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SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

September is half way through – the Summer never did appear and it seems the World is staggering towards Recession, Doom and Gloom – Yippee Do!!

A good start to the Autumn session and all you need, right now, is an accident happening at your work, on your premises or in the yard – yet it's happening – all around with damaged bodies and distressed families all through a lack of attention, through stupidity or because no training has been put into place and no risk assessment made of the work practise.

Explorer's have a new project opening up at the end of this month involving only four Companies having to 'dovetail' in preparation for a straight forward demolition of a production line. Civil engineering to prepare for the new plant and the final delivery and installation of the equipment is planned and my client is meticulous due to the product made, which is dangerous. The whole factory site is subject to very strict personal protection wearing, inductions and even a 'clean / dirty' system of showers to ensure no outside contamination, so the whole preparation process has been costly for them but worthwhile to ensure complete safety – excellent so far.

Trying to get these contractors to talk and plan amongst themselves is another matter and infuriating to both our role as safety co-ordinators and to the main client who is attempting to 'dot every "i" and cross every "t" in advance of the works!

Worse – we have been receiving their risk assessments and work method statements and it is clear they have not taken into consideration the other contractors either overlapping their work or, indeed, working alongside their own team!

Worse still – their assessments and statements are detailed with obvious facts and coverage – not really applicable in the wider sense but paying lip service to the purpose of risk assessments; for example they have all covered "working at height", "manual lifting and shifting", "working off ladders" etc. etc. but have not 'personalised' the assessments to the actual work ahead of them – they are pointless and almost definitely have not, and will not, be read or understood by the actual work force!

It is only the planning of daily 'tool box' talks and on-site chats that we WILL enforce the safety and welfare of the crew working and ensure that all will leave the project with digits intact and no damaged bodies, no distressed families etc. etc.

The weather I can do nothing about and the race towards winter is out of my scope of works!

Sorry!

"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)



This cheers me up – when the ‘experts’ get it wrong it’s difficult to say “Ooops, sorry about that!”



Folkestone – and some one else had not risk assessed something – the route that led underneath a low railway bridge whilst transporting roof frames; musing to myself whilst stuck in the inevitable traffic jam that, with a little more attention to the work in hand and just a little time studying the map / route the load would have arrived safely, the driver would have kept his job and I wouldn’t be fuming and losing time because of a moron!

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We have a project ahead in Karachi early next year – looking at the above safety eye wear gear available out there – we are seriously looking forward to the experience – let's hope this chap will also be looking....anywhere.....then!



I've been asked to repeat the above picture because it really is so unbelievable....talk about relying on your mates – one wobble, one sneeze = one big squash between hull and jetty!!

They are out there – beware!

Pack away the Bar B Q, but check the gas cylinder is not leaking and is ventilated – or you just might have a hot Autumn after all!!

Take care – **THINK** – and, as always:

Be Safe!

Jerry

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