

# Safetyline 71

H & S UPDATE NOVEMBER 2006

All first year undergraduate students have been sent an e-mail with the web link for the Undergraduate **Health and Safety Code of Practice** and advised to read it. All postgraduate students have been sent the web addresses for the abbreviated and full Health and Safety Codes of Practice and advised to read the document relevant to them, depending on whether they are in a science or engineering department or an arts department. For those wishing to view the Policy and Organisation you will need to read the "full" Code of Practice.

~~~~~  
*The **fire drills** this year have generally been satisfactory, and reports will be posted on Safety Services web site when complete. However, again we found individuals in buildings who did not recognise the alarm as requiring action on their part to evacuate the building and we do ask departments to identify those who are not familiar with fire alarms and to ensure that they are made aware of the need to evacuate when the alarm sounds. We came across others who indicated they were unable to evacuate due to disability and require assistance to evacuate, and Safety Services should be contacted about staff and students who need help as the University is required to ensure systems are in place for their safe evacuation in a fire. We also came across individuals who, for whatever reason, believe the alarm doesn't apply to them, and where we were able we did take names. All in all the drills went very smoothly, though damply for some, and we thank you all for your co-operation.*

~~~~~  
Portering & Security report that they are still finding instances of **sharps in black bag waste** from departments. No broken glass or sharp implements should be placed in general waste bins, as they can, and have, penetrated such bags causing injuries to Cleaners and Porters. Please dispose of all sharp items in "Sharps" containers, which are obtainable from Central Stores.

~~~~~  
*The **annual workplace fatal injury statistics** for 2005/2006 show that 212 people were fatally injured, (from 223 in 2004/2005) and the lowest recorded fatal injury figure. In construction, there were 59 deaths to workers compared to 69 in the previous year, a reduction of 14%. The rate of fatal injury to construction workers fell by a similar proportion to 3 per 100 000 workers, from 3.5, continuing the downward trend of recent years. In manufacturing, however, the number of fatal injuries increased from 43 to 45. The injury rate has fluctuated in recent years, with no overall trend. Falls from height remain the