



**Wilson Adrain**  
SAFETY MANAGEMENT LTD

**NEWSLETTER  
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## WELCOME

With health and safety evolving at an ever faster rate, becoming increasingly difficult to keep up with, we have provided our customers with all that they need to know to continue their commitment to the health and safety of their workforce in our July newsletter.

We are continuously updating our list of training courses being held at our training centre located at our head office. We can also design our course to suit your specific needs, and encourage any suggestions or feedback on how to improve our services.

Our contact details, can be found below.

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## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE): EMPLOYERS DUTIES

As an employer, you have specific legal duties concerning the provision of PPE to your employees. PPE should always be the last line of defence, however, many employers do not always treat it so.

Continue reading on PG. 2



## MOBILE ELEVATED WORK PLATFORMS (MEWP'S)

In one week alone, two major incidents involving MEWP's in Scotland occurred, with one man tragically losing his life as a result. The operation of this machinery poses an inherent risk to health and safety.

To best prepare yourself, continue reading on PG 3.



## LOCAL HSE INSPECTIONS

The Health and Safety Executive have released the news that they are visiting construction sites of all sizes within our area, performing unannounced visits, focussing on specific health related areas, as well as ensuring compliance of all legislation.

To ensure you remain compliant, continue reading on PG. 4

## HSE is now in your area



**Is your site ready for a health inspection?**





# PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

## EMPLOYERS DUTIES

PPE is the equipment that we use to protect ourselves from the risks to health that inherent in our working operations. It includes high visibility clothing, eye protection, and respiratory protective equipment.

Despite its importance, PPE is actually the last resort in the line of defence against occupational hazards. This means that PPE should only be considered once all reasonable attempts to avoid the hazard, via changing working practices, the introduction of suitable engineering controls has been exhausted, and all safe systems of work, training, and awareness, have been implemented.

If, after all of the above considerations PPE is still required, then you as an employer must provide this free of charge.

PPE must be carefully and considerably selected, as well as regularly maintained, and those who are required to use it must be trained and instructed in its safe and correct use.

### Selection:

- **Who** is exposed to **what**?
- **How long** they are exposed for?
- **How much** they are exposed to?

Select equipment that is suitable to the user, with respects to their size, the weight of the PPE and how this would impact its use. Consider any other PPE which would be worn at the same time and how they would impact on oneanother. Consider any training required to safely operate the newly introduced PPE and, finally, ensure that the selected PPE in CE marked and in accordance with the PPE 2002 regulations.

### Maintenance:

- **Who** is responsible for maintenance? (a contractor?)
- **How often** must it be inspected/maintained?

Using PPE in accordance with the manufacturers guidelines is important not only in prolonging the lifetime of said PPE, but also in ensuring that it remains effective in protecting the health of those who use it.

Regular review of your working methods and the associated risks is essential in ensuring that the PPE provided is still relevant for employees. You may be required to update what you provide.



“Falls from a height, being struck by a moving vehicle and being struck by a moving object... account for over half of all fatal injuries each year”

HSE WORKPLACE FATAL INJURIES STATISTICS 2018

## MOBILE ELEVATED WORK PLATFORMS

MEWP'S: What you need to know...

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of September, a cherry picker collapsed in Glasgow's George Square, late in the evening. The overturned work platform landed on top of a bus stop, injuring the worker who was in the basket at the time. Fortunately, the fact that this incident occurred at approximately 22:20, likely reduced the casualty number considerably, however, if this had occurred at peak times during the day in the busy city centre, the casualty count would likely have been considerably higher.

Tragically, the very next day a bus collided with another mobile elevated work platform near Stirling. On this occasion, the consequences couldn't have been greater, as a young man lost his life.

Thorough investigations are underway as to the causes of both incidents by Police Scotland.

MEWP's pose an inherent danger, primarily in their operation and use, as opposed to their movement as a site vehicle. The main dangers associated with MEWP's arise from:

- **Entrapment:** operatives can become crushed between the basket and a fixed structure, such as a roof or truss.
- **Overtipping:** often, this is as a result of a poor assessment of the ground surface prior to the MEWP's installation.

- **Falling:** sudden movements of the basket, over reaching, and failure to be suitably secured within the basket, can all lead to an operative falling.
- **Collision:** collisions can occur with overhead services, fixed structures, other vehicles, and pedestrians.

All of the above concerns, and many more, can all be identified and controlled via a suitable and sufficient risk assessment of the proposed working task. This, combined with fully competent personnel, should result in the working practice being made as safe as is possible, with all hazards identified and controlled. All working equipment must be regularly inspected and maintained, in accordance with all relevant legislative and statutory guidelines, as well as industry best practice. This means that for MEWP's, they must undergo a thorough inspection every 6 months, with less thorough daily and weekly checks also being applied, with any defects or compromises to structural or operational integrity being reported immediately.

