

T L Dallas Risk Management

Newsletter

Summer 2013

Working in Hot Weather

During the summer months we can look forward to some hot weather, however, it is not what most people consider to be ideal working conditions and it carries risks whether you work inside or out. See our website for more information.

Electrical Safety in the Workplace

In the UK, more than 1,000 electrical injuries are reported to the Health and Safety Executive every year, with around 25 of these leading to death. The likelihood is that a great number of minor accidents go unreported. The most common injuries are shocks and burns, and secondary injuries from falls and convulsions are also possible. Aside from injury and death, there is the risk of fire and damage to property.

Fortunately, most electrical accidents are avoidable and can easily be prevented by following a few simple guidelines. See our technical section of risk management on our website for more details.

Council Prosecuted after worker's near death fall

Bradford Council today admitted serious safety breaches after one of its parks employees narrowly escaped death when he plunged eleven metres from the cradle of a cherry picker.

Bradford Magistrates heard the employee was working at a height of some 35 feet pruning dead branches in Bierley Hall Woods when the cherry picker overturned, sending him crashing to the ground.

He suffered multiple injuries, plus internal injuries that required surgery. The council employee was off work for more than five months. Although he has since returned, he is no longer able to carry out tree work at height.

The incident was investigated by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), which prosecuted Bradford Council after identifying a series of failings involving the planning and preparation of the tree work and the use of the cherry picker.

The court was told two tree workers set up the cherry picker correctly on a compacted path in the woods and one of them was working in the extended cradle among the tree tops. As he rotated the boom arm and cradle anti-clockwise to move from tree to tree, the weight distribution of the machine changed and the cherry picker overturned.

HSE found that when the weight shifted, one of the vehicle's stabiliser feet had slid off a ground mat and then sunk into the soft ground at the side of the compacted path. The wrong type of ground mats had been provided to the team to put underneath the machine's feet. The unbalanced machine then toppled without warning.

The investigation identified that the council had failed to properly plan and organise the safety aspects of the tree pruning work. No one had realised that the distance between the stabiliser feet was greater than the width of the path. In addition all the council workers who did tree work in off-road locations had never been trained to do the work in soft, sloping or uneven ground. All the training had been done in a depot yard.

Bradford Council was fined £12,000 and ordered to pay £9,623 in costs after admitting breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 by failing to ensure the safety of one of its employees while working at height.

Fees for Intervention (FFI)

The HSE now operates a Fee for Intervention (FFI) cost recovery scheme, which came into effect on 1st October 2012.

Under the Health and Safety (Fees) Regulations 2012, those who break health and safety laws are liable for recovery of HSE's related costs, including inspection, investigation and taking enforcement action.

The Fee for Intervention hourly rate for 2012/13 is £124. The many businesses that comply with their legal obligations will continue to pay nothing.

In the first 9 months the Fees for Intervention cost recovery scheme has recovered £2.6m.

Personal Injury Claims Reforms

Please note that there are important changes taking place in the way claims need to be reported, please see our website for more details.

IOSH Managing Safely : 23 - 27 September 2013 - Buy One get One Free

Managing Safely is a course for managers and supervisors in any sector and any organisation. It's designed to give managers all they need to know to help them handle health and safety in their teams. The flexible new high impact programme covers all the main health and safety issues, and includes a session tackling the environment too.

This course is approved by the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) and is designed for those who wish to improve Health and Safety standards within their organisation.

Successful candidates will receive an **IOSH Managing Safely Certificate**.

We will be delivering the next **IOSH Managing Safely** course at our offices on the above date.

Course materials and refreshments for the full week are included in the price.

If you would like to take advantage of this special offer, or just to book a place for yourself, please contact us as soon as possible, as space is limited. For full details of the course, please contact us and we would be pleased to send you some information

If you have any other training requirements such as manual handling, risk assessment, general safety awareness, please visit our website for the vast range of training we have on offer.

This newsletter was brought to you by T L Dallas & Co Ltd, Dallas House, Low Moor, Bradford, BD12 OHF. For further information on any of the subjects above or advice please use the contact details below and we will be happy to help.

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