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Health and Safety Division

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HEALTH & SAFETY BULLETIN – FEBRUARY 2006

We welcomed aboard the ship a new divisional manager, Martin Jobling, in January, Martin joins us from Sunderland City Council and is highly trained in Health & Safety, is practical and ‘in the real world’ – quite a find in this day and age of “you can’t do that” and “‘gainst regulations – stop that!” or “jobs worth! – can’t help you!”

Well – Martin can – and will!

He joins the team and strengthens our depth of experience in providing our clients with practical and good commercial advice on the subject!

Martin’s details: E-mail: mjobling@explorer-associates.co.uk
Mobile telephone: 07816 634027

As the year starts to ‘pan out’ and our annual inspections are now well underway, we see some ‘bad practices’ already to the fore – TAKE NOTE PLEASE!

- Aisles and gangways blocked – Exit doors blocked
- Trip and fall hazards everywhere! Carpets curled up, trailing leads, stationery boxes left near stairs – Stationery piled on stairs!!
- Fire extinguishers out of test date (Come on! Simply bad management here!)
- Continued ignoring the need to separate pedestrians from vehicles – This is important and – if no action taken through simple paint lining/‘yellow brick road’ identification etc. – then you WILL have to answer to the law WHEN the accident inevitable happens!!
- Glare from windows on to computer screens – you must risk assess each work station and ensure that glare is not a problem; seating is correct for the desk; lighting is to standard etc. etc. etc. We have a ‘tick’ list form if you want further help – just shout!!
- Unsafe electrical wiring – including sockets overloaded!

Site risk assessments being received of late – especially from our project management companies – are, spookily, becoming very similar to each other in content and layout!!!

BEWARE!!

A risk assessment – and a work method statement – must be ‘unique’ to the proposed work...‘pulling’ a ‘ready made’ assessment off the web is a ‘NO NO’ – and we will reject them as irrelevant and unsuitable – YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!!

I end this missive with a real beaut:

Mahatma Gandi, as you will recall, walked barefoot most of the time, this produced an impressive set of corns on his feet. He also ate very little which made him frail and, with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath.

This made him...(Oh! This is soooo good!):

A super callused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.

Be Safe! Jerry Ridgway

“AN ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERS AND SPECIALISTS”