

Safetyline 121

H & S UPDATE JANUARY 2011

When using the **online health and safety training packages**, please do take care and choose your department from the drop-down lists provided. We do find that some forget to put themselves against a specific department which means their names will not appear on the list of names list of people in a department who have done the courses.

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Sheffield City Council were served with a **Prohibition Notice** by HSE after an incident involving a ladder in 2009, following which, working in partnership with HSE, the Council's Premises and Asset Management Team instigated a full audit and review of all ladders and stepladders kept on council premises, and developed a management system to enable them to monitor and assess the risks that working at height posed to their workers. Information on this can be found at: <http://safety.dept.shef.ac.uk/guidance/Council%20uses%20WAIT%20safe%20work%20at%20height.pdf>  
The document also has links to three HSE documents: one on the Work at height Regulations and two on ladder and stepladder safety.

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A 37-year-old man died in an industrial accident when **aerosol canisters** he was crushing caught fire. The employer of the deceased had received the canisters from Jeyes UK (who had failed to clearly label and segregate them from less hazardous waste) and instructed the deceased to crush the canisters in a metal baler. When the baler was activated, a canister caught fire, engulfing the worker in flames. Neither company had carried out suitable risk assessments before allowing workers to handle potentially hazardous materials, such as aerosols, and both had failed to train or monitor staff in their disposal. Two companies have been fined £440,000 over the death.

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The owners and site manager of a karaoke bar were fined over £6,000 after **ignoring fire safety procedures** during the club's construction. HSE inspectors found potentially flammable materials stacked up to the ceiling in the basement when they visited the site; some escape routes were completely blocked and others were not marked. The owners and site manager pleaded guilty to breaching three health and safety regulations each. There was a Chinese restaurant open to the public on the first floor and neighbouring buildings were also occupied. Lives would have been put in danger had a fire started.

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RoSPA have issued the following safety tips for Christmas:

- Look out for small items that could pose a choking hazard to young children, including parts that have fallen off toys or from Christmas trees, button batteries and burst balloons.
- Keep decorations and cards away from fires and other heat sources such as light fittings.
- If you have old Christmas lights seriously consider buying new ones, which will meet much higher safety standards, keep the lights switched off until the Christmas tree is decorated, don't let children play with lights (some have swallowed the bulbs), and remember to switch off the lights when going out of the house or going to bed. Christmas present
- Christmas novelties are not toys, even if they resemble them, and they do not have to comply with toy safety regulations. Give careful thought to where you display them; for example, place them high up on Christmas trees where they are out of the reach of young hands.
- Beware of hot fat, boiling water and sharp knives and keep young children out of the kitchen. Wipe up any spills quickly.
- Beware of trailing cables and wires in the rush to connect new gadgets and appliances.
- Falls are the most common accidents so try to keep clutter to a minimum. Make sure stairs are well-lit and free from obstacles, especially if you have guests.
- Plan New Year fireworks parties well in advance and follow the Firework Safety Code
- Never drink and drive, and plan long journeys so you won't be driving tired.