

# Safetyline 123

## H & S UPDATE MARCH 2011

Currently there are few if any formal arrangements in place throughout the University for **visitors with hearing, sight or mobility impairments** who would require help from us if they were required to evacuate a building from above or below ground level in an emergency, i.e. when lifts would not be available due to fire, breakdown or power loss. Safety Services are arranging a series of short seminars to be run weekly over lunchtimes. The seminars will take the form of a short presentation looking at responsibilities of University Departments for the visitors they invite in, the actions Departments can take and on the assistance available to Departments from Safety Services. We intend to run these in small groups so that personal experiences can be raised and discussed. Dates, times and booking arrangements for the next few seminars are displayed on Safety Services Home Page.

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*We've received a couple of requests for another **Project REVISE** session, which was given by South Yorkshire Counter-Terrorism Section to alert departments using substances which could be used for making home-made explosives on the steps that can be taken to reduce or minimise the potential for losses. If you have any members of staff in your department who missed the five sessions run to date and would like to attend one, please email [d.g.thomas@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:d.g.thomas@sheffield.ac.uk) with the names and department of those you wish to attend.*

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The Saint Louis University School of Medicine and The Ear Institute of Texas have recently reported that **driving convertible cars with the top open** at speeds in excess of 55mph may put drivers at increased risk of noise-induced hearing loss. The research looked at five different makes of cars and sound level measurements in most, with the top down, had maximum sound recordings greater than 85dB. No excessive noise levels were recorded from any tested car with the top closed.

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*I would be grateful if Departmental Managers in buildings where **Evac Chairs** have been installed in the past to assist staff or students with mobility impairments would let us know whether the chairs are still required, whether they require relocation within the building in the event people have moved office or whether they should be removed. Please email [safety@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:safety@sheffield.ac.uk) with the information.*

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An engineering firm has appeared in court after a worker was badly injured when **his hand became entangled in an unguarded drill**. The worker suffered permanent loss of movement to three fingers in his left hand following the incident at a construction site. The firm was prosecuted by the HSE for failing to ensure a guard was provided on the drill. The HSE investigation found the company failed to spot the guard was missing both when it hired the drill, and when it was issued to the worker. It also wrongly indicated the drill had been fitted with a guard when it completed an assessment form for the work. The firm pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 11(1)(a) of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 by failing to prevent access to dangerous machine parts.

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*A Wimbledon-based carpentry firm were sentenced at the City of London Magistrates' Court after a HSE investigation found that the company allowed their employees to **use woodworking machinery without ensuring that they were adequately trained, informed of safe working practices, and supervised**. Just one month after an employee cut off part of his right index finger while using a circular saw, an HSE Inspector witnessed another employee using a spindle moulder, a potentially dangerous machine, without safety precautions in place.*

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Safety Services intend to set up two courses in May for the **practical use of fire extinguishers** in the workplace and we are currently collecting names. If you have people in your department who you feel would benefit from this training, please email [safety@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:safety@sheffield.ac.uk)



*Safety Services - working to make your University safer*