## **Training and Competence:**

MEWP operators should have attended a recognised operator training course and received a certificate, card or licence, detailing their professional training regarding this specialist piece of machinery. Their license should also list the categories of MEWP the bearer is trained to operate.

The expiry date of the training licence or card should be noted, as additional refresher training will be required in the future, to ensure that the operator remains familiar with the safe operational protocols and the associated hazards.

In addition to formal training for the type of MEWP, operators should have familiarisation training on the controls and operation of the specific make and model of MEWP they are using, being closely supervised initially until they are deemed competent.

Some final hazards to consider when proposing to utilise a Mobile Elevated Working Platform are as follows:

- **Weather conditions**
- **Personel below or in proximity to the platform**
- **Preventing falling objects**
- **The weight and dimensions of the loads to be carried in the MEWP, ensuring that they do not exceed the recommended safe working limit**

**Wilson Adrain Safety Management offer a wide variety of training courses which can assist in your awareness and managing of such issues.**

**For more information on the courses that we offer, for any health and safety advice, or anything else which you feel may assist you in your commitment to health and safety, please find our contact details on the cover page above, and do not hesitate to give us a call.**

“You must protect against the risks from hazardous construction dusts”, “ We are visiting construction sites in your area to see if builders’ health is being protected.”

Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

## THE HSE ARE IN YOUR AREA!

### Lung Related Illnesses: What you need to know...

In October, a primary school were fined £200K for both failing to address asbestos removal recommendations, and to adequately provide their staff with sufficient asbestos awareness training.

Workers and supervisors **MUST** be able to recognise asbestos containing materials, and have the knowledge on what to do if they come across or suspect them. For almost every trade concerned with a building site and its operations, they are required to have asbestos awareness training, given the high likelihood of them coming into contact with the material at some point in their working lives. More specialist training is required for those who are contracted in the removal or disturbance of asbestos containing materials.

With approximately 12,000 deaths per year being attributed to exposures in the workplace, the HSE have announced that they will be performing site inspections of all construction sites within the area, and shall be focussing specifically on the assessment and control of the risks associated with construction dusts and other inhalable products.

To help you in your commitment to maintaining the safety and wellbeing of your employees, and to keep you compliant, **Wilson Adrain Safety Management** offer:

- **Asbestos awareness UKATA Accredited**
- **COSHH Assessments**
- **Face Fit Testing**
- **Site Supervisors Safety Training Scheme (SSSTS)**

As well as a variety of industry recognised courses which can be specifically tailored to meet your business needs.

Given the high demand for these courses, spaces are limited. To avoid disappointment and to ensure that your training needs are fully met, please contact us using our details below.

### Contacts

If you have any questions or comments please contact the H&S Advisor:

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## RECENT COURT CASES

### Case 1 - 27/09/18

A Glossop-based company has been fined after a visiting tanker collided with a fork lift truck.

Manchester Magistrates' Court heard how, on 23 June 2017, a tanker was reversing into a tanker discharge bay at Dinting Lodge in Glossop when it collided at low speed with a fork lift truck. No workers were injured in the incident.

**Despite no workers being injured**, an investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) into the incident found that the company had **insufficient control of workplace transport, in particular, reversing vehicles.**

Carpenter Limited of Dinting Lodge Industrial Estate, Glossop pleaded guilty to **breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work Etc Act 1974 and has been fined £60,000 and ordered to pay costs of £1,302.**

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Medani Close said: "The host company **failed to undertake a number of simple safety measures** including segregation of reversing vehicles, from other moving vehicles and pedestrians, and ensuring that reversing manoeuvres were supervised, in accordance with their site rules."

### Case 2 - 24/09/18

A Bristol-based construction company were sentenced for carrying out **unlicensed asbestos work.**

Bristol Magistrates' Court heard how, during July 2017, a project was undertaken to refurbish a pub in Bristol, into eight flats. T.W. Parker (Building & Groundworks) Ltd was commissioned to conduct the works.

A survey of the site on 13 July found waste materials, including **asbestos insulation board, were left lying outside the building.** Asbestos containing materials, which would require a licence to remove, were **also found to be present amongst the debris and in the building structure.**

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the removal work was initiated under the control of T.W. Parker (Building & Groundworks) Ltd and was done prior to the refurbishment survey. **Mr Parker had been advised that a refurbishment survey was to be undertaken before works commenced.** He failed to request information from the client with regards to the potential presence of asbestos containing materials, despite some material being marked as containing asbestos, and failed to use a licensed contractor to undertake the removal works.

T.W. Parker (Building & Groundworks) Ltd of Hicks Common Road, Winterbourne **pleaded guilty to breaching Section 5, 8(1) and 16 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012.** The company has been fined £7,000 and ordered to pay costs of £1,264.60.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Ian Whittles said: "The dangers associated with asbestos are well-known and a wealth of advice and guidance is freely available from the HSE website.

"Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards."