

Phil Chambers

From: phil@strategicsafety.co.uk on behalf of Phil Chambers at Strategic Safety Systems Ltd.
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Sent: 23 January 2014 10:32
To: phil@strategicsafety.co.uk
Subject: News and Legal Updates from Strategic Safety Systems Ltd.!



Strategic Safety Systems Ltd. Newsletter

January 2014
Issue 2

Dear Philip,

Welcome to the second January 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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Penalties increase for H&S offences

A report published this month by the Department for Work and Pensions states that the changes that were made by the Health and Safety (Offences) Act 2008 resulted in more cases being tried in the lower courts, with these courts imposing heavier penalties than those which they were previously allowed.

As a result of this, we are likely to see a reduction in situations where cases drag on for years as they progress to the higher courts. This, we all welcome. However, we are also likely to see an increase in both the number of cases and fines in the lower courts. Note that the limit has risen from £5,000 to £20,000.

Key finding of the report were that for the period 2009 to 2013, compared with 2006 to 2009:

- Cases in the higher courts fell by 56% (232 compared with 521)
- Cases in the lower courts rose by 20% (1477 compared with 1227)

Note that this, combined with the expected increase in fees for intervention (FFI) discussed in the last newsletter, means that it is even more important to be properly on top of your health and safety issues.

[See Department for Work and Pensions report](#)
[See FFI article in previous newsletter](#)
[See SSS health and safety support services](#)

Have you a business continuity plan in place?

The recent floods should make us aware that we all need to have a business continuity plan in place, tested where appropriate. You may think that you don't have a problem, say with flooding, but you have to look at your supply chain. Can people get to work? Have you a key supplier who may be affected? What would happen if somebody put a JCB bucket through the power supply to your plant?

You need to:

- Identify the risks to your operations.
- Define a plan to cope with these risks, and set this up.
- In some cases, test the arrangements

An example of a situation where it was necessary to test the arrangement was a client who recently had warning that power was going to be cut. They hired generators and connected them. However, when the power was cut, they found that their phone system no longer worked.

SSS can help you with this. Click on the link below to see more about this.

[See SSS Business Continuity support](#)

Need to carry out surveillance checks

Just a reminder to everyone that it is essential to carry out checks on devices that you need to work when asked to. Two recent examples:

- A recent check on emergency lighting at one company showed that 50% of it no longer worked.
- A contributory factor to one of the accidents below was the fact that the employer did not check interlocks; a machine started up unexpectedly as the interlock did not work, resulting in injury and an £18,000 fine.

Incidents and court cases

Failed interlock and poor system of work results in £18,000 fine

The rollers on which the worker was standing at a textile company started rotating, pulling in his left leg up to the knee. The cause was both a failed interlock and a poorly managed override system.

[See details](#)

Poor crane practice results in £80,000 fine

Renold Power Transmission Ltd., fined £80,000 after a worker's left hand was badly mangled in the hook on a crane because lifting chains were unavailable

[See details](#)

High-tech company fined £22,000 after 2 accidents within 6 weeks

Fiberweb Geosynthetics Ltd., were fined after 2 accidents, one involving manual handling of a 70-90 kg reel and the other for unsafe crane practices resulted in a heavy part being dropped, hitting a worker's head.

[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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