

September Members' Corner

Health Risks at Work

Roger Bibbings

Director of Operations, RoSPA



Roger is an Occupational Safety Adviser, and an ex member of the TUC. Today, Roger is with us representing Safety Groups UK (SGUK), and is looking for 'Champions' to come forward from BHSEA Members to roll out the 'Health Risks at Work Initiative' within their own organisation, or indeed to promote the Initiative in any way they can e.g. in schools and as part of a Tool Box Talk

What is Safety Groups UK (SGUK)?

SGUK is a national network of groups meeting on a local basis to share and discuss safety issues. There are 70 plus safety groups under the SGUK umbrella. SGUK also covers Northern Ireland and Scotland.

What's the Health risks at Work Initiative About?

This is an SGUK Campaign which relies on 'Champions' coming forward to roll it out. It's about raising employee's awareness of health issues. It has the full support of the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS), IOSH and organisations such as Deb UK and Arco.

The Initiative was piloted in Scotland and launched in England and Northern Ireland in May this year. It will run for at least the next two years.

Which Risks are Included?

- Risks to breathing
- Risks to the skin
- Risks to muscles, bones and joints
- Risks to hearing and touch
- Risks to wellbeing

How did it all begin?

Roger confirmed that health issues are still generally underestimated. Occupational cancer is killing around 8,000 people each year. Damage to health can occur 'below the surface' and of course affects lives.

So What Do I Do?

Volunteer to become a Champion. You'll have the backing of SGUK and can keep in touch with them for help and support and to monitor progress.

Those who volunteer to become a 'Champion' are given a presentation pack (to deliver to employees), including an excellent DVD aimed at SME's. There is both a long and a short version. The DVD uses actors to convey the messages and to bring it to life. The supporting information can be used flexibly to help the 'Champion' adjust the material to produce their own presentation gears towards their own particular workplace activities.

How?

Contact Roger Bibbings, Occupational Safety Adviser RoSPA, Secretary SGUK 0121 249 2095 , or get in touch with BHSEA Secretary who can provide you with the Presentation Pack and who can make the connection with Roger and the SGUK Management Committee for you.