

# Safetyline 53

H & S UPDATE MAY 2005

Advice on the purchase of **eye protection** can be found in the Safety Services web pages in the "Guidance" section. This advice is intended to assist with the selection of appropriate eyewear, how to ensure that the eyewear is suitable for the user and how to look after it.

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**Dell Computers** have recently issued a "Safety Advisory" bulletin indicating that some of the AC adapters sold for use with Dell Latitude, Dell Precision and Dell Inspiron models can overheat and could pose a risk of fire. A pdf version of the letter can be found on Safety Services web pages in the "Guidance" section headed "Dell Safety Warning - March 2005".  
<http://www.shef.ac.uk/safety/guidance/dellsafety.pdf>

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*An employee of a Wellingborough chemical manufacturer was **injured due to lack of protective clothing and bad practice**. He had been filling Winchester with hot gallium trichloride but the bottom of one Winchester came away as he picked it up, releasing the contents and filling the room with thick white fumes. He lost consciousness, slipped and sat down in the chemical severely burning his right buttock and lower leg, necessitating skin grafts. The Company was fined £7,500 with £4,257 costs. An HSE inspector commented "it is imperative that employers who expect their staff to handle hazardous substances, particularly those that have the potential to cause serious chemical burns, carry out adequate risk assessments and implement safe handling procedures and other suitable control measures".*

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The Fire Service is in the process of changing their strategy for **response to fire calls**, with 3 new levels of response identified: -

1. response as at present,
2. response reduced to one appliance at normal road traffic speed, and
3. when the building owner / occupier would have to check the premises for fire, and confirm the presence of a fire before the Fire Service will respond.

Buildings with a high number of nuisance calls will eventually receive a reduced response. On recent evidence, it is likely that Western Bank and Ranmoor Hall of Residence may fall into the category of reduced response, confirmation is expected.

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The **Working at Heights Regulations 2005** have been issued by HSE and a guidance document issued by them can be found on: - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg401.pdf>

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As a result of the changes to the way we inform you about **safety courses** (using PDF letters on our web site with URLs sent by e-mail, instead of by e-mail attachment or by post), the number of people booking onto courses has fallen. To view the current letters for training, check the following URL: - [www.shef.ac.uk/safety/training/bookings.html](http://www.shef.ac.uk/safety/training/bookings.html)

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**Lecture theatre users** - don't forget that there is always an alternative means of escape (other than the way they enter) from every lecture theatre in the University, and that will usually be their safest way out if the building is under evacuation, or where the normal access to a building is compromised, as at present in the Mappin Building due to the construction work at the access. Lecturers, please find and use these alternatives and direct the class accordingly, it should help you get your class out of the building safely and quicker than queuing up at the main entrance.

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In light of the changes introduced by the *Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2004*, we have combined the previous lists of "Maximum Exposure Limits" and "Occupational Exposure Standards" into a single "**Workplace Exposure Limits**" list to replace the other two lists in our Guidance section. No new information has yet emerged to amend the data, this is merely a combination of the two previous lists.