

Safetyline 109

H & S UPDATE JANUARY 2010

The **PAT Service** is currently around 6 months behind schedule with testing and an additional resource is in the process of being recruited to address the backlog. It is anticipated that the new tester will start late January. We apologise for any inconvenience this is causing departments.

*The PAT Service is coming across many **portable, halogen heaters** while visiting Departments. Many of these are lightweight, don't have a particularly stable base and could be knocked over. Also, as these are "direct" heaters they run the risk of overheating items in front or above them and which could result in a fire, so take great care when using such heaters. Please note they are not recommended for use in the University; convection or fan heaters are much safer.*

We have recently **updated "Department" lists on Fire and Out of Hours training** packages to reflect the current organisation in the University as best we can. We have removed obsolete departments and buildings which are occupied by several departments (eg ICOSS, Bioincubator), as training records should be retained by the host department for each individual. Very small departments / sections have been relocated into their parent Department, so several of the old "Corporate Services" sections will now be incorporated into CiCS, e.g. Drama Studio & Transport Services. We recognise that this exercise may cause some of you problems that we haven't anticipated, if so please let us know as soon as possible.

*The **DSE online training package is now "live"** and can be accessed from Safety Services Home Page from the "Online Training" button on the left hand side of the screen. Click on the "DSE Online Training" link to access the webpage containing the link to the training course and instructions for both course trainees and Administrators on how to access the course or Administrators area. Please take extra care when entering your details and when picking your Department from the drop-down menu. If you have any problems, do let us know.*

Over the next three years, we will be installing **Health and Safety Posters** in prominent locations in ground floor locations in all our buildings. These posters will replace the leaflets we have been issuing to all new starters to the University over many years as a result of a very recent change to the law which has resulted in a new design of poster which does not require regular updating of information on the poster.

*A **Biological Safety Officer (BSO) course** has been developed to help provide new BSO's with relevant information about the aspects of the role upon which they may be called to provide advice and assistance to others within their respective departments. A "**Radiation Awareness**" course has also been developed for technical staff working indirectly with radiation sources. Courses have been advertised in the "forthcoming training" circular issued by Safety Services.*

We're very pleased to report that the numbers of staff undertaking "**Fire Training**", both lectures and online, has been the highest ever this year with around 4,500 in total. This figure does not include the staff based in hospital buildings who are required to attend NHS fire lectures for which we do not have the required information.

*South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service have indicated to the University that they will be undertaking a greater number of **fire safety inspections of our buildings** over the coming months and, as part of these inspections are asking to view fire training records and fire alarm testing and maintenance records.*

We wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year

Safety Services - working to make your University safer