



Birmingham Health, Safety & Environment Association

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Newsletter

December 2013

Merry 
Christmas 

To all our Readers!

Monthly Meeting 9th December 2013

Dally Masaun, BHSEA Chair, welcomed Members to the meeting and extended a particularly warm welcome to our invited Guests, including David Yates from AF Blakemores and the coachload brought along by Steve Parton (colleagues from the world of insurance)!

Apologies were received from Tim and Richard Prestage, Roger Caleb, Tony Hall and Nicola Cardenas-Blanco.

Dally went on to introduce today's Speakers and topics.....

(Don't forget to check BHSEA website www.bhsea.org.uk for the slides covering today's presentations).



'Driving Safely for Work'

Simon Monk

Fleet Risk Assessor, AA DriveTech

Simon began by explaining that although he is not a health and safety expert, he does know a lot about fleet risk. In working for Vauxhall Motors for 27 years, 10 of which were managing the large Vauxhall fleet, Simon quite rightly believes that he has a good grasp of the risks involved.

Is Driving For Work Dangerous?

Simon reminded us that driving for work is the third most dangerous occupation, next to coal mining and deep sea diving. Simon acknowledged that the number of fatalities has reduced in recent years. The fitting of airbags, the legal requirement to wear seatbelts and so on have no doubt been contributory factors. Simon admitted that despite these safety 'devices', he was not convinced that behaviour has changed. Indeed, it was suggested that all these safety devices made be lulling drivers and passengers into a false sense of security!

Simon drew our attention to the fact that in the recent spate of cyclist fatalities, five out of six of the drivers involved, were driving for work at the time. Simon wonders whether these fatalities will be investigated to the same level as workplace accidents? Simon suggests - probably not.

Driving for Work - Legal Requirements:

The requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974 (HASAWA), includes employees driving for work. Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) drivers are well controlled, but there are no restrictions for van drivers.

The Booklet INDG382: 'Driving at Work – Managing Work Related Road Safety', produced by the HSE in conjunction with the Department for Transport and Think! Road Safety (www.hse.gov.uk), is the only guidance available as far as Simon is aware. Why? Road accidents are not reportable under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013, and therefore fall outside the scope of health and safety.

Case Study:

Simon used case studies to illustrate his point. If an employee is killed at work, say driving a vehicle in the yard, this could be a case for corporate manslaughter? Yet a fatality on the road is unlikely to lead to such penalties.

Mark Hoare, BHSEA Committee Member, commented that that an accident occurring on the highway would not be investigated by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), because it wouldn't fall within their remit. RIDDOR provides no information on driving accidents, however, Simon mentioned that a recent Labour Force Survey estimated that around 40,000 drivers were off work at any one time, due to a driving incident at work.

George Allcock, BHSEA Committee Member, referred to the importance of the Company Chief Executive's signature at the end of policy documents covering issues such as driving for work. The signature of someone at this level gives the document status and demonstrates a level of commitment. It was also commented that laying out the costs of driving at work accidents can be a useful 'tool' in persuading management to take a certain course of action! Simon wholeheartedly agreed that management commitment to the driving at work policy is crucial and that the Managing Director needs to be 'on board' from the beginning.

Assessment and Analysis:

Simon added that, in his view, attitude and behaviour are almost always key in an accident situation. Further, Simon believes that competence is not normally the key factor. He noted that it is difficult to 'treat' the highway in the same way as the workplace. On-line driver profiling is useful as part of assessing behaviour and attitude. A Member explained how they use driver testing and profiling (telematics). It involves a small 'black box' which records driver/driving information. It was generally agreed that if you record the data, you must do something with it and act upon the findings.

Fleet Safety Committee:

Simon went on to consider the ways to avoid driving in the first place: public transport; teleconferencing and so on. Simon recommends the establishment of a Fleet Safety Committee, which should meet at least once every 3 months, and which should monitor what's happening with the fleet and take timely action.

Sue Sharp, a guest at the meeting today, mentioned the Driver and Vehicle Licencing Association (DVLA), the licencing system and the potential for using this Agency as the monitoring body. It was commented that you don't often hear about a company which sacks someone with a poor driving history!

A comment was made about the sign often to be seen on the back of vehicles and which invites other drivers to make report on the good/bad driving of the driver. Again, Simon commented that it is really important that the company takes action and is seen to be taking action. Otherwise – why bother?

Members' Questions

There was a general question about the availability of a British standard or even a draft British Standard on road risk? Simon said that a British Standard covering driving at work is about 12 months away.

Mark Hoare said that at the University of Birmingham, there are a number of employees who drive occasionally. Simon said that these drivers are commonly called 'grey fleet people'. Simon added that although they may only drive occasionally, the grey fleet driver should be subject to the same controls as other fleet drivers.

Anyone wishing to pursue AA Drivetech's Driver Risk Management services should contact Simon Monk directly on the link below. The link also provides access to their full portfolio of services:

http://www.aadrivetech.com/product_portfolio/

Dally thanked Simon for his excellent presentation. The depth of Simon's knowledge of his subject was clearly demonstrated by the quality of his presentation and the responses to questions raised. Dally went on to introduce our Speaker filling the Members' Corner 'slot' today, Mike Cleverley of Deb UK Limited. Deb UK are important sponsors of Safety Groups UK, of which BHSEA is also a Member.

'Skin Matters - It's in Your Hands'

Mike invited BHSEA Members present to help themselves to the Deb skincare samples brought along today. Mike went on to ask generally how many people in the audience had heard of Swarfega? Most hands went up! Mike explained that Swarfega was the first product invented by Deb over 50 years ago. Deb UK also invented the first foaming soap and sanitiser.

Why is Skincare Important?

Mike told us that the skin is the largest organ of the body and includes around 3 million cells. Mike commented that many cases of dermatitis go unreported even though it is the second highest occupational health issue below back problems. Mike talked about the problems involved in working in different environmental conditions, in particular wet working and working outdoors.

Education:

Mike explained that he believes education to be an important area where more work needs to be done. One in five people still don't wash their hands after using the loo. Occupational dermatitis cannot be cured in most cases, it can only be controlled. An employee who has never experienced a skin problem, can suddenly suffer from dermatitis. Irritant contact dermatitis is a serious condition and may mean that the employee cannot continue to carry out that particular work.

If you consider the harmful effects of sun damage, there remains a lot to do in terms of education. Mike gave us the figures...there are more cases of skin cancer in the UK than in Australia. Moreover, just because we cannot see the sun in the sky, doesn't mean that the harmful rays are not there and causing us damage.

The Six Step System:

- Step One: **Protect**, particularly when employees are working outdoors.
- Step Two: **Cleanse.**
- Step Three: **Sanitise.**
- Step Four: **Restore.** Mike reminded us of the duty of care to mobile workers. If there is no access to water, a system for cleansing etc. needs to be put in place.
- Step Five: **Educate.**
- Step Six: **Audit.**

Dally thanked Mike for his presentation. We have been reminded of the key issues concerning skincare, and we know that the issue should be part of our COSHH procedure.

(Don't forget to check BHSEA website www.bhsea.org.uk for the slides covering today's presentations).

Announcements:

- **GOLD....Alan Butler Award:**

For the second year running, BHSEA has been awarded Alan Butler Gold Award. The Award is open to every UK safety group and is awarded in recognition of the achievements of the group. Thanks must go to our Mark Hoare (again), who patiently collects and collates all the information and submits to the judging panel at RoSPA. The Award ceremony will take place at the House of Lords in January 2014. Pictures to follow and fingers crossed that BHSEA also receives an 'Overall Award'.

- **Driving School Minibuses: Guidance for Schools and Local Authorities:**

Local Authority Members will be interested to note that the Department for Transport has published new guidance for schools and local authorities on who is entitled to drive school minibuses. The guidance can be used by council youth workers and charitable groups working with young people. The non-statutory guidance was jointly produced by the Department for Education (DfE), the Department for Transport and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

- **Join BHSEA in Getting Your Business Out There.....**

It's not too late....to join BHSEA and advertise your organisation in the Express and Star (E&S) newspaper and the E&S Regeneration Supplement (including a glossy business magazine) which will be circulated in January 2014. It will also appear online at www.expressandstar.co.uk The Express and Star has a readership of 231,000 the article/ads will also be in front of 1,037,940 unique visitors to the E & S website. We will also benefit from a glossy magazine which will be distributed to a targeted business audience.

The January Article will be a full newspaper page, half of which will be used to advertise BHSEA and the other half will be available to BHSEA Members who want to advertise the services of their own organisation. There are eight

advertising 'slots' available. Don't delay....five Member organisations have already booked a 'slot'. Deadline is 31st December 2013. Contact the Secretary secretary@bhsea.org.uk for prices and further details.

- **Desperately Seeking.....:**

Some help for the Secretary at BHSEA offices. Based at the Headquarters in Quinton, we are looking for someone to work with the Secretary about six hours per fortnight (on average). The job involves:

- *Assisting with the maintenance of the (rapidly expanding) BHSEA Membership Database (Excel),*
- *Helping with the Committee meetings held at Quinton HQ,*
- *Preparing and issuing invoices, receipts and Membership Certificates (Word),*
- *Preparing and collating BHSEA Newsletter and other information posted to Members on a regular basis.*

Days and hours can be flexible.

Contact the Secretary secretary@bhsea.org.uk or telephone 07881 290238 for an informal discussion.

- **BHSEA AGM 13th January 2014 & HSE Visit:**

Enclosed with this Newsletter, is the agenda for the AGM to be held on the 13th January 2014 and the Minutes of the AGM held on the 14th January 2013. We hope that as many Members as possible are able to attend because the AGM provides the opportunity to learn more about the role and purpose of their Association and its plans for the future. Not forgetting that the newly appointed HSE Divisional Director, Sam Peace, will be coming along to the meeting to give us the annual HSE progress report and give us an early heads up on HSE priorities and plans for the coming year or two.

- **BHSEA Annual Report and Accounts 2012/13:**

Also enclosed is a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2012/13 (see Agenda Item 6). The Report is submitted as an AGM agenda item for approval, and will be discussed at the meeting in January. If you have any queries about the content of the Report, please bring these to the attention of the Secretary in advance of the AGM.

- **The Institute of Occupational Medicine (IOM):**

The IOM is currently carrying out a research project funded by the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) to examine knowledge transfer for occupational safety and health within the UK.

BHSEA has been contacted to check whether any BHSEA Members would wish to be involved in the project.

The IOM is looking to recruit companies so that they can carry out case studies to examine how the flow of knowledge and information in relation to safety and health moves in different organisations. In particular they are interested in organisations that have made a change in the past 12 months or are planning one in the coming few months. Anyone interested should contact Alice Davis,

- **Workplace Regulations Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) (L24)**

Following consultation, HSE has reviewed and updated the Workplace Regulations Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) (L24) to make it easier for employers, building owners, landlords and managing agents to understand and meet their legal obligations and so reduce the risks of over compliance.

The ACOP was one of several identified for review and revision, consolidation or withdrawal in line with a recommendation by Professor Ragnar Löfstedt in his report 'Reclaiming health and safety for all'.

The revised ACOP has not only been updated, it will help employers understand the regulatory requirements on key issues such as temperature, cleanliness, workstations and seating, toilets and washing facilities.

The revisions were agreed by both the HSE board and the minister of state with responsibility for health and safety. Legal responsibilities to protect workers' health and safety are not altered by any changes to ACOPs.

To view the revised publication visit the HSE website at:
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/l24.htm>

- **2014 BHSEA Dates for your Diary:**

Our monthly 2014 Programme meetings are as follows:

13 th January 2014 (AGM)	9 th June 2014
10 th February 2014	8 th September 2014
10 th March 2014	13 th October 2014
14 th April 2014	10 th November 2014
12 th May 2014	8 th December 2014



The printed Annual Programme Card with full details of topics and speakers is now available and a copy was included with your November Newsletter. Why not introduce a colleague to BHSEA? If you need further copies of the Programme, contact the Secretary.

PTO.....



Date of Next Meeting

BHSEA AGM

At 2.00 pm Monday 13th January 2014

at the Birmingham Medical Institute

Keynote Presentation:

**‘HSE Annual Progress Report &
Future Plans’**

**Sam Peace,
HSE Divisional Director,
Wales, Midlands and South West**

Don't forget the buffet lunch at 1.15 pm