

# Health and Safety

THE HEALTH AND SAFETY AUTHORITY NEWSLETTER

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# matters

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## Safe Start

Young workers are at least 50 per cent more likely to be injured in the workplace compared to more experienced workers.

Details of a new national awareness campaign targeting the safety of young people at work have been announced by the Health and Safety Authority.

The Safe Start campaign will target the safety of young people at work and will focus on giving young people a safe and healthy start to their working lives. The campaign launched will culminate with European Week for Safety and Health at Work in October 2006.

Young workers currently suffer over a quarter of accidents at work in Ireland. The most recent CSO data shows that 15,800 workers between the ages of 15 and 24 were injured in accidents in Ireland in 2004, while six young people died through a work related injury in 2005.

In the 15 – 19 age group, the wholesale and retail sector has a relatively high incidence of injuries among young people (8.8%), compared with other sectors. The hotel and restaurant sector has the highest proportion of injuries in the 20 – 24 age group (28%), followed by the agricultural sector where 27% of reported injuries are in the 20 – 24 age group.

The Health and Safety Authority's campaign will promote risk awareness among young people and their entitlement to a safe working environment. It will also target employers with information and guidance on their requirement to provide safe and suitable work, training and supervision, and being aware of what to do when a young person starts work.

The Health and Safety Authority will also liaise closely with youth organisations and industry and employee representative bodies to get the Safe Start message through. The campaign also marks the Authority's intention to mainstream health and safety issues into the wider education system in Ireland, in addition to its workplace initiatives.

The campaign will take place in conjunction with the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work which is targeting 75 million young workers across the EU. A range of information vehicles will be used including fact sheets, a "First Day at Work" DVD, a Good Practice Awards Scheme, newsletters, magazines and websites, among other initiatives.

For further information log on to [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)



Picture 1 to r: Jim Lyons, Chairman, Health and Safety Authority, Dublin Senior Football star Ray Cosgrove, Tom Beegan, CEO, Health and Safety Authority

# Atlantic Alliance

Five people were killed in quarries in 2005 and two have been killed already this year. In a bid to tackle the high number of quarry deaths the Health and Safety Authority assembled quarry safety experts from three continents to discuss best practice for the industry.

The so called Atlantic Alliance meeting hosted jointly by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) and the Health and Safety Executive of Northern Ireland (HSENI) ran for two days on June 20th and 21st.

The conference came just one week after two Irish firms suffered fines totalling €150,000 arising from safety breaches at a quarry just miles from the conference location.

The Conference concentrated on the issues and concerns of the sector and on sharing best practice and initiatives (industry and regulatory based) directly effecting health and safety performance at quarries on both sides of the Atlantic, with emphasis on the prevention of fatal and serious accidents and health protection of quarry workers.

For further information log onto: [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)



Speaking at the conference, Pat Griffin, Senior Inspector, Health and Safety Authority

## 1, 2 and 17,567 are winning numbers

The Workplace Contact Unit (WCU) has been clocking up a series of impressive numbers recently starting with 1 and ending with 17,567.

The unit will celebrate 1 year in operation in July and marked its first birthday by being in the running for no less than 2 national awards. WCU challenged strongly for the honours in the inaugural awards night for Customers Services Awards Ireland.

WCU were nominated in two categories, 'The best use of Technology in Customer Services' and 'The Best Customer Service Team' (Public Service and Education section).

And the numbers for WCU just keep getting better. In its first six months in operation the unit handled 17,567 calls of which 15,343 were requests for information and publications.

In an independent customer survey carried out last November the unit scored an average of 3.78 out of a possible total of 5. Indeed they scored 4.43 for helpfulness of staff – exceptional scoring for any organisation.

## Report an Accident online

Accidents can be reported online through the Health and Safety Authority's website [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)

The incident reporting system has been upgraded with improvements in security and greater interaction with users.

### Benefits of reporting online:

- Faster than filling in a paper IR1 form and posting it
- Allows you to view all accidents you reported online over the last year
- Provides you with confirmation receipt (e-mail) for each accident reported
- Enables the Health and Safety Manager of your organisation to view all the accidents reported for your organisation online, over previous year

By law, workplace accidents must be reported to the Health and Safety Authority, as soon as possible.



# €175,000 in fines imposed

## Dundalk Circuit Court imposes €125,000 fines

On 15th June Dundalk Circuit Court imposed fines of €100,000 on Kilsaran Concrete Ltd. and €25,000 on Martin Casey trading as JMC Engineering. The case arose from an investigation into an accident to an employee of JMC Engineering at a block plant at Gallstown Quarry in Dunleer Co. Louth on 11th November 2002. The block plant was run by Kilsaran Concrete Ltd.

The employee suffered severe head injuries when he fell off a pallet he was standing on which was attached to the forks of a teleporter. He was removing drip trays from under the idle rollers of a conveyor. In passing sentence Judge McCartan said: "he could not understand how a modern, progressive quarry, so highly mechanised, would not have suitable equipment for working at heights". He said he was going to send a message out to the industry that this kind of behaviour would not be tolerated and that employers have a duty of care to their employees.

