



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

EASTER NEWSLETTER - 2011

Well, a touch of sun and warmth and the World suddenly looks that bit friendlier and troubles fade, if not away, at least they seem to diminish!

What a shame, then, that accidents continue to blight the working life and we continue to inspect and report on bad housekeeping, obvious hazards and unsafe equipment in workshops, offices and even in housing complexes.

By now I am sure that all of you know of my hatred of ladders, especially step ladders, since they are often misused and are a cause of many an accident – but how about the following spotted by Dave Hull, Director of Wrightsure Insurance Services:



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)

Health and safety officials stepped in after a worried neighbour took photographs of a builder working on an extension to a property.

A shocking picture of a labourer balancing on a set of ladders at a Bushey building site has led council inspectors to issue a warning to the contractor.

Health and safety officials stepped in after a worried neighbour took photographs of a builder working three storeys up on an extension to a property, in Partridge Close.

Peter Ashworth, whose house in Merry Hill Road backs on to the property, contacted Hertsmere Borough Council and the government's Health and Safety Executive (HSE), on April 7.

Father-of-two Mr. Ashworth said: "It was unbelievable, he was up there and the whole thing was shaking - he had to grab hold of the roof. It was 50/50 whether or not he was going to fall. It was very scary - we wanted to shout to him to get down.

"He would have been lucky to survive a fall from that height. It was seriously bad judgment.

"If he'd fallen, he would have landed in our back garden. We have two young girls and that would not have been good."

Council inspectors visited the contractors, on April 11, to warn them about the misuse of ladders, though HSE officials only made it to the site this morning (April 18).

Amazing – but then I got to thinking when I was in the tool hire business over 30 years ago (Yeah! I know! 'Ol' Git and all that!!) – we used to hire out 'ladder cripples' (very apt name!) and these 'gadgets' consisted of a metal arm and two hooks with the idea that you hooked them onto the rungs of two parallel ladders (at height!) and ran a scaffold board across the arms..... How the hell you then climbed over and on to the board let alone work off the contraption beats me now....but we regularly hired the package out!! Madness!

I have had my census form sent back to me!!

In answer to the question "Do you have any dependants?" I put asylum seekers, smack heads, cast of the Jeremy Kyle show, Northern Rock, RBS, and half of the population of Eastern Europe.

Apparently this wasn't an acceptable answer.

Before the Easter shutdown – and what a shutdown period ahead of us....Easter eggs, bunnies, Royal nonsense... Bah! Humbug! – have a walk about your workshop or store and check out the obvious hazards we always seem to spot such as:

Trailing electric leads, stock stacked in aisles, fire extinguisher points obstructed, spilt chemicals, guards on drills and grinders missing or broken, ladders (ugh!) with rubber feet missing, emergency exit signs missing..... and, Dear Reader, all these we've reported on since last month!!

Get the workplace up to standard – a high one!



**THOUGHTS FOR THE EASTER BREAK
(AND MAKE SURE IT'S NOT A BONE YOU BREAK EITHER!)**

A glass of wine



*To my friends who enjoy a glass of wine...
And those who don't and are always
Seen with a bottle of water in their hand.*

*As Ben Franklin said:
In wine there is wisdom,
In beer there is freedom,
In water there is bacteria.*

*In a number of carefully controlled trials,
Scientists have demonstrated that if we drink
1 litre of water each day,
At the end of the year we would have absorbed
More than 1 kilo of Escherichia coli, (E. Coli) - bacteria
Found in faeces.
In other words, we are consuming 1 kilo of poop.*

*However,
We do NOT run that risk when drinking wine & beer
(or tequila, rum, whiskey or other liquor)
Because alcohol has to go through a purification process
Of boiling, filtering and/or fermenting.*

*Remember:
Water = Poop,
Wine = Health.
Therefore, it's better to drink
Wine and talk stupid,
Than to drink water and be
Full of CRAP*

There is no need to thank me for this valuable information: I'm doing it as a public service!

(My thanks to crazy Sue for the above words of wisdom!)

BE SAFE OVER THE HOLIDAY PERIOD!

JERRY