



Safetyform Newsletter - January 2020

Welcome to the latest edition of the Safetyform monthly newsletter, bringing you up to date with all the latest health and safety news stories.



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New year brings new challenges



Safetyform would like to wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year for 2020. However, with every new year brings new challenges.

Safetyform are one of the fastest growing Health & Safety Consultancy company's in the UK, providing practical and workable solutions to health, safety and risk management in a broad range of industry sectors covering Construction, Engineering, Manufacturing, Retail, Utilities, Rail, Leisure, Education, Hospitality and many more.

Our Services include, but not limited to:

- *Health & Safety Consultancy*
- *Gap Analysis/Risk Assurance*
- *Fire Safety Consultation & Fire Risk Assessments*

- *Principal Designer Role*
 - *CDM Advisers*
 - *Independent Site Safety Inspections*
 - *Sub-Contractor Competence Assessments*
 - *H&S Training / eLearning*
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If we can help with your new year challenges, give us a call.

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Late FA cup kick offs promote mental health campaign



All Emirates FA Cup third round ties played in January were delayed by one minute to encourage fans to 'Take A Minute' to think about looking after their mental health, as part of the Heads Up campaign.

The move seen all 32 ties, excluding replays, kick off one minute later than their traditionally scheduled broadcast and non-broadcast timeslots, for example 3.01pm, 12.16pm and 7.46pm.

It's hoped that the initiative will raise awareness of the importance of looking after our mental health, with 60 seconds representing just the first step in the journey to improved wellbeing. During the minute delay, fans will be encouraged to consider the positive impact 60 seconds can have on their own wellbeing or in supporting a friend or family member.

Heads Up is partnering with Public Health England's 'Every Mind Matters' across the Emirates FA Cup third round to draw attention to the simple steps we can all take to look after our mental health and wellbeing.

The partnership will signpost to the free, online 'Every Mind Matters' resources and 'Your Mind Plan' tool, which fans can use to create a personal mental health action plan, providing them with a tailored set of simple self-care actions. In conjunction with Heads Up charity partners Mind, CALM, Heads Together and Sporting Chance, fans will also be provided helpful tips and advice on how they can approach managing their mental health.

Messaging was visible across the weekend of fixtures, both in the stadia and for the millions watching from home.

Spearheaded by HRH The Duke of Cambridge, the Heads Up campaign harnesses the influence and popularity of football to encourage more people – particularly men – to feel comfortable talking about, and taking action to improve, their mental health and to recognise that mental fitness is just as important as physical fitness.

FA chief executive Mark Bullingham said: "While delaying kick-off times by 60 seconds is a simple idea, it provides a powerful platform for us and our Heads Up charity partners to deliver a really important message on mental health.

"We know that men in particular can be reluctant to talk about the subject, so it is important that we use football as a vehicle to stress the importance of mental fitness."

For further information and support visit:

www.thefa.com/headsup

Those in need of immediate support can text 'HeadsUp' to 85258 to be connected to a trained crisis counsellor. This service is available 24/7, and free to text from most mobile networks.

In Court

Company fined after worker suffers injuries in fall from height



Construction company LJM Building Services Ltd was sentenced for safety breaches after a teenage worker fell three metres to the ground.

Grimsby Magistrates' Court heard that on 8 May 2019, the 18-year-old worker and another colleague were installing a block and beam floor by lifting large concrete beams from a telehandler and placing them onto the first-floor steels at the construction site on Manby Rd, South Killingholme, Immingham.

Whilst manoeuvring the large, heavy beams the worker slipped and fell to the ground sustaining a fractured pelvis and bruising.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the workers had not been provided with any instructions as to how to carry out this work safely. No scaffolding or other work platform had been provided on site to allow them to access first floor height. The workers therefore used some scaffold boards laid across the first-floor steels in order to provide a makeshift work platform to carry out this work. The scaffold boards were not secured in place and did not fill the necessary area. There was therefore a drop of around three metres down to the ground on all sides of the boards. Instead, a temporary crash deck or 'birdcage scaffold' should have been in place to provide a safe and stable work platform which did not have open edges.

LJM Building Services Ltd of Victoria Road, Barnetby pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4 of the Work at Height Regulations 2005. The company has been fined £10,000 and ordered to pay £1,314 in costs.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Jennifer Elsgood commented: “LJM Building Services Ltd did not have an established safe system of work, meaning that the workers had to devise their own system using the limited resources available.

“Falls from height often result in life-changing or fatal injuries. In most cases, these incidents are needless and could be prevented by properly planning the work to ensure that effective preventative and protective measures are in place.

“Appropriate supervision of the work by the company would also have prevented this unsafe system of work from being adopted.”

Director of Roofing company sentenced following unsafe roofing work



The director of a roofing company has been handed a suspended jail sentence after an eagle-eyed Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspector spotted unsafe work on a roof.

Brighton Magistrates’ Court heard that on 11 August 2018, the inspector noticed three men working on the pitched roof of a two-storey house in East Grinstead, West Sussex, without any edge protection.

The HSE investigation found that the company’s failure to ensure that work at height was carried out safely was attributable to Clifford Smith. The most basic of duties for those organising work at height is to provide adequate fall prevention measures. No fall prevention measures were provided by Clifford Smith whilst three roofers worked on the roof.

