted and fined for offences under HSW Act S7.

Cutting red tape or winning votes?

The Conservative Party has recently published "*Regulation in the Post Bureaucratic Age*", indicating how a future administration would "cut red tape" The plans were announced by Ken Clarke, Shadow Business Secretary, who said the proposals would get rid of a "millstone around Britain's neck".



A key aspect is a "new model of professional co-regulation" replacing regulator-run public teams of inspectors with a model closer to financial control and audits. The proposals involve:

- Autonomy for "well run companies" employing H&S experts with internal processes, controls and audited reports (on the accountancy model);
- External auditing paid for by the company and reports filed with the regulator;
- Exemption from external inspection once audit results are filed and the ability to refuse entry to HSE;

Proposals for 'earned autonomy' are nothing new. HSE considered similar arrangements for certain major well managed contractors in the early 1980's. We, at BSA, are not sure if this is a serious objective, of any possible future government or just an effort to raise party profile, but we will keep you informed of any developments or not as the case may be!

Construction Accreditation

Getting harder to win more contracts or to get on approved lists?

ASSESSMENT SC2

Are you being refused work because you do not have suitable accreditation such as CHAS or Constructionline? If so, Bernard Sims can help!

Each month thousands of contractors apply for work with public and private sector organisations and to win work, they must meet certain health and safety standards. Holding accreditation such as CHAS will demonstrate your company's commitment to Health and Safety and reduce the need for completing additional assessment forms.

We understand that preparing all the necessary information to get accredited can be a time consuming process so let us take some of the burden away from you. Bernard Sims can provide you with assistance to complete the necessary paperwork and provide you with the relevant forms to enable you to gain accreditation.

So what are you waiting for? Contact Roger Koester or Antoinette Blignaut on 01483 467279 or e-mail Roger.K@bsims.co.uk for further information or a no obligation visit to discuss your needs.

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