

Safetyline 92

H & S UPDATE AUGUST 2008

*Work has recently started on creating a **new fire escape route from the South West Tower of Firth Court to Brookhill**, which will also serve as a new disabled access and egress from the building when complete. The work will also involve the installation of a disabled platform lift from ground floor to the first floor level. The work is expected to finish in December 08 or January 09 at the latest. Unfortunately the work will involve significant alterations to the male and female toilets on the ground floor to create the new corridor from the South West Tower to the outside, so these toilets will be unavailable for several weeks and we do ask colleagues to bear with us over this period and use other toilet facilities in the building which will be signposted.*

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Over the past few weeks technical staff from most departments have attended **Asbestos Awareness presentations** run by Stewart Marsden, the University's Asbestos Services Manager, to raise awareness of the types of asbestos containing materials (ACMs) which have been used throughout the University over the years and where it might be found, including older laboratory equipment. Around 200 staff attended. For staff who were unable to attend or as part of Induction Training for new technical staff, a shorter version of the presentation can be found at- [http://www.shef.ac.uk/propertyservices/AsbestosPres.ppt#271,9,History\\_of\\_Asbestos](http://www.shef.ac.uk/propertyservices/AsbestosPres.ppt#271,9,History_of_Asbestos) or by going to "Downloads" in the "Asbestos Management" section of the Estates Services website. Access to the University's Asbestos Register and instructions on how to use it can be found on the "Maintaining our Estate" section of Estates Services site, click on "Asbestos Mgt" then "Projected Works" (or by using the following web address: - <http://www.shef.ac.uk/department-of-estates/maintainingestate/asbestos>) and clicking on the "buttons" in the grey box on the right hand side of the page. The "Asbestos Awareness" button has instructions on using the Register. The Asbestos Register can be accessed directly at - <http://143.167.80.206/default.asp>.

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*Manchester University had an **incident involving a new Hettich Mikro 120 centrifuge** purchased from Dutcher Scientific. The shaft snapped in use and the lid didn't contain the broken bits; fortunately no one was injured. Early observations from their technicians are there is a single lid locking device, but that the lid lock looks very flimsy compared with others makes and could release if the plastic lid distorts, The hinge also appears flimsy and the locking bolt is well under the 10mm diameter found on other models.*

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CoRGI's reign comes to an end The HSE has awarded Capita the contract to run a new **gas-installer registration scheme**, which replaces the existing one operated by CoRGI. Due to start in April 2009, it will include incentives for the company to continuously improve gas safety and services for consumers and installers, and will require it to establish and promote a new independent brand.

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*The HSE are currently running a "**Shattered Lives**" campaign about the risks of slips, trips and falls and to show that slipping and tripping account for almost 11,000 major injuries every year; (38% of all major injuries) and 27,000 over-three-day injuries (24% of all over-three-day injuries). In addition, one person dies every week from a slip, trip or fall at work. These injuries cost the UK economy around £811 million per annum. HSE research indicates that around 50% of slips and trips are caused by bad housekeeping, so keep corridors and walkways clear of obstructions and trailing wires, clear up spillages quickly and efficiently and review work practices to ensure that floors are tidy and that floors and corridors aren't used for storage thereby obstructing walkways and escape routes. Emphasise the need for good housekeeping and have a regular inspection regime in place to check that safe standards are maintained.*

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The HSE has recently issued guidance on the **Control of Noise in music and entertainment** and can be found at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/noise/musicound.htm>.