

Safetyline 72

H & S UPDATE DECEMBER 2006

When **driving on ice**, always reduce your speed smoothly and in plenty of time. Avoid harsh braking and acceleration, or coarse steering. Slow down in plenty of time for bends and corners. To brake on ice and snow without locking your wheels, get into a low gear earlier than normal, allow your speed to fall and use your brakes gently. Black ice, caused when rain freezes on the road surface, will make your steering light. Respond by easing off the accelerator and being delicate with your steering movements. In icy conditions you may need to allow up to TEN TIMES the normal breaking distance. Check out the tips on the following RoSPA website:- <http://www.rospace.com/drivertraining/winter/index.htm>

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**UCEA Health & Safety Annual Report 2006** indicates trends in reportable accidents in the HE sector and compares accidents in the HE sector to the UK as a whole for the period 1999 to 2005. This document can be found at: - <http://www.shef.ac.uk/safety/uceahealthsafetyannualreport06.pdf>

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RoSPA's updated website – www.youngworker.co.uk - provides a useful online resource for employers, work experience organisers and young people aged 14-25 who are involved in **work experience** or starting work for the first time.

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**Titanium Dioxide** has recently been classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as a "Group 2B" carcinogen (possibly carcinogenic). Titanium Dioxide accounts for 70% of total pigment production worldwide.

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ROSPA have produced "**Top Ten Tips to Stay within the Limit**" for drivers who unintentionally exceed the speed limit, often without realising it. Modern cars are so powerful and comfortable they give drivers little sensation of their speed. It is too easy to creep above the limit, and in particular, many drivers believe it is difficult to drive a modern car at no more than 30 mph on a road with a 30 mph limit. Drivers are responsible for the speeds at which they choose to drive, but there are some simple and practical things drivers who find it difficult to stay with speed limits can do to help themselves. <http://www.rospace.com/roadsafety/topentips/index.htm>

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A 16 year old lost two fingers in a **radial arm circular saw accident**, for which his employers were fined £8,000 plus costs following a prosecution by HSE. The investigation found the 16-year-old suffered the injury due to a lack of training and supervision. The company pleaded guilty to contravening Regulation 9(1) of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) and Regulation 3(1) of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 which states that employers shall make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risk to the health and safety of his employees to which they are exposed whilst they are at work and this shall take particular account of the inexperience, lack of awareness of risks and immaturity of young persons.

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Thanks to those of you who have returned the **health and safety self-audits**, 58 have been received to date and I have responded to 35. I will respond to all of you who have taken the trouble to return the questionnaire as soon as I can.

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With Christmas just a few days away, I thought I should share this confectionery health information from Canada with you titled "**How to care for your Chocolate**". Here goes:-

**1** To store chocolate properly, keep chocolate away from: sunlight, moisture, heat and strong odours. **2** To maintain freshness, keep chocolate: at room temperature for 2-3 weeks; refrigerated for up to 3 months; frozen for up to 6 months. **3** When refrigerating or freezing chocolate, the chocolate must be handled carefully. Place chocolate inside two plastic bags and seal tightly. **4** Before serving, allow ample time to thaw; from refrigerator, 2 hours; from freezer, 6 hours. **5** Keep chocolate in plastic bags until room temperature is attained. **6** Chocolate is best experienced when eaten at room temperature." - Enjoy and have a wonderful Christmas, from everyone at Safety Services