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NOVEMBER / DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Recession? Total mania from our angle recently – securing property and fast tracking new projects, dealing with nasty chemicals just left in laboratories as the staff were ousted without any safety considerations, closing down electrics in plants and factories, stripping out carefully the metal scrap fittings and cables only to find the market for the buyer has also crashed and all a waste of time..... shades of 1989 – 1991, echoes of the early eighties, of the three day week...God! I've suddenly got old!! I've been through them all!!

Refreshing, then, to visit and inspect other Companies and small businesses who are not only 'head down' and producing trade and services, products and goods but are buoyant and aware of their responsibilities in having a safe and accident free environment for their crew and the visiting public.

Also so rewarding to carry out annual inspections where schools, stock yards and shops have not only listened to our constructive criticism and read our reports but have acted positively and with pride in developing their work places to a high standard.

But then.....there are others who have not only failed to act but have gone backwards!

Depressing!



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APATHY STILL RULES - DON'T LET IT CREEP UP ON YOU!!

Safety at work is not an option – it makes sense because why train up your personnel only to see them maimed and unable to work through neglect of the work place?!

Come on – positive thoughts are allowed only for the duration of the 'business slump' – let's get going during the quiet periods to check over our work areas, clean up those 'dumping' corners and train the staff to think 'safety at work' and to come up with suggestions as to how to improve the working environment – you will benefit through a sharper, keener and more productive workforce plus a safer and more enjoyable site that will rub off on your clients and customers – can't lose as I see it!!

We've been busy, not only as described, but in having a 're-think' of our own image...with the result:

"HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSULTANTS, ENGINEERS AND PROJECT SPECIALISTS"

Registered in England No 3650082 Reg Office: 1 Forge Hill, Kent TN25 7DT UK Office (CoSec) UK VAT Reg 725 2570 43
Directors: J.F. Ridgway (Managing) C. Rodgers (Company Secretary) M.J.Gardiner (Office Manager)



Explorer

ASSOCIATES LIMITED

Our new logo – being launched right now!

Please visit our web site:

www.explorer-associates.co.uk

A fresh new look and a clean up of our presentation and services!

So – out with the old and in with the new – and that’s what it’s all about... shake the shoulders and straighten the back; look at your Company or establishment and freshen up – safety will improve with just a little thought and input – and without massive costs either!

Fresh advice in from one of my American contacts (I urge caution if taking this advice – it just, maybe, either wrong advice or politically incorrect!):

1. If you're choking on an ice cube, simply pour a cup of boiling water down your throat. Presto! The blockage will instantly remove itself.
2. Avoid cutting yourself when slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold the vegetables while you chop.
3. Avoid arguments with the females about lifting the toilet seat by using the sink.
4. For high blood pressure sufferers ~ simply cut yourself and bleed for a few minutes, thus reducing the pressure on your veins. Remember to use a timer.
5. A mouse trap placed on top of your alarm clock will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep after you hit the snooze button.
6. If you have a bad cough, take a large dose of laxatives. Then you'll be afraid to cough.
7. You only need two tools in life - wd-40 and duct tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the wd-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape.
8. Remember - everyone seems normal until you get to know them.
9. If you can't fix it with a hammer, you've got an electrical problem.

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On to Seasonal stuff and my annual warnings on safety issues:

- Christmas lights – only buy with the ‘CE’ guide mark – check them carefully!
- NEVER overload sockets!
- Do not replace the ‘white painted’ fuse bulbs with an ordinary one – you’ll invite a fire.
- Similarly with plug fuses – 3 or 5amp is the maximum – just because a 13amp fuse fits and is to hand does not mean it can be used – THINK!!
- 24 hour burning of festoon lights = a high risk of a fire plus it costs! Time switch them!
- Invite the Mother-In-Law to visit “next year”; keep yourself sane.
- Ensure the tree has a wide base stand – think of the little ones grabbing and falling over – will the tree remain standing?
- Don’t drink and drive – taxis are cheaper than taking a life or two.

Lovely Irish Joke

An Irishman walks into a bar in Dublin, orders three pints of Guinness and sits in the back of the room, drinking a sip out of each one in turn.

When he finishes all three, he comes back to the bar and orders three more.

The bartender says to him, 'You know, a pint goes flat after I draw it; It would taste better if you bought one at a time.'

The Irishman replies, 'Well, you see, I have two brothers. One is in America, the other in Australia, and I'm here in Dublin. When we all left home, we promised that we'd drink this way to remember the days we all drank together.'

The bartender admits that this is a nice custom, and leaves it there.

The Irishman becomes a regular in the bar and always drinks the same way: he orders three pints and drinks the three pints by taking drinks from each of them in turn.

One day, he comes in and orders two pints.

All the other regulars in the bar notice and fall silent.

When he comes back to the bar for the second round, the bartender says, 'I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my condolences on your great loss.'

The Irishman looks confused for a moment, then the light dawns in his eye and he laughs.

'Oh, no,' he says, 'Everyone is fine. It's me.....I've quit drinking!'



I'm already in the Christmas Spirit!

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The shutdown periods over Christmas and the New Year seem to get longer – and with this in mind please give extra thought into your closure plans.

Standby computers should be fully shut off, the same for photocopiers, printers and the like.

Unplug as well!

Check the kitchenette – unplug the micro wave and water boiler – close the water main.

Frost protect – there are purpose built heaters that will trip in as freezing point is reached.

Inform the police of the key holder and contact details – when did you last inform them?!!

Got a reduced crew in over the holidays? – or a lone worker manning phones? Work out a risk assessment that gives them cover and back up – checks and security; please discuss with the team and inform all concerned.

And if the worst happens?

We have a 24 hour emergency call out service available to you – covering crisis management, handling accidents and reporting, investigations and dealing with the media, the Police, the HSE.

May you not need us – but if you do:

Telephone: 01303 211341

Or

07901 857463

info@explorer-associates.co.uk

We're at YOUR service!

*Have a very Safe Holiday!
Kind Regards - Jerry*

Letter to my Bank Manager:

Dear Sir,

In view of current developments in the banking market, if one of my cheques is returned marked "insufficient funds", does that refer to me or to you?

Yours Faithfully,

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