

Safetyline 122

H & S UPDATE FEBRUARY 2011

We have received only 38 returns to date from Departments for updating the **Emergency Contact Register** held by the University Control Room, from the 116 emails sent to Department Heads and despite 3 email reminders being sent. This year we are also asking for the names of First Aiders you have in your department who would be willing to have their names and contact numbers listed in the information available to Control Room staff, who could be called in the event Control receive a request for a First Aider to a particular location across campus. So far 37 names of First Aiders have been put forward.

*Safety Services will shortly be contacting Heads of Departments about a short presentation and discussion forum for Disability Liaison Officers. The forum is to look specifically at the **responsibilities for and evacuation of disabled staff, students or visitors** to departments, giving the legal background, looking at the responsibilities of Departments and looking at the options and help available for safe evacuation of disabled people.*

HSE have recently released **Workplace Accident and Incident statistics** for the period April 2009 to March 2010 which saw a fall in the number of workplace fatalities to 152 (179 in 2008/9). Major injuries fell to 26,061 (27,894 in 2008/9), the most common causes of which were slipping or tripping (41%) and falls from height (16%). Injuries requiring three or more days off from work fell to 95,369 (105,261 in 2008/9) and the most common causes were handling lifting and carrying (36%) and slipping and tripping (24%). The construction and agricultural sectors continue to have the highest rates of illness and injury.

***PAT testing data** is currently being transferred to a central server for all Departments, which does away with the need to send CDs of the test data to departments, and the information can be made available for nominated persons in departments by contacting Bev Gouldsbrough by email or by ringing Ext 27460. Following the survey of 3-phase equipment held by Departments in the University last year, the testing programme for 3-phase equipment will start in the next 3 months, but it will be a phased programme as this equipment is likely to require a less frequent test regime than 240 volt equipment, but this aspect will be assessed by the testers as they check each item.*

HSE have set up a webpage summarising **HSE prosecutions related to maintenance** throughout Great Britain, and also featuring HSE Enforcement Notices served on maintenance activities in England, Scotland and Wales. This will continue from June 2010 to December 2011. See <http://www.hse.gov.uk/safemaintenance/experience.htm>

*Users of certain types of **scissor lifts** are being advised to make daily safety checks after five people were killed in three separate incidents when they overturned. HSE have issued a Safety alert relating to the JLG 500RTS scissor lifts. The purpose of this Safety Alert is to alert owners and users about the need to regularly maintain, inspect and test safety related equipment on Mobile Elevating Work Platforms generally,*

The Local Genetic Modification Safety Committee recently ratified a "**Training template**" for workers in biological laboratories working with Hazards Group 2 pathogens and/or Class 2 GM organisms. Copies of the template have been circulated to all relevant departments, so that relevant workers can be identified and the template implemented. If you require copies of the template, it can be downloaded from the Safety Services website in the Biohazards section.

*A plea to **Departmental Safety Officers** to circulate safety and safety training information you receive to staff within your respective departments.*