



Coronation Street storyline saves lives

A recent episode of Coronation Street has helped to save lives as millions watched one of the main characters being poisoned with Carbon Monoxide.

The episode aired over Christmas and showed Fiz Brown, played by Jennie McAlpine, suffering from Carbon Monoxide poisoning, caused from a faulty gas boiler. Fiz was found unconscious after suffering symptoms similar to the flu.

50 people died in the UK last year as a result of Carbon Monoxide poisoning and over 4000 people have been affected by it. Carbon Monoxide is also known as 'the silent killer' because you can't see, smell or taste it therefore it is virtually impossible to detect. It is produced when faults occur with gas appliances.

Coronation Street has helped to make people more aware of the symptoms of Carbon Monoxide poisoning and has highlighted the importance of maintaining gas appliances and having them fitted properly.

It is important to know basic first aid training skills in the event of Carbon Monoxide poisoning. The most common sign is a headache and or the following:

- Dizziness
- Feeling sick or vomiting
- Tiredness and disorientation
- Sore stomach
- Short of breath

It is a common misconception that someone with these symptoms has the flu or food poisoning however the only difference is Carbon Monoxide poisoning does not cause a high temperature. If you suspect you or someone else has Carbon Monoxide poisoning move outdoors and seek medical advice immediately.

Jennie McAlpine said she hopes the storyline will help raise awareness of the silent killer and stop people from having illegal gas work carried out in their homes.

'Unfortunately what happens to my character is not a rare occurrence in real life. Carbon monoxide is deadly and it's important that as many people know about it as possible. I hope this storyline brings the issue to everyone's minds and that we can help to save lives.'

Every year a quarter of a million illegal gas jobs are carried out by people, like Tyrone's character, who do not have the skills or the qualifications to work on gas appliances.

Paul Johnston, Gas Safe Register's Chief Executive, said: 'We know that money may be tight, so it's understandable that people ask around for recommendations and get friends to help out in the hope of getting a cheaper job done. However, what people fail to realise is just how dangerous gas can be in the wrong hands. Badly fitted and poorly maintained gas appliances can cause gas leaks, fires, explosions and Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, so it's not worth the risk.'

Despite the dangers posed by CO poisoning, 43 per cent of the public do not get their gas appliances checked regularly and one in 10 has never had any checks.

If you're carrying out home improvement, no matter how big or small, find out if it will involve gas work or impact on your existing gas appliances.

For more information on carbon monoxide poisoning and to find a Gas Safe registered engineer in your area call

0800 408 5500 or visit
www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk



'Free' Legionella seminar



When: 12th March 2013

Where: Banqueting Suite, Bradford City Hall

For more information on how to book, refer to page 4



HSE news updates.....

Noise

Loud noise at work can damage your hearing. This usually happens gradually and it may only be when the damage caused by noise combines with hearing loss due to ageing that people realise how impaired their hearing has become.

Why is dealing with noise important?

Noise at work can cause hearing damage that is **permanent** and **disabling**. This can be gradual, from exposure to noise over time, but damage can also be caused by sudden, extremely loud, noises. The damage is disabling in that it can stop people being able to understand speech, keep up with conversations or use the telephone.

Hearing loss is not the only problem. People may develop tinnitus (ringing, whistling, buzzing or humming in the ears), a distressing condition which can lead to disturbed sleep.

There are many ways you can manage noise, check out the HSE website for the latest noise toolbox:



<http://www.hse.gov.uk/noise/>

Halifax worker left disabled by crush injuries

A West Yorkshire firm has been sentenced for serious safety failings after a worker was left with life-threatening injuries when a 6.5 tonnes steel beam toppled onto his back.



Mark Priestley, 34, was pinned against a skip by the beam at the Halifax factory of Elland Steel Structures Ltd on 31 January 2011.

The weight of the beam crushed his spine and torso, leaving him with irreversible spinal and nerve damage.

Mr Priestley, of Claremount, Halifax, who is married with a young son, was in hospital for five months. Although he regained some movement in his legs, he is largely confined to a wheelchair, still needs intensive therapy and is unlikely to be able to work again.

The incident was investigated by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), which prosecuted Elland Steel Structures for a breach of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

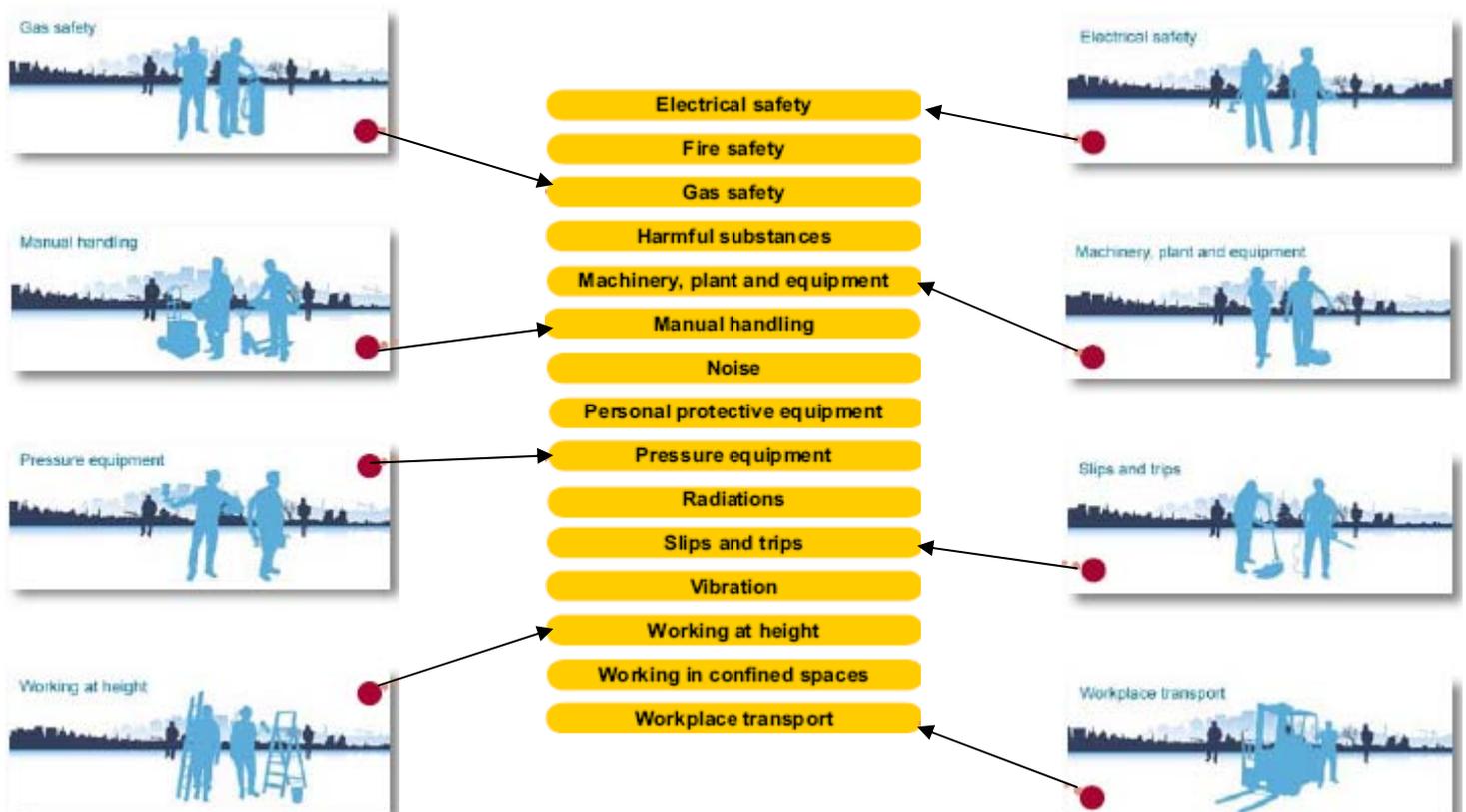
For the full article and access to others, click on the below link:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2013/rmn-yh-4013.htm>

Making life easier for small businesses Health and Safety toolbox

Click here to get started:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/index.htm>



