

Wilkins Safety Group

Weekly Update Newsletter



Welcome to this issue - Friday 13th January 2012 - of our Update Newsletter

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to colleagues and friends.

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Welcome to 2012

A little belated, but we at the **Wilkins Safety Group** wish you all a prosperous **New Year**.

The start of another year and already businesses are feeling the effects of the adverse weather, with storms and heavy rain.

Last week saw many companies come back to work after the festive break and facing a clean-up operation in order to get their premises back to a suitable working level.

Make sure you have the correct procedures in place to ensure staff safety, especially those who have to drive for work purposes.



However; let us all go forward and build on the excellent work we all experienced during 2011.

In our forthcoming newsletters we shall endeavour to keep you up-to-date with legislative changes, updates, prosecutions and tidbits from the world of health and safety. Like previous years we will keep it informative and relevant and not inundate you with unnecessary advertisements or sales pitches from other companies. We will keep you informed of upcoming training courses and services available from us.

What we would like from you - is feedback on any various topics you would like featured in the newsletters, or feedback on any health and safety situations you might have experienced within your own organisation - serious, funny or silly.

As an organisation we look forward to working with you during this forthcoming year to assist in ensuring you and your company attain compliance with health and safety legislation, then maintaining that compliance.

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Latest HSE news taken from our website today

Here are a couple of the latest HSE news items that can be found on our website www.wilkinssafety.co.uk. Have you looked today to see the latest news?

Lancashire roofer caught on camera risking lives

A Lancashire roofer has been prosecuted after he and two employees were spotted on a shop roof without any protection to stop them falling.

Ross Singleton, who trades as Ross's Roofing, was photographed by an inspector from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) as he and the two other workers carried out repairs to the roof of a hairdressers' on Skipton Road in Colne.



Burnley Magistrates' Court heard the inspector immediately issued a Prohibition Notice ordering the men to come down from the roof but, despite initially stopping work, they later returned to the roof without any safety measures in place.

The court was told Mr Singleton had also put members of the public at risk as he was working above a busy row of shops, and any falling debris could have struck someone.

Ross Singleton pleaded guilty to breaches of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 and the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 after he failed to take action to prevent workers being injured in a fall, and ignored a Prohibition Notice.

Mr Singleton, 23 of Dickson Street in Colne, was fined £350 and ordered to pay £300 in prosecution costs on 12 January 2012.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE Inspector Jacqueline Western said:

"Ross Singleton and the two other men were working nearly three metres above the ground - a height that could have resulted in a serious injury if any of them had fallen.

"He should have treated the Prohibition Notice as a formal warning and stopped work until safety measures, such as guard rails, were in place. Instead he ignored the notice and has found himself in court as a result.

"Dozens of people die every year as a result of a fall while at work. Roofers should treat the risks seriously and take action to make sure workers stay safe."

Last year, 38 workers were killed in Great Britain as a result of a fall and more than 4,000 suffered major injuries. Information on working safely at height is available at www.hse.gov.uk/falls.

Door firm fined after worker suffers severe hand injuries

A door-making firm has been fined after a Derbyshire machine operator suffered severe and permanent hand injuries.

Hugo Valdes Vera, 37, of Loscoe, was working for SIG Manufacturing Ltd on Milnhay Road, Langley Mill, Derbyshire on 18 February 2010 when his left hand was trapped between two heated platens in a multi-platen door press.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE), which brought the prosecution, told Derby Crown Court that Mr Valdes Vera had been working at the factory for one month. He was loading and unloading doors with colleagues at the recently-supplied door press and was working at the rear of the machine when he became trapped.

The press was guarded at the sides and had a two-hand control at the front, which meant the operator had to keep both hands on the control buttons whilst the press operated. There

was no guarding at the rear of the machine press, just a trip wire at low level which protected the area beneath the platens. The flush engineered doors were loaded from the front of the press and unloaded at the rear.

Visibility around the back of the machine press for anybody operating it was restricted and the employees used a 'thumbs up' signal system when someone was working in this area to indicate when they were clear. One of the employees operated the press, not realising Mr Valdes Vera was behind it. His hand was between two of the heated platens and was trapped as the press closed.

He lost part of three fingers, required ongoing hospital treatment and has not yet been able to return to work.

After today's hearing, HSE inspector Noelle Walker said:

"This case demonstrates the importance of providing physical safety measures where they are practicable, instead of relying on informal systems of work where a mistake or misunderstanding can lead to such a serious injury."

"Mr Valdes Vera's employers failed to ensure that measures were taken to prevent such an incident occurring. As a result, a man has suffered a life-changing injury and has been unable to perform many everyday tasks ever since."

SIG Manufacturing Ltd, of Sheffield, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 11(1) of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998. The company was fined £25,000 and ordered to pay full costs of £23,154.

Further information on manufacturing safety can be found on HSE's website at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/manufacturing/>

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If you would like to discuss any of the issues highlighted in this newsletter then drop an email to **Jon** on jon@wilkinssafety.co.uk or call the office **01458 253682**



Your Business is Safer
Your Business is Safer in Our Hands