

Safetyline 79

H & S UPDATE JULY 2007

The **high-rise building fire exercise** held on Sunday 24th June went very well for the Fire Service and enabled them to test their procedures for such buildings. They used the evacuation lift to transport people and equipment to the top of the building but during the exercise one person did not open the door fully upon exiting allowing the door to close behind him preventing its further use. From that point on in the exercise the firemen had to walk to the top and back. This indicates the importance of the training on how to use the lifts correctly, and training has now started for staff and Porters.

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*Health and safety signage for teaching spaces is almost ready to be installed in the empty picture frames you may have noticed in lecture theatres. The delay has been caused by the need to check the accuracy of the specific information for each lecture theatre.*

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At the last meeting held between Yorkshire Water (YW), the University, the two NHS Trusts and the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) to discuss the **blue water problem**. DWI state that as the University cannot prove that the water quality is the sole cause of the copper corrosion, then DWI will not instruct YW to install additional treatment at Rivelin Water Treatment Works as the cost would also fall on other unaffected customers. Estates Services are investigating installing small treatment units to reduce corrosion in the buildings affected.

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*Trials are underway to determine the practicalities of the Arts Tower Car Park being used as the principal location for **coach parking and student pick-up during Open Days** in order improve the image of the University to prospective students by ensuring students are collected and discharged in a safe and prominent location. This has highlighted the need to improve the co-ordination of Departmental Open Days in order to accurately predict the number of coaches required so that appropriate provision can be made available on the car park in advance.*

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Following the changes to the MUSE Portal, **access to British Standards On-line** can now be obtained by following the following instructions: -

1. Log into MUSE and select "Library" from the top index list.
2. Under Library eResources select "Databases"
3. Select "Alphabetical Table" then "B" and then "British Standards"
4. Click on Bsi Online logo and at Bsi Online page look to bottom right hand corner and select "Athens Login"

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*The European Court of Justice (ECJ) has ruled that **European laws protecting the health and safety of workers are being applied correctly in the UK**. This follows a 10-year dispute between the European Commission and UK Government over use of the "so far as is reasonably practicable" qualification. Earlier this year, the Court's Advocate General advised the judges that employers could not be expected to provide a totally risk-free environment at work. The judges have now ruled that: "The Commission has not established to the requisite legal standard that in qualifying the duty on employers to ensure the safety and health of workers in every aspect related to work by limiting that duty to what is reasonably practicable, the UK has failed to fulfil its (EU) obligations". So no big changes planned for the foreseeable future.*

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Watersports while on holiday are a great way to pass the time in the sun. The adrenaline of paragliding and the fun of riding on an inflatable rubber ring are well worth a participating in with the right operators. Sadly, fatalities have occurred to British tourists taking part in these otherwise exciting sports while on their holidays because of lax attitudes of operators towards safety. This RoSPA fact sheet offers some advice to keep you safe while enjoying your watersports holiday, providing details of what to look out for in your operator. Please read the Rospa "Water Sports Safety" document on our Guidance section on the safety Services web site.

Safety Services - working to make your University safer