

# Safetyline 104

H & S UPDATE AUGUST 2009

The **HSE has announced** that the full range of its guidance, as well as ACoPs and guidance on Regulations will be free online in PDF format from September 2009. Printed versions will still be available from HSE Books. Crown copyright will apply to the online products and organisations wishing to reproduce the information will still need appropriate licence from the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI).

*The **2005 death of an electrician** in his second month of employment has prompted the HSE to call on organisations to ensure their induction training is done properly and that appropriate risk assessments are undertaken. The electrician was attending a residential call-out to repair a washing machine motor and made contact with live parts after removing the back panel. Power to the washing machine had not been disconnected.*

Last month a **liquid Nitrogen dewar rolled down Back Lane, toppled over and spilled its contents onto the roadway** fortunately no one was injured. The dewar was with several other dewars which had been left on the lane for refilling. It is likely that either the brake hadn't been applied correctly or that the wheels hadn't been chocked to prevent movement. A scheme to install secure, fixed dewars along Back Lane has been due for many months and should be complete by the end of July. Please collect your dewars as soon as possible after refilling.

*The Cardinus **Health and Safety Induction Training package** is on target for implementation in September for new employees and research postgraduates students. Departments and Faculties are providing the names of nominated "administrators" although a few are still awaited. A new web page has been created on the Safety Services website with a new icon "button" to access the page on which instructions for accessing the training package and instructions for accessing the administrator's area are clearly written.*

There are still a few Departments who have yet to update their **Emergency Contact Register** details this year. An email has been sent to the Head of each relevant department.

*The NHS have recently circulated information that the theft of gas cylinders containing **Nitrous Oxide and Entonox** is becoming a national problem for them due to the use of these gases as "recreational drugs" at raves. Thieves are targeting cylinders stored in vulnerable external locations and significant quantities are being taken from some premises. Cylinders of these two gases are painted dark blue, and Entonox cylinders have black and white markings on the shoulders of the cylinder at the valve end. Empty cylinders are being cut up for scrap value. All cylinders should be kept in secure, well-ventilated cages or storage areas whether full or empty, and stored upright using chain restraints or similar to prevent them falling.*

Some Universities are reporting that they are being asked to sign up to a "**Code of Conduct for responsible nanoscience and nanotechnology research**" when applying for grants in this field, which, in section 3.7, asks the person signing the form to declare that "Researchers and research organisations should remain accountable for the social, environmental and human health impacts of their work" in perpetuity. There is a great deal of concern about the possible implications of this Code of Conduct on current and future research in these areas and general advice being given by other Universities is to be that the Code should not be signed.

*New figures from the HSE reveal that the **number of people killed** at work in Britain has fallen to a record low. Provisional data shows that 180 workers were killed between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009 - a rate of 0.6 per 100,000 employees - down from 233 in 2007/08 and 17% lower than the previous lowest total of 217, recorded in 2005/6. The downturn in the economy is believed to have contributed to the reduction.*

*Safety Services - working to make your University safer*