## Roscommon Circuit Court imposes a fine of €50,000

On 13th June 2006 Roscommon Circuit Court imposed a fine of €50,000 on Integrated Utility Services Ltd. following an investigation into the death of an employee in January 2004. Integrated Utility Services Ltd. was undertaking the refurbishment of the ESB's overhead electricity network at Castlerea, Co Roscommon. The employee was fatally injured when the ESB pole he was climbing collapsed to the ground during the changing of stays to the pole. Judge Anthony Kennedy found Integrated Utility Services Ltd. guilty for failing to provide safe systems of work. The absence of a site specific risk assessment was also taken into account.

## Roscommon leads the way

A Workplace Health project was piloted in 10 Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in County Roscommon. This was a joint initiative by the Health and Safety Authority, Roscommon County Enterprise Board, Health Promotion Services, Occupational Health Nurses Association of Ireland and the Health Service Executive – West. The main aim behind this initiative was to pilot a workplace health support service for SMEs in the region to enable them to develop into healthy and safe workplaces.

The project involved a survey of each workplace's existing programmes, policies and support needs. An information pack was developed and support was provided to protect and enhance health and well-being at work through a partnership approach.

The project formed one of the Strategic Actions of the Roscommon County Development Board's ten year strategy.

A copy of the Report and Summary Report on the County Roscommon SME Workplace Health Project is available by contacting the Health Promotion Services at: 091-548421/37 or email: [HealthPromotion@mail.hse.ie](mailto:HealthPromotion@mail.hse.ie)

## All booked out

In a bid to improve our publications and public information service a number of changes have been made to our publications service.

All publications are now processed through our Cork service provider and publications can be accessed in the normal way by telephone or over the web.

Publications are no longer available to collect from the Authority's HQ at 10 Hogan Place, Dublin 2. To order publications please contact 1890 289 389 and select Option 2 or use the website [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)

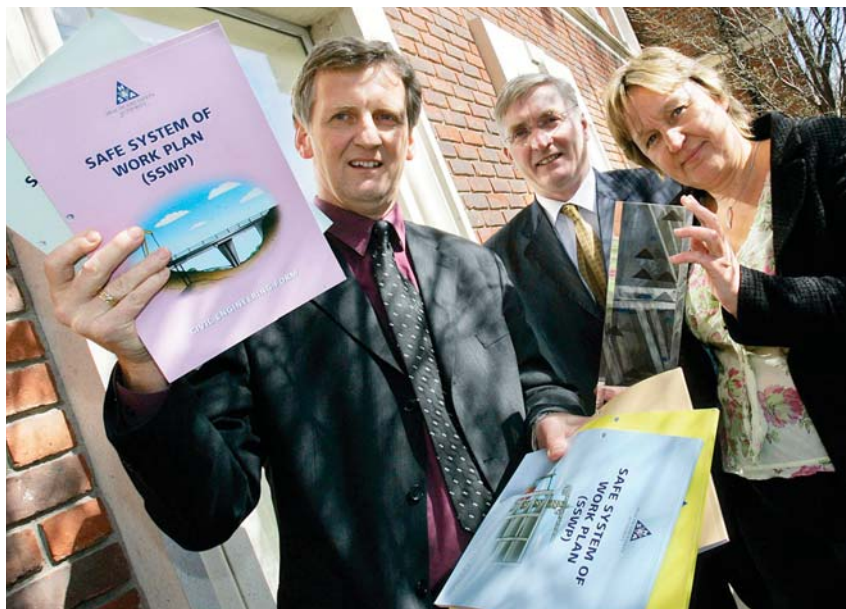
Publications (except SSWP) are still available to download free of charge from our website.

# Safety body are picto perfect

The Health and Safety Authority has picked up a prestigious international award for its revolutionary Safe System of Work Plan (SSWP).

The Authority received the Construction's Supreme International IMHOTEP Award for Statutory Bodies and Institutes.

Authority Inspectors Paula Gough and Martin O'Dea, who developed the system, collected the award at the recent International Symposium of the ISSA's Construction Section on Occupational Safety and Health in the Construction Industry held recently in Brazil.



Picture 1 to r: Martin O'Dea, Inspector, Tom Beegan, CEO, Paula Gough, Inspector of the Health and Safety Authority

The system uses pictograms to portray hazards and appropriate controls, is user friendly and language independent.

The Safe System of Work Plans for Construction includes versions for Groundworks, Housebuilding, Demolition, New Commercial Building and Civil Engineering with explanation booklets and a DVD available in seven languages.

The IMHOTEP Award is the name of the ISSA Construction Section's worldwide competition "to make known, promote, implement and apply in other countries all Good Innovation Prevention Practices available in the World".

Essentially it is aimed at promoting innovation and best practice in the worldwide construction industry.

## SITE SAFETY AND YOU SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK PLAN (SSWP) CONSTRUCTION



The Health and Safety Authority has developed a new safety system for construction sites which aims to help employers get across the safety message by using pictograms to depict safety issues on site. The new system called SSWP, which recently won an international innovation award, is available in eight languages, as is the training DVD.

The new system relies heavily on pictograms to explain and clarify hazards and controls, thereby creating a wordless document where safety can be communicated to all workers regardless of literacy or language skills.

The SSWP aims to focus on those in the construction industry who are

most at risk and to empower them to ensure that all necessary safety controls are in place prior to the commencement of planned work.

Employers now have an obligation under the new Act to provide training in a manner, form and language that is understood by workers. The SSWP forms and pictogram booklets are now available from the Authority's website at [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie) or from Locall 1890 289 389. There are currently five forms available. These cover Ground Works, House Building, Demolition, New Commercial Building and Civil Engineering.