

Explorer Associates Limited

Health and Safety Division
1 Forge Hill Aldington Kent TN25 7DT
Tel: +44(0)1303 211341
Email: info@explorer-associates.co.uk
www.explorer-associates.com



JULY 2008 NEWSLETTER

Now here's a sign of the times: **FUEL THEFTS** – how does that come into the realm of 'Health, Safety or Welfare'? Well, it does!

Consider the following risk assessment to be made against this scenario:

Your company car / delivery van / fleet coaches / trucks / yard fuel tanks / heating fuel oil tanks (I think that covers all our clients!) now carry a very expensive commodity that is being targeted by thieves:

Petrol / Diesel / Fuel Oil

You are then not only targeted – you get 'hit' one night and fuel is siphoned off / drawn off and you lose a valuable asset....think on:

The sheer damage that is caused: the fuel cap ripped off the vehicle / the fuel pipe cut / the fuel tank split and fuel pouring out into the bund (what? Insufficient bund? In which case pouring over the yard for hours after the b***** have left!) – you have the risk in front of you then – **fire!**

You also have the risk of damage to your business trading.

You have the risk of insurance premium increases.

You run the risk of prosecution from Environmental Agencies for ground pollution.

You have the potential repair bill running into hundreds / thousands due to a loss of £60 of fuel.....

Risk assess the problem then – there are anti-siphon gizmos on the market that you place into the filler pipe, good padlocking and infra-red alarm scanners to protect tanks; proper bunding around storage tanks; better disciplines at night to shut off fuel delivery systems – better thinking on anti-theft will not only save you an extra fuel cost – it will save you plenty of misery and money in the longer term!

PLEASE take time out to look at your fuel storage – including your own car – is it parked up in a brightly lit, and well walked road? Anti-siphon installed? Garage properly locked?

It is surely a sign of sad times when a major point for a monthly newsletter on health & safety matters has to be on thieving and vandalism – you are all aware (from feed back I get regularly!) that our current 'big one' in Naples has taught me a lot – a colleague was saying how much 'safer', however, he felt in Italy and the lack of crime apparent..... I then said for him to observe the huge amount of damaging graffiti – the system that has so many more women on the street trying to sell 'their assets' to make some dosh for their pimp to rip them off with; the open drug culture (same here in the UK) – and the very poor condition of the City and the majority of the people – due to criminal gangs, The State, The Police – all taking their share and leaving streets piled high with waste, rotting buildings and roads, every shop shuttered and padlocked at night Yup! Safer than Britain? – I agree!!

"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) B.R. Smith (General Manager) M.J. Gardiner (Office Manager)



I've inserted the above to cheer myself up!

I wonder what the tested weight of the rig is to enable it to lift the Moon?!!

I'm now going to have a 'pop' at the wonderful subject of **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT ('PPE')** – doesn't affect your business? I bet it does! Read on (he said in desperation!):

My thinking on the subject was raised this month on a project we have in Welwyn Garden City: a major sale of factory assets that has our Associates managing the work crews as they lift and remove the bought machinery – being a closely controlled site we have strict rules on risk assessment approvals and work method statements in place well before the gangs start on the project – not least is the mandatory rule that **ALL** will wear hard hat, high viz. jackets, toe protected work boots as a minimum, plus eye, ear and hand protection wear as the work demands; now this is not us being 'draconian' or flexing our muscles as site policemen.... But it simply saves injuries and accidents – all of which take up paperwork (!) – So it is for everybody's interest to follow the project rules...but no:

John, our site Manager, is finding, daily, breaches of the wear rule – to the extent that even our client saw it – how embarrassing is that after all the bullying and cajoling that John has been dishing out!?

So – enough is enough – and we now have the 'red card' system in place – one breach by anyone on site and they get the 'red card' – off site and don't return! – No 'yellow warning' but straight off site...it seems to be working!

Trying to save guys from themselves is now a full time management problem!

Protective wear is not just a site problem either: eye goggles in the workshop, in shops; chemical handling (even bleach!) should mean that suitable protective gloves are worn without fail; noise in the workplace should be reduced down to acceptable and approved levels without the need for ear defenders but there are areas where entering must mean ear defenders are not only readily available – but are worn without fail!

As managers, directors and responsible people you have to now 'hold the hands' of your work crew and ensure they obey your rules and wear the right gear for their protection against an accident.

Sad – isn't it – that intelligent and competent people all around us – can't look after themselves properly and need to be constantly reminded that work rules are there for **THEM!!**

I'm depressed again!

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What next?



I like this one – received from an American mate –

Risk Assessment? I don't think so!

Getting ready for their 4th July celebrations they've stacked up massive amounts of fireworks, mortars and sparklers for sale to the local populace.... A little observation of what's behind them would surely have brought on a rapid risk assessment of whether this site is safe – or could be the most spectacular show on Earth! Anyone got a light?



I **HATE** stepladders – Seldom used correctly they have the habit of strangely falling over; of being just too short, every time, to reach the point of the climb (!) and cause a lot of paperwork to us guys as we enter 'RIDDOR' reports on broken limbs, heads and small brains!!

As usual – but with a little more feeling this month:

BE SAFE OUT THERE!!

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