

# Safetyline 98

H & S UPDATE FEBRUARY 2009

Those of you passing **Firth Court** over the past couple of weeks will have noticed that the hoardings have now gone and you can now see the **new ramp and doorway from the new fire evacuation route from the S W Tower**. When evacuating Firth Court you can use the new evacuation corridor from the S W Tower stairwell to leave the building instead of leaving by the main entrance. However, the design of this evacuation route also **enables people with mobility problems to access Firth Court** at C floor. The new doorway has an intercom and is covered by CCTV to ensure that staff in the Porters Lodge can see and hear if someone is there awaiting access. At the end of the corridor one can enter either the S W Tower staircase or directly into the main corridor adjacent to the refurbished toilets. A **new platform lift** has been installed in the S W Tower stairwell to transport those with mobility problems from C floor to D floor to facilitate access to Firth Hall.

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*A updated version of the **DSE risk assessment form** can be found on the Safety Services website in the Risk Assessments section or by using the following URL: - <http://safety.dept.shef.ac.uk/riskass/dse.pdf>.*

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Over the past few weeks a **review of the PAT testing policy** and practices has been undertaken in order to produce a revised policy document which all departments can work to and will clarify what should be tested, with suggested frequency of tests which complies with HSE guidance, but are determined on the basis of an assessment of the risk of damage to the equipment. Following consultation with departments we will submit a draft policy and guidance at the next Health and Safety Committee. The review identified that the lack of accurate inventories of electrical equipment held by departments is creating difficulties for departments when PAT testers arrive as it is not known whether equipment not presented for testing is missing, borrowed, has been relocated or disposed of.

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*We have had permission from BOC to place a short presentation on "**hand protection**" on our web site, and are also including a URL to a web page on the HSE website which has a short video demonstrating how to remove contaminated gloves without contaminating your hands whilst doing so. Three documents are also being added giving information on the performance of different types of protective gloves against different substances with advice on which types of gloves are best to use for different types of substances.*

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December's Health & Safety Monitor reports that "**canned-air**", i.e. aerosol cans of compressed air used to blow dust from computer keyboards and other computer peripherals, may use flammable liquids as a propellants. If a can is tilted too far, the propellant may be expelled through the nozzle creating a flammable atmosphere which could ignite if there are ignition sources nearby. The report describes an accident to a bowling alley employee who used such a can to try to clean a paper shredder. The can was tilted too far causing the liquid contents to be sprayed out which evaporated into a flammable cloud and ignited burning the employees face.

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*Over the past month the **on-line Fire Training** package has been overhauled by the designer, and although it looks and feels pretty much the same it works differently. However we have had several problems with the package crashing since the beginning of the New Year. If you have problems please contact [safety@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:safety@sheffield.ac.uk) to report them*

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Many thanks to those of you who have responded to the memo sent to Heads in November, and have forwarded information for your department for the "**Hazard Information Boxes**". We would still like to hear from those of you who haven't yet been able to respond. If you don't have all the information, please send what you do have to Koran Brown at [k.j.brown@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:k.j.brown@sheffield.ac.uk). Thanks for your cooperation.