

From: Phil Chambers at Strategic Safety Systems Ltd. [phil@strategicsafety.co.uk]
Sent: 15 April 2014 10:31
To: phil@strategicsafety.co.uk
Subject: News and Legal Updates from Strategic Safety Systems Ltd.!



Strategic Safety Systems Ltd. Newsletter

April 2014
Issue 1

Dear Philip,

Welcome to the first April edition of our newsletter. What we aim to do is to provide information which is of use to you and to let you know the activities in which we have been involved. We also aim to let you know of any incidents that have occurred in, and legislation that is related to, the areas in which we work. We realise that, with the broad spectrum of our activities, some may not be relevant to you but we hope you find the rest useful.

Regards,

Philip Chambers
Strategic Safety Systems Ltd.

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PUWER to change

The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) are due to change. On behalf of our readers, SSS have read through the proposals and have concluded that these really are just a "light touch" where some out-of-date parts are removed and some areas are clarified. The changes are not really going to affect anybody much.

Beware no win/no fee situations

We often hear of silly 'elf'n safety actions, but the crazy situation with no win/no fee legal companies drives this. Just look at an example about which we have recently been asked:

The company had a small safe, about the size of the fridge in your kitchen, which was used as a fire safe. It was placed on a concrete floor and the building was only about 5 years old.

An employee partially opened to door and was apparently distracted when the door, under its own weight about a vertical hinge, closed on her thumb.

The legal company are claiming that the employer:

- Had allowed the safe to be placed on uneven ground
- Had permitted the client to use the safe when it was unsafe to do so.
- Had exposed the employee to a trap which was a foreseeable risk of injury
- Had failed to ensure that the safe had been correctly installed and was stable as required by the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 6 and 20
- Had failed to provide suitable training and a system of work for opening the door

OK, all of these can be disputed. For example, the floor was level to within 1mm/m and surely the suggestion that the employer needs to provide training on how to open a door would be laughable.

But, all of these need time and cost a lot to refute.

So, beware of no win/no fee legal situations and make sure that you have risk assessments, method statements and training records for those situations which aren't as silly as this one. This is where SSS can provide real and sensible support.

[See SSS health and safety support services.](#)

Don't rely on wishful thinking



Don't fall into the trap of just thinking of disaster recovery such as fire and data loss. You need to think about lots of other things like how you'd cope if you lose power because someone sticks a JCB bucket through a power cable to the industrial estate.

[See how SSS can help with a sensible approach to business continuity.](#)

Update of QA system



One of the increasing parts of our business is to improve QA and other systems to make them more concise and easier to implement. We have just finished work for Ultra-Warm in Corsham who are a plumbing, heating and ventilation company. The revised system combines their ISO 9001 manual with that required for gas safety, and overcomes duplication as well as using the SSS flowchart methodology which makes for a more understandable approach.

Don't suffer with unworkable systems. [See more about SSS improvement services.](#)

Incidents and court cases

Failure to act on consultant's recommendations costs almost £50,000

Environmental Waste Recycling was fined £49,670 (inc. costs) after a worker almost lost his arm in machinery. A health and safety consultant hired by the company had reported the missing guards following inspections in November 2008 and June 2010 but the company had failed to act on his recommendations

[See details](#)

Lorry driver hit by forklift truck

LP Foreman & Sons of Chelmsford was fined £7621 (inc. costs) on 1st April after a lorry driver was hit by a forklift truck. There was no system of work to keep forklift trucks and pedestrians apart.

[See details](#)

Unguarded chain drive claims 2 finger tips

Biffa Waste Services Ltd was fined £21,542 (inc. costs) on 3rd April 2014 after an employee lost the tips of fingers in an unguarded chain drive.

[See details](#)

Daily updates

Don't forget, there's lots of useful information that is highlighted typically daily on the SSS Twitter and Blog sites.

Follow us on [twitter](#)

Visit our [blog](#)

I hope you have found this information of interest. If you have any suggestions of other information you would

like to see, please [contact me](#).

Whilst the intention of this newsletter is to be useful, we realise that most people are plagued by spam and should you wish to prevent future issues being sent to you, unsubscribe using the link below.

Regards,

Philip Chambers

Strategic Safety Systems Ltd.

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