

Safetyline 120

H & S UPDATE DECEMBER 2010

Over the past month we've received several phone calls from Departments asking about the reports and vouchers we used to send out for those who had done the **Out of Hours Training** Course. Results for the practical and online training are now accessible from the University' website, so we are no longer sending the reports and vouchers as it is easier to check on the web report. The names of those who have not passed the Out of Hours course are not displayed on this report. To see the web report for Out of Hours courses, click on the "Training" icon or the "Online Training" button in the left-hand margin on Safety Services Home page. Follow the prompt to the "Out of Hours online training" page, click on grey box on the right side of the page and then search by "Department" or "Name."

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*We are receiving several requests for information and assistance from Departments for **preparing PEEPS** (Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans) for students who arrived this year. We are shortly to run some short seminars for Departmental Disability Liaison Officers on preparing PEEPs for staff or students which will also give a chance for people to discuss specific cases or concerns. We're currently trying to identify who the Departmental DLO's are so that they can be invited to the seminars.*

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At a recent conference we attended, a speaker from **HSE** gave updates on various aspects of their operations. She stated that they were to lose 35% of their funding and that they were expected to introduce "full-cost recovery" for most aspects of their work; this means that advice and visits are likely to incur charges in future. Details have not been finalised yet.

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*The **Biological Agents and Genetically Modified Organisms (Contained Use) Regulations** are unlikely to be introduced now until late 2011 at the earliest according to HSE. The delays appears to be due to the difficulties reconciling the differences in the EU Directives governing animal and human pathogen work. However it is intended to introduce the Genetically Modified Organisms (Contained Use) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 shortly to comply with the requirements of the relevant EU Directive. These Regulations will clarify the characteristics of Class 1 GMM; require wastes disposal to be included in the risk assessments and require laboratories working with Class 2, 3 and 4 GMO's to display Biohazard signs.*

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The final "**Project REVISE**" session planned for Wednesday 1st December was cancelled due to the weather. Another session will be arranged with CTSO and all those who were to attend the session on 1st December contacted with the new date. If you do know of anyone else in your department who you feel would benefit from the information, please let Dewi Thomas know by emailing d.g.thomas@sheffield.ac.uk

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*Due to recent **changes in Departmental structures** and transfers of personnel to new Departments, we are getting several requests for transferring the names of staff in our "Fire" and "Out of Hours" training web reports to their new Departments to simplify the search for them. Unfortunately, we're unable to undertake this task and recommend that where staff have relocated from a different department, then to establish whether they have undertaken these two courses, search using the person name.*

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Only 24 more fun-packed shopping days to Christmas! Don't forget, no flammable trees and trimmings and make sure they don't obstruct emergency escape routes and doors or fall on the unwary. Pack parcels tidily round the base of trees so they don't trip anyone up. Get your tree lights tested if possible and use it with an RCD – we don't want any Christmas martyrs this year! If you insist on having a Yule log, make it a chocolate one, and no roasting chestnuts at your desk! **Merry Christmas everyone from Safety Services.**