International Workers' Memorial Day - Bradford



Sunday 28th
April 2013

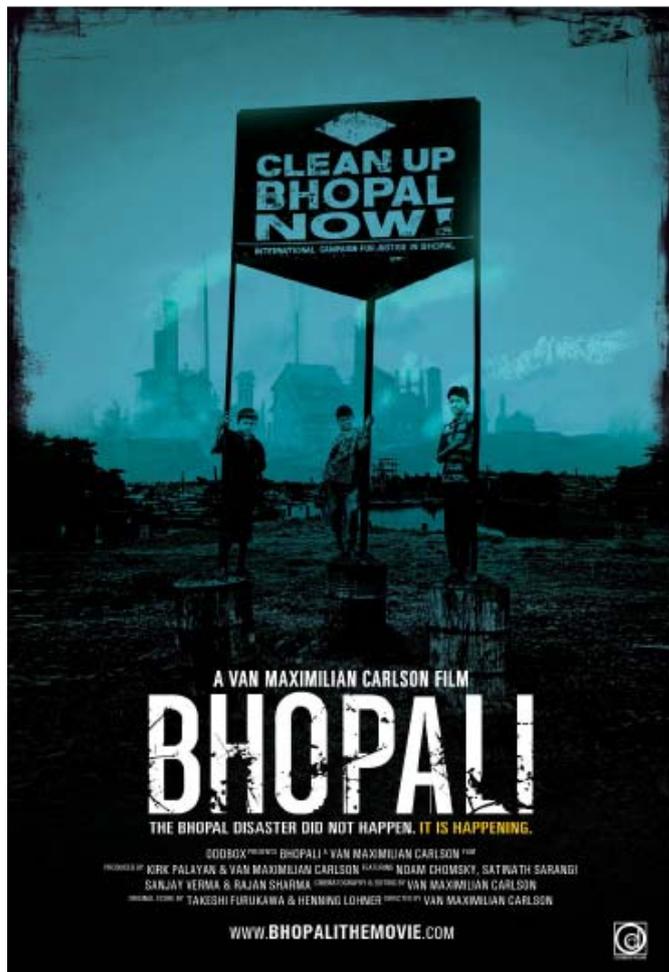
As a tribute to the thousands of people killed in the world's largest industrial disaster and to raise awareness about the ongoing pollution from Dow Chemicals in Bhopal today, Bradford Area Safety Reps Association will be showing Bhopali the film on International Workers' Memorial Day 2013.

There will be a minutes silence at the Workers Memorial at the back of Bradford City Hall in the garden of remembrance at 12 noon. Followed by a showing of Bhopali the film 1pm Bradford Resource Centre

(17-21 Chapel Street, Little Germany, BD1 5DT)

Free entrance all welcome

Remember the dead—
fight for the living



Low inert dust exposure and COPD

The HSE says that, "There is increasing research evidence that chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) can be caused or made worse by dusts, fumes and irritating gases at work." Their website quotes findings which suggest that in Great Britain, "around 15% of COPD may be caused or made worse by work and 4000 COPD deaths every year may be related to work exposure". The main cause of COPD is smoking.



Many authorities believe that research in the last 20 years has shown that many, perhaps all, dusts previously considered inert can produce serious health effects at long term average exposures well below the current trigger values of **10 mg/m³ (inhalable) and 4 mg/m³ (respirable)**. Consequently it would be unwise to regard exposures below these trigger levels as safe.

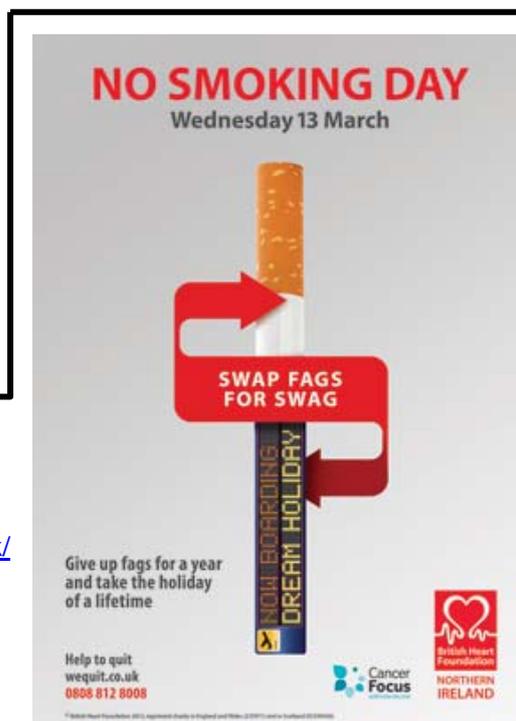
The Institute of Occupational Medicine (IOM) suggests that, "until safe limits are put in place, employers should aim to **keep exposure to respirable dust below 1 mg/m³ and inhalable dust below 5 mg/m³**." The TUC has advised H&S representatives that they, "should try to ensure that employers **follow a precautionary standard of 2.5 mg/m³ for inhalable dust and 1 mg/m³ for respirable dust.**"

No Smoking Day launches on Wednesday 13 March 2013 with a brand new campaign - sign up below.....



NO SMOKING DAY
helping people who want to quit

<http://www.nosmokingday.org.uk/>





BAOHSF free seminar

Legionella



Banqueting Suite, Bradford City Hall

12th March 2013

9.30 am - refreshments and registration

10.00 am - start

12.30 pm - finish



How to book.....

Click on: <http://baohsfmarch2013-eac2.eventbrite.co.uk/>

If you wish to attend, you can register simply by completing the event booking form via the link above. In return once registered, you will receive email confirmation of your place. Please note that places are limited.



RPS

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

www.bradford.gov.uk

How to contact the Forum: contact@baohsf.org.uk

www.baohsf.org.uk