

Clearing snow and ice....

Winter is here and with it comes the early morning frosts, soon to be followed by snow and ice in the coming weeks. Below is a guide on how to protect yourself and your staff from slips and falls due to snow and ice on pavements.

It is a popular misconception that it is against the law to clear snow and ice from pavements.



Put simply, there is nothing stopping you from clearing ice and snow from your property or from public pavements and areas outside your property.

Those responsible need to ensure that the means of access to their establishment is safe for both employees and visitors and that adequate arrangements are made to ensure that risks from snow and ice are minimised

The true position is that a company may be held liable for 'failing to act reasonably' in order to prevent accidents caused by snow and ice.

Winter

Be careful not to make the situation worse and to clear snow and ice sensibly, especially from around steps and steep slopes.

Here are a few simple tips towards clearing snow and ice safely:

- Clear snow and ice from roads and pathways on your premises
- Avoid making pathways more dangerous by allowing them to refreeze
- Clear snow and ice from steep slopes and steps
- Prioritise important and well used routes over lesser used routes
- Clear a route 1m wide on pathways
- Apply grit or salt to keep roads and pathways from freezing
- Checks made at appropriate intervals to ensure that roads and pathways remain clear where temperatures remain below freezing
- Consider the needs of employees and visitors, in particular disabled and elderly visitors
- Ensure that adequate equipment is available to clear snow and ice

Bradford Lights....



Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum would like to wish all our members a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year....stay safe!!

Check out our new website:
<http://www.baohsf.org.uk/>

Turn to page 4 for Christmas myths



HSE news updates.....



HSE annual statistics published

Key annual figures
2011/12

HSE's annual statistics report is now available on their website:

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



- **1.1 million** working people were suffering from a work-related illness
- **173** workers killed at work
- **111 000** other injuries to employees were reported under RIDDOR
- **212 000** over-3-day absence injuries occurred (LFS)
- **27 million** working days were lost due to work-related illness and workplace injury
- Workplace injuries and ill health (excluding cancer) cost society an estimated **£13.4 billion** in 2010/11

HSE office health and safety website launched

The HSE have launched a new site which guides employers and employees to information relating to health, safety and welfare in the office.



It will help office staff

- to save time on managing health and safety by using streamlined guidance with direct links to supporting material
- see that in many low risk offices health and safety can be managed adequately in-house

The tool is designed to help those working in low risk office-based environments complete their risk assessment quickly and easily.

It allows you to select relevant hazards and decide how to control them. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/office/index.htm>

This is the latest in a package of health and safety guidance for small, low-risk businesses and replaces 'Essentials of Health and Safety at Work'.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/index.htm>

www.baohsf.org.uk

Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum (BAOHSF)

Occupational Health & Safety Forum
Bradford Area

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Welcome

to the Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum website, the place for all information related to the forum and details of any future and past events.

Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum (BAOHSF) is a unique partnership of public, private, voluntary and trade union organisations in the Bradford area working together to improve the health, safety and well being of people at work.

Forum launches new website.....

The forum have launched a new website which has been re-designed with more features and pages added. The site will be continually added to over the coming months and the forum would be grateful for any feedback, or comments on what you would like on the website and the type of information and updates.

We are also looking at continually improving the site and the way in which we communicate with you so please let us know how we can improve – any ideas welcome.

In addition to a new website the forum has a new email address:

Contact the forum at: <http://www.baohsf.org.uk> or email to: contact@baohsf.org.uk



New symbols under the CLP Regulations.....

New symbols for hazardous substances and preparations are being phased in over the next two years and will be mandatory after June 2015. However, some are already in use and it is important to be aware of them on labels and packaging.

For further information on CLP regulations and what they mean for you, copy this link to the HSE website to your browser: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/ghs/eureg.htm>

In order from top left to bottom right the symbols are:

- ◆ Dangerous to the environment
- ◆ Toxic
- ◆ Gas under pressure
- ◆ Corrosive
- ◆ Explosive
- ◆ Flammable
- ◆ Caution—used for less serious health hazards like skin irritation
- ◆ Oxidising and lastly, longer term health hazards such as carcinogenicity and respiratory

Legionella.....



Leisure centres with spa pools and care homes are among the businesses being urged to do more to protect workers and members of the public from legionella risks.

HSE has recently issued a safety notice targeting companies and organisations that use hot and cold water systems for bathing and washing or in manufacturing processes. It follows the publication of a separate notice in July aimed at companies with cooling towers and evaporative condensers. These were identified as the most common source of significant outbreaks based on an HSE review of data going back 10 years. The latest notice stresses the need for measures to be in place to control identified legionella risks and that these are reviewed regularly.

Following the HSE review of outbreaks commissioned in 2011, HSE and local authorities are developing a range of initiatives to promote better control of legionella risks. These will include ongoing work with industry to bring about sustained improvement in standards, advice and information events. It will also include some compliance checks as a follow-up to the safety notices where the impact of poorly managed legionella risks could be greatest.

The HSE alerts and supporting information can be found below:

The safety notice Management of the risks from legionella in cooling towers and evaporative condensers can be read in full at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/coolingtowers.htm>

The safety notice Management of the risks from legionella in water systems can be read in full at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/legionella2.htm>

HSE's guidance on managing legionella risk is available to download free: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/legionnaires/what-you-must-do.htm>

Spring 2013 - next 'free' BAOHSF seminar

To coincide with the HSE and Local Authority initiatives to raise awareness of legionella, the forum will be providing a **free seminar** on legionella during Spring 2013! One of the speakers on the day will include the Health Protection Agency 'learning from an outbreak'.



The event flyer will be out sometime in February 2013 with booking information so look out for this coming to your inbox soon. The event will also be advertised on the new website. If you would like adding to the circulation list, or would like to pass on details of a colleague who does, please contact the forum below.

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

Asbestos news story.....

The Canadian Government have announced they will no longer export asbestos mined in their country. Something the Bradford Asbestos Victims Support Group has campaigned for years. This not only means the end of Canada exporting asbestos, it also means that they will no longer give their support to the false claim by the asbestos exporting countries that chrysotile is safe.

Terry Britton (pictured below) from the Bradford Asbestos Victims Support Group and a member of the forum said "it is brilliant news that the new Quebec Prime Minister, Pauline Marois, has promised to shut down the region's asbestos mines for good".



Quebec was the home of Canada's asbestos industry and the money that would have gone to the mines is now going to diversify the local economy. Well done Canada.

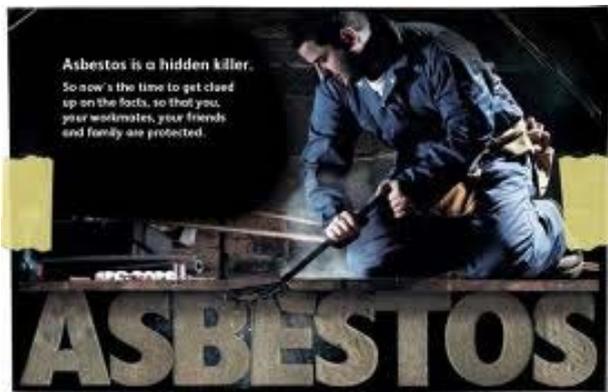
The second piece of good news about asbestos is that the European Conference in Brussels, in the Autumn, which included representatives from 20 European countries discussed the extent of the asbestos problem in their countries and came up with the unanimous agreement that schools should be given the number one priority. Jane Howie Chair of the Bradford Asbestos in Schools Group said "this will give strength to the campaign in this country and help with the call on our government to review its policy on asbestos in schools".

The third piece of good news is the establishment of a new national agency to oversee the management of and removal of asbestos in Australia, which is an important step towards eradicating all asbestos from Australia by 2030.

Jane Howie said "there is a need for a similar agency in this country that will pave the way towards the ultimate goal of complete asbestos removal, hopefully we will not be too far behind Australia".

Copy the below link to your browser for information on how to manage asbestos.

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



The Twelve Myths of Christmas...

Christmas is a special time of year. Even so, it doesn't stop health and safety being wrongly cited as a reason for preventing pretty harmless activities from going ahead. Not only does this needlessly ruin the festive spirit but it also trivialises the true purpose of health and safety: protecting people from real risks at, or connected with work.

Myth 1 : Workers are banned from putting up Christmas decorations in the office



The reality

Bah Humbug! Each year we hear of companies banning their workers from putting up Christmas decorations in their offices for 'health and safety' reasons, or requiring the work to be done by a 'qualified' person.

Most organisations including HSE and local councils manage to put up their decorations, celebrating the spirit of Christmas without a fuss. They just sensibly provide their staff with suitable step ladders to put up decorations rather than expecting staff to balance on wheelie chairs.

Myth 2: Indoor Christmas lights need a portable appliance test (PAT) every year



The reality

Lots of companies waste money in the false belief they need to test their Christmas lights annually, or even don't put them up at all! By following a few sensible precautions, such as checks by the user for obvious signs of damage, every workplace can switch on safely and sparkle!

For more myths: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/myth/myth-busting/index.htm>



Healthy Workplaces - Worker Participation / Leadership - 25th October 2012 -

Banqueting Suite, City Hall, Bradford

To mark European Health and Safety Week 2012, Enterprise Europe Network Yorkshire and BAOHSF ran a free event to encourage managers and workers to work together to create healthy workplaces. "Working together for risk prevention" is a two year campaign coordinated by the European Agency for Safety at Work.

Presenters on the day were:

- ◆ Paul Sanderson and Adrian Ross from Wincanton - good practice in management leadership
- ◆ Peter Bull (BASF - manager) and Andrew Irvin (GMB - rep) - illustrating the benefits of partner working
- ◆ Louise Brearey - HSE, Head of London 2012 - the Olympic park learning legacy

The event was attended by over 60 local employers.



Health and safety London 2012 - learning Legacy



Through the Learning Legacy project, the Olympic Delivery Authority is sharing the knowledge and the lessons learned from the construction of the Olympic Park. The workforce on the Olympic Park and Athletes' Village sites in east London peaked at 13,000, and a total of 40,000 people will have worked on the project by the time it is complete.

Copy the below link to your browser to read case studies, reports and research summaries of how it was done, in time, against budget with no fatal accidents or injuries.

<http://learninglegacy.independent.gov.uk/themes/health-and-safety/index.php>