The court heard that this was not the first time the HSE had encountered poor working practices from G&S Roofing and Clifford Smith, with HSE having taken previous enforcement action and a prosecution in March 2018 for similar conditions at a site in Horsham, West Sussex.

Clifford Smith of The Hatchington, Worplesdon, Guildford pleaded guilty to a breach of section 37 of the Health and Safety at Work Act. He was sentenced to six months in jail, suspended for twelve months, ordered to do 200 hours of unpaid work and has been disqualified from being a director for three years. He was furthermore ordered to pay £4000 in costs.

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Amanda Huff said: “We hope this case demonstrates that directors can be held personally liable for the failings of their company if they fail to manage health and safety. Clifford Smith had previous form for this and failed to learn the lessons; we hope others that cut corners will pay closer attention to the health, safety and wellbeing of workers.”

Construction company and director sentenced after non-compliance with HSE notices





A company and its director have been fined after failing to comply with health and safety regulations and an enforcement notice.

Westminster Magistrates' Court heard that, between May 2018 and February 2019, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) carried out a series of inspections at a construction site at Chelmsford Road, South Woodford, London following health and safety concerns raised at the site. During the inspections, the site manager and company director Mr Tahir Ahmed was served with two Prohibition Notices and his company, All Type Electrical and Building Limited, were served with two Prohibition Notices and two Improvement Notices. All Type Electrical and Building Limited's Improvement Notice for competent advice was not complied with.

All Type Electrical and Building Limited pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 15(2) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015; and Section 21 of The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The company was ordered to pay a fine of £60,000 plus a surcharge of £170 and full costs of £5216.46

Mr Ahmed of Sutlej Road, London, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 21 of The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. He was sentenced to 18 weeks' imprisonment suspended for 12 months, 180 hours of unpaid work, and was ordered to pay a surcharge of £115, and full costs of £5060.69.

After the hearing, HSE inspector David King commented: "This case highlights the need for suitable and sufficient planning, managing and monitoring, using the appropriate work at height equipment and having a competent site manager."

“Dutyholders should be aware that HSE will hold to account those who do not comply with health and safety legislation, or who do not comply with enforcement notices served on them.”

Construction company prosecuted after self-employed joiner was seriously injured



A construction company has been fined after a self-employed joiner received serious eye injuries when he was struck in the face by an object while stepping onto a scaffold platform.

Nottingham Magistrates' Court heard that, on 2 November 2017, the injured worker was installing cladding to a newly built house on Southwell Road in Kirklington. He stepped on a platform from a tower scaffold left on the working platform which was overhanging the edge. As he stepped onto the platform, it flicked up and struck him in the face, causing him to fall from the scaffold and causing serious injuries to his eye.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found Pearson Property Developments Ltd had failed to sufficiently plan the work at height and had inadequate site induction procedures in place, meaning the competency of workers on site was not properly checked.

Consequently, the company did not know whether workers were sufficiently competent to erect scaffolding and tower scaffolds, and additionally failed to ensure the pieces of work equipment were properly signed off as safe to use by competent persons. Furthermore, the investigation found insufficient supervision and monitoring of the site, which led to ad-hoc working methods that were neither observed nor challenged, meaning that the improper use of work equipment was not seen and rectified.

Pearson Property Developments Ltd of Mountsorrel, Loughborough, pleaded guilty to breaching the Work at Height Regulations 2005 section 4(1) and the Work at Height Regulations 2005 section 5. The company was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay costs of £2,896.80.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Phil Gratton said: “This incident could so easily have been avoided by properly planning the work and carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices.

“Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards.”

Construction company fined after worker suffers multiple injuries in fall from height



Construction company, Sir Robert McAlpine Ltd was sentenced for safety breaches after worker, Mark Smith, fell 4.8 metres through an unprotected opening.

Leeds Magistrates' Court heard how, on 28 April 2016, Mr Smith, aged 36, was working at Stone Gappe Hall, Lothersdale, Keighley, owned by Richard McAlpine, a director of the McAlpine group of companies. Mr Smith was attaching straps to a water tank whilst preparing to move it to a lower floor of a water tower at the property, in order to paint the floor.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Mr Smith fell through an opening that did not have fixed edge protection. As a result, he sustained serious injuries including: a right tibial shaft fracture, a distal fibular fracture, a fracture to the left patella, orbital and nasal fractures, lacerations to the face, a concessional head injury, injury to his ribs and he was hospitalised for nine days. Mr Smith continues to suffer from psychological damage and has been unable to return to work.

Sir Robert McAlpine Ltd of Eaton Court, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hemstead, Hertfordshire pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3 (1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974, Regulation 3(1) of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and Regulation 13(1) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. The company has been fined £260,000 and ordered to pay £38,299 in costs.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Paul Thompson commented: “Falls from height often result in life-changing or fatal injuries. In most cases, these incidents are needless and could be prevented by properly planning of the work to ensure that effective preventative and protective measures are in place such as edge protection or barriers built to the correct standard.

“This incident could have easily been prevented if the company had undertaken a thorough risk assessment and installed adequate edge protection around the opening to prevent falls.”

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