

# News Letter



Issue 11



There's more than one problem with mobile phones – I'm not talking about their use in cars and lorries – that is a straight breach of the law and that's that – no, by 'wandering around' with the phone welded to the ear we do – you have a new danger – lack of concentration.

A foreman with a plant hire company paid the ultimate price when he turned his back on a machine lift operation in order to answer his mobile – at which point the gantry tipped over on to his head – end of call.

**THINK!! CONCENTRATE!! ACT!!**

The guy was a driver picking up a trailer from the site; a task he often carried out – this time he got complacent as he tied on his number plate and in he went. **THINK!! CONCENTRATE!! ACT!!** Proper site management, warning stripes, correct covers, 'yellow pedestrian walkways' – what price now to a crippled and wounded driver who cannot drive for his living for quite a while??!!

I hate vehicle service pits ...  
Hate ... Hate ... Hate

A Kent company (getting closer to us!) has been fined, with costs over £14,000 after a man fell into an unguarded pit at its premises and sustained serious injuries, including a fractured ankle, sprained ankle and a badly cut head.



Most companies are now in breach of the new fire regulations since from the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006 all had to comply and risk assess their premises in a competent manner – we at Explorer Associates have been very busy inspecting and reporting – but mostly post that date so 'good planning' clients – talk about 'the eleventh hour'!!

If you are a 'small operation' of one to two rooms, for example, then the inspection/report is not difficult to undertake – and, anyway, is designed to ... (yup, here it comes!)... **THINK and CONCENTRATE** on ensuring your premises are safe from fire hazards.

We are pleased to freely advise our clients and recipients of the H&S bulletin on the way forward regarding fire risk assessments to comply with the new law – and also pleased to quote for site attendance/inspection/report in full should you wish for this service. Either way ... get compliant now – time ran out last month!!

I have read, to me, an amazing statistic: In 2005 there were **54,935** 'at work related crashes' of vehicles ... mmmm – an average of 151 every day – and we seem to accept this as 'standard' – what??!

According to 'Road Casualties Great Britain 2005' a quarter of all road crashes involved vehicles being driven for work related reasons; 1 in 7 (15%) being driven for work and a further 9% of crashes were whilst being driven to, or from, work ... that's awful!!!



Did you know? The corporate manslaughter and corporate homicide bill has just passed its second reading in the House of Commons. The on-going debates have 'watered down' the proposed liability to a degree and I question the way it is going – the fact remains that directors and company managers are well and truly targeted now – the law closes in to negligence in the work place – you have to plan, assess and target safety in the work place – to **THINK** work methods through, **CONCENTRATE** on all aspects of welfare, health and safety at work and **ACT – NOW** – impose good management work methods on the staff, encouraging them to act responsibly and in a competent manner throughout the working day – and whilst driving home too!!

Currently, companies must only report under 'RIDDOR' Regulations incidents that occur on site to the HSE; on road incidents are not covered under 'RIDDOR' and are only investigated by the police ... If all work related incidents, near misses or injuries had to be reported, including on road – our so called 'Safety Record' in this country would go out the window in one fell swoop.

**THINK!! CONCENTRATE!! ACT!!**

*Be Safe!! – Jerry.*