

Safetyline 110

H & S UPDATE FEBRUARY 2010

Not all Departments have yet nominated an “Administrator” for the new online **DSE training** and assessment package. The new package is accessible from the “Online Training” button on Safety Services web site and the “Display Screen Equipment Training” page gives instructions to trainees on what they need to do, and to Administrators on how to log in and view the information provided by the users in their department. Don’t forget to include this training package as part of the general induction training for all new starters who are required to use display screen equipment as part of their normal duties, as well as the online “General Health & Safety Induction Training” which all new starters should undertake as part of their introduction to the University. Please bear in mind that the University pays the suppliers of these courses a fixed fee for every attempt made, even “practice sessions”. We have budgets for these courses based on an estimate of the number of people likely to undertake them during the year; multiple attempts are likely to cause budgeting issues for us.

~~~~~  
*A new **risk assessment tools database** has been developed by the European Agency for Safety and Health and Work (EU-OSHA). It is intended to aid organisations in assessing their health and safety risks across a broad range of sectors. The site has checklists, guidance, questionnaires and interactive software and can be searched by topic, sector or keyword. The site can be found at: <http://osha.europa.eu/en/practical-solutions/risk-assessment-tools>.*

~~~~~  
HSE have produced a new guidance tool which makes accessing key information on **work at height** quicker and easier. The database contains a bank of commonly asked questions and answers on the subject and includes many scenarios regularly encountered when working at height. See www.hse.gov.uk/falls/solutions.htm.

~~~~~  
*The “**Safety Management Tips**” guidance has been updated and placed in the Guidance section of our website to give Heads and Departmental Managers a checklist of actions they need to take to help compliance on health and safety issues. Not all actions will apply to all departments, so identify the actions you need to take for your department.*

~~~~~  
We are aware that the **PAT Service** is currently running a few months behind on its testing schedule and over the next six months we will be doing our utmost to get back on programme through the services of an additional Tester.

~~~~~  
*Don’t forget to check whether your **Emergency Contacts list** is still current following the changes in staff over the past few months, especially if nominated Safety Officers have left. If you find you still have people on your list who have left the University, please update your list and send the revised list to [safety@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:safety@sheffield.ac.uk).*

~~~~~  
Over the next few weeks we will be finalising arrangements with South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue for **Practical Training sessions in the use of fire extinguishers**, mainly, but not exclusively, for technical staff who may be required to use such equipment. We will advertise the courses when arrangements are complete.

~~~~~  
*The Employment Appeal Tribunal (EAT) has held that for an employer to have a duty to conduct a **risk assessment for a pregnant worker**, the following preconditions must be met: a) the employee notifies the employer in writing that she is pregnant; b) the work is of a kind which could involve a risk of harm or danger to the health and safety of the expectant mother or her baby; the risk arises from either processes, working conditions or physical, chemical or biological agents in the workplace. Failure to carry out a risk assessment for a pregnant worker could be considered to be “discrimination”. (O’Neill v Buckingham Count Council)*