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AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Two steps forward – one back the ongoing ‘history’ of Health and Safety Management!

I very nearly started this newsletter the other way round ...”One step forward – two back” but I do (really!) feel that, now and again, there are positive signs of progress:

I was on a site this morning – meandering amongst the stripped out plant and materials and stepping over the accumulated junk of a factory strip out programme – not in a particularly good mood as I observed trip and fall hazards, dodgy step ladders, oil and water mixed on the floor to give a lethal (and environmentally unsound) skid patch....and then:

I saw an old (and I use the word with care) engineer that I have moaned at, got angry with, had blazing rows with over the years since “he knows best and hard hats / high viz / goggles, gloves and protected zones are the bane of his life and have no real value in the ‘Real World’” walking towards the mess room for his morning tea (he had not seen me or knew I was on site) dressed up in full rig of the day – hard hat in place correctly (not turned around – that really does get up my nose!) – high viz jacket AND he was carrying his rigger gloves there is a God – and I honestly think he’s come round to our way of working – may he make full retirement (although, at 70, our ‘Tony’ will never retire, methinks, but fade away in the great recycling centre in the sky – bless him!!

How quickly an accident can happen – and how it can change – immediately – your outlook on life or the way you have to work it out post trauma:

We have ‘Bill’ working alongside us – a ‘Sparkie’ with a wealth of experience but now seeing his factory being stripped of assets and gutted out – I feel for him but he has ‘waded into’ the new situation with some zeal although our Bill will always be a laidback individual and not easily upset or prone to mood swings (wish I wasn’t!) – chatting away recently he mentioned that he and his wife were ‘in a bit of a jam’ when their car was side swiped by a lorry And then calmly said that the said car was ‘a write off’ and that – although they both walked away from the accident – his wife was VERY nervous of driving again (let alone with Bill!) and he now had a new situation to deal with in his home life due to a moment of terror – it could well have been in the workplace – walking in the countryside – ‘nipping down’ to the shops.....BAM! – and your life alters!!

I think that’s food for thought for all of us – we really do have a duty to look after those we employ – the public who come into contact with our work – with our actions daily please think about this and reflect on how YOU can make things safer and more ‘user friendly’ – or someone’s life could be changed – together with their family – in an instant!!

I asked for a couple of photos of the car that Bill and his wife literally ‘walked away from’ - - but add the mental factor into such a lucky escape!

“HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSULTANTS, ENGINEERS AND PROJECT SPECIALISTS”

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Directors: J.F. Ridgway (Managing) C. Rodgers (Company Secretary) M.J.Gardiner (Office Manager)



With both sides ripped apart and wheels gone – look at the Armco – all this within a road works speed max. zone of 50 mph – imagine the carnage at 70 mph plus!

We wish you both well and a full recovery!

Think you are having a bad day?

Fire authorities in California found a corpse in a burned-out section of forest while assessing the damage done by a forest fire. The deceased male was dressed in a full wet suit, complete with scuba tanks on his back, flippers, and face mask.

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A post mortem test revealed that the man died not from burns, but from massive internal injuries. Dental records provided a positive identification. Investigators then set about to determine how a fully clothed diver ended up in the middle of a forest fire.

It was revealed that on the day of the fire, the man went diving off the coast, some 20 miles from the forest. The fire fighters, seeking to control the fire as quickly as possible, had called in a fleet of helicopters with very large dip buckets. Water was dipped from the ocean and emptied at the site of the forest fire.

You guessed it. One minute our diver was making like Flipper in the Pacific, the next, he was doing the breast stroke in a fire dip bucket 300 feet in the air.

It's all about risk assessments!

Still think you're having a bad day?

A man was working on his motorcycle on the patio, his wife nearby in the kitchen. While racing the engine, the motorcycle accidentally slipped into gear. The man, still holding onto the handlebars, was dragged along as it burst through the glass patio doors.

His wife, hearing the crash, ran in the room to find her husband cut and bleeding, the motorcycle, and the shattered patio door. She called for an ambulance and, because the house sat on a fairly large hill, went down the several flights of stairs to meet the paramedics and escort them to her husband.

While the attendants were loading her husband, the wife managed to right the motorcycle and push it outside. She also quickly blotted up the spilled gasoline with some paper towels and tossed them into the toilet.

After being treated and released, the man returned home, looked at the shattered patio door and the damage done to his motorcycle. He went into the bathroom and consoled himself with a cigarette while attending to his business. About to stand, he flipped the butt between his legs.

The wife, who was in the kitchen, heard a loud explosion and her husband screaming. Finding him lying on the bathroom floor with his trousers blown away and burns on his buttocks, legs and groin, she once again phoned for an ambulance. The same paramedic crew was dispatched.

As the paramedics carried the man down the stairs to the ambulance they asked the wife how he had come to burn himself. She told them. They started laughing so hard, one slipped, the stretcher dumping the husband out. He fell down the remaining stairs, breaking his arm.

Hmmm – well, it is August and we all need to know there are those worse off than us – out there!

The problem is – I keep finding them on my client's sites, factories and premises.

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

Be Safe!

Jerry

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