

HSE SAFETY CORNERSTONES

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HSE Releases 2016/17 Statistics

The HSE recently published its 2016/17 health and safety statistics report, which provides a way for your organisation to review how it fares in regard to the rest of the country. Here are six key figures from 2016-17:

1. An estimated **516,000 individuals were diagnosed with an illness** that they contracted through their workplace environments.
2. More than **31 million working days were lost due to work-related health or injury**, an average of 17 days off work per person. Stress, depression and anxiety accounted for the majority of the days lost, with an average of 23.8 per person.
3. The number of injuries suffered by employees fell by 2,586, while the number of other self-reported workplace injuries fell by 12,000.
4. The number of fatal injuries fell from 144 in 2015-16 to 137 in 2016-17.
5. Workplace injuries and new cases of ill health cost Britain an estimated £14.9 billion—an increase of nearly a billion pounds over the previous year.
6. HSE fines totalled £69.9 million—nearly double the amount from 2015-16. With a conviction rate of 93 per cent, health and safety prevention should be made a priority because if your organisation is prosecuted, it is very likely that you will be convicted.

Winter Driving Puts Your Workers at Risk

According to a recent report from the Department for Transport, road deaths have increased by 4 per cent this year. Driving conditions during the winter can be unpredictable and can change several times throughout the day. The limited amount of daylight can make these conditions even more hazardous, as the dark hides ice and further impairs visibility. If you have employees that regularly drive for work, it's important that you take adequate precautions to reduce winter driving risks. If you don't, there could be fatal consequences.

To ensure that your drivers are safe this winter, follow these tips:

- **Have all your vehicles serviced.** Before it gets too cold, take your vehicles to a garage to have the battery, tyre treads and wiper blades inspected.
- **Equip each vehicle with a winter emergency kit.** In case your drivers get stranded, they need to have an emergency kit on hand.
- **Provide your drivers with winter driving training.** Driving in winter weather requires your drivers to adjust certain rules of the road including reducing their speed, doubling the standard following distance and keeping their headlights turned on—even during the day.

HSE News and Prosecutions

Company Fined After Exposing Workers to HAVS

The HSE fined the Charter Housing Association Ltd £100,000 and ordered it to pay costs of £9,896.88 after six cases of hand arm vibration syndrome (HAVS) were reported. During its investigation, the HSE found that the organisation did not adequately plan its working methods, provide thorough education and training on how to mitigate HAVS, and had little to no practices in place to mitigate employees' exposure to HAVS.

Recycling Company Fined After Worker Loses Arm

The director at Clark Technologies Wales Ltd received a 10-week prison sentence and a 12-month suspension, and was ordered to pay costs of £4,000 and a victim surcharge of £115 after one of his employees lost their arm. In its investigation, the HSE found that the organisation had no safe system of work in place nor had it appointed a competent person to provide health and safety advice.

Self-employed Diver Sentenced for Falsifying Diving Medical Certificate

A self-employed diver supplied falsified diving medical certificates to a diving company and was sentenced to 32 weeks' imprisonment, a suspension of 12 months and 150 hours of community service. The diver was also ordered to pay costs of £12,000. After its investigation, the HSE stated that it would not hesitate to take appropriate action against individuals that falsify documents.

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