

Safetyline 113

H & S UPDATE MAY 2010

The 3-day First Aid at Work course due to be run by South Yorkshire Ambulance Service at 40 Victoria Street on 18th – 20th April had to be cancelled due to lack of interest; there being only 3 persons who had indicated they would attend. This number is insufficient to run a first aid training course. We will be advertising another 3-day course with South Yorkshire Ambulance Service later this year and will circulate details in due course.

~~~~~

An engineering company has been fined after one of its workers was injured when his arm became trapped in a drilling machine. The employee was using a pillar drill when the left arm of his overalls became entangled around the rotating drill. He became trapped and was unable to reach the off switch, suffering a broken finger and cuts to his arm. He was only freed after shouting to a colleague who rushed over to turn off the machine and release him from it. The HSE investigation later revealed there was no guard or emergency stop on the machine. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2010/coi-wm-65209.htm>

~~~~~

On 6th April, GPs stopped issuing “Sick Notes” to patients when ill and unable to work, and are now issuing “Statement of Fitness for Work” more commonly called “Fit Notes”, which give GP’s the option of indicating whether someone is unfit to work at all, or “May be fit to work” where they think the individual’s health condition may allow them to work, whilst they recover from their condition, if they get appropriate support from the employer.. “Fit Notes” are intended to stimulate a discussion between the patient and his or her employer to determine what changes can be made to the persons job, as a short term measure, to enable him or her to work on a reduced basis until fully fit for work. Further information is available on HR’s website or your HR Adviser. The Department for Works and Pensions and TUC have also released online guidance

~~~~~

Lloydspharmacy’s online Doctor (<http://onlinedoctor.lloydspharmacy.com/>) is a new service offered by Lloyd’s Pharmacy to organisations who have employees who may have to travel abroad on business at short notice, by offering quick access to prescribed anti-malarial medicines and vaccines online, eliminating the need for a face to face consultation with a GP. The service is offered in conjunction with DrThom, the only online Doctor to be accredited by the Care Quality Commission specifically to manage patients remotely. It provides information on what precautions should be taken for specific destinations, then, where appropriate, supplies medication the next day by Royal Mail Special Delivery. Alternatively the medicines can be collected in a pharmacy of the patient’s choice where the vaccines can also be administered by trained pharmacists.

~~~~~

Checking the electrical integrity and safety of portable electrical appliances is a legal requirement for all departments. Legislation in this area now includes electrical equipment which is connected via a “fused spur” i.e. not by a 3-pin plug, to the electrical supply. The University has a Portable Appliance Testing service based at 40 Victoria Street and if you need to implement a testing programme in your department, please do contact us by emailing b.gouldsbrough@sheffield.ac.uk

~~~~~

There is now CCTV coverage of Back Lane to help Room & Parking Services staff to manage vehicle movement up and down the Lane to prevent some of the periodic “traffic jams” observed up the Lane due to too many vehicles being allowed access.

~~~~~

Don’t forget that four online training packages are available from the “Online Training” button on Safety Services home page: “General Health and safety Induction”, “Display Screen Equipment Assessment”, “Fire Safety” and “Out of Hours”. Not all Departments have yet provided nominations to be the Departmental Administrator for the DSE training package. We hope to have a web report, similar to the one for Fire Training, for Out of Hours training results shortly which will also be available from this Online Training button.

Safety Services - working to make your University safer