



Explorer
ASSOCIATES LIMITED

F1, 12 Radnor Cliff, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2JJ

Tel: +44(0)1303 211341

Email: info@explorer-associates.co.uk

www.explorer-associates.com

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

I'm having a stressed up period – 'feast and famine', it seems, with a "Drop everything – we need your services NOW!" one minute and then scrabbling around trying to place the crew the next!

Then the 'grand announcement' on Government cuts and more pressure on the few of us left that actually work for a living.... all with legislation and Laws in place to further harass and squeeze the profit margins....Happy Days!

The current review on Safety, Welfare and Health legislation is very welcome and I know this may seem strange to many of you since I come from a different angle in many ways and yet, those who know me well, also know of the 'war' I have waged in order to bring Common Sense back into the workplace and to cut out unnecessary and stupid rules and interpretations of safety disciplines – but be cautious – there is a way to go in order to bring proper sanity back into our working lives and for the original purpose of the Health & Safety at Work Act to be re-activated!

There can be no cutting of corners when it comes to ensuring safe practises at work and in protecting your workforce and those affected by your trade...full stop!

But back to my stress:

There I was is sitting at the bar staring at my drink when a large, trouble-making biker steps up next to me, grabs my drink and gulps it down in one swig.

"Well, whatcha gonna do about it?" he says, menacingly, as I burst into tears.

"Come on, man," the biker says, "I didn't think you'd CRY. I can't stand to see a man crying."

"This is the worst day of my life," I say. "I'm a complete failure. I was late to a meeting and my boss fired me. When I went to the parking lot, I found my car had been stolen and I don't have any insurance. I left my wallet in the cab I took home. I found my old lady in bed with the gardener and then my dog bit me."

"So I came to this bar to work up the courage to put an end to it all,

I buy a drink, I drop a capsule in and sit here watching the poison dissolve; then you, you jack-ass, show up and drink the whole thing! But enough about me, how's your day going?"

HEALTH & SAFETY CONSULTANTS, ENGINEERS AND PROJECT SPECIALISTS

Registered in England No 3650082 Reg Office: F1, 12 Radnor Cliff, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2JJ UK VAT Reg 725 2570 43
Directors: C. Rodgers (Chairman) J.F. Ridgway (Managing Director) M.J.Gardiner (Company Secretary)

What ***is*** surprising is the amount of calls we still get to undertake an inspection and report under the 'Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005' – the clue is in the title(!)

In 2006 (I think it was October but no doubt I will be corrected by a reader, or two!) this became Law – a law where it is mandatory for communal areas and properties to have had an inspection and detailed report completed; I quote the London Fire Services:

If you own, manage or operate a business, you will need to comply with fire safety law.

The Order applies to virtually all buildings, places and structures other than individual private dwellings e.g. individual flats in a block or family homes, and it is your responsibility to make sure your workplace reaches the required standard and employees are provided with adequate fire safety training.

Adequate fire safety training would generally include:

- Induction training (general fire awareness)
- Periodic refresher training (or where the level of fire risk increases as a result of changes)
- Training to support people in fulfilling their fire safety duties (e.g. responsible person)
- Training towards competence (fire risk assessment, fire warden, fire extinguisher)

Other places covered by the Order include common parts of houses in multiple occupations (HMO's).

Risk assessment

The Fire Safety Order places the emphasis on risk reduction and fire prevention. Under the Order, people responsible for commercial buildings i.e. the employer, owner, or any other person who has control of any part of the premises, are required to carry out a mandatory detailed fire risk assessment identifying the risks and hazards in the premises. The risk assessment must be recorded if you have a total of five or more employees. The responsible person for the premises is also required to:

- Consider who may be especially at risk.
- Eliminate or reduce the risk from fire as far as is reasonably practical and provide general fire precautions to deal with any risk.
- Take additional measures to ensure fire safety where flammable or explosive materials are used or stored.
- Create a plan to deal with any emergency and where necessary record any findings.
- Maintain general fire precautions, and facilities provided for use by fire-fighters.
- Keep any findings of the risk assessment under review.

It's important to know that fire certificates are no longer issued and existing certificates are no longer valid. A fairly recent fire certificate however may be a good starting point for your fire risk assessment.

So I am saying to you: "Get it checked, get legal and do it now!"

It's been FOUR years since the Order became Law.... and the Law has teeth!

Why hasn't anyone thought of this before?

A really neat problem solving answer to airport security hold ups and delays in getting through to 'Duty Free':

Here's a solution to all the controversy over full-body scanners at airports.

Have a booth that you can step into that will not X-ray you, but will detonate any explosive device you may have on you.

It would be a win-win situation for everyone and would eliminate the rubbish about racial profiling.

This method would also obviate the need for a long and expensive trial.

Justice would be quick and swift.

Case Closed!

This is so simple that it's brilliant. I can just see it now: You're in the airport terminal and you hear a muffled explosion.

Shortly thereafter, an announcement comes over the PA system,

"Attention standby passengers, we now have a seat available on flight number....."

Which leads us on to safety security measures in the work place:

Consider the person nominated in your works to answer the telephone and to 'host' the reception.....

Has this staff member ever been given detailed training on 'what if' situations and how to react in an emergency?

A session 'in house' to discuss out scenarios that could arise will not only provide a working risk assessment but will speed reactions to emergencies and prevent that 'panic' mode kicking in and wasting reaction time.

Most of us trade in 'low key' and 'safe' trades and do not expect a terrorist phone call warning of a bomb being placed at your works yet there is a wide range of scenarios that can, and do in real life, happen quickly and unexpectedly – consider:

- Fire reporting
- Emergency evacuation procedures including 'who to call'
- Report of an accident on the shop floor, in the office, outside the building
- A vehicle crash right outside
- A boiler explosion – casualties and confusion

I hope you get 'the picture' and plan and introduce a training session to your crew as soon as possible – it's a life saver!!

It's been a bit quiet on the 'safety photo rocky horror show' of late with the photos that have been sent to me far too shocking, in the main, to print here but it does reinforce to me, and I hope to you, that the idiots ARE still out there and we have DUTY to stop them maiming and injuring themselves and, more importantly, us!!

I'll stick a couple of thought provokers up for you:



“Risk assess BEFORE and not DURING a work exercise!”



Safety checks on machinery – do it and check it regularly!

Be safe out there!

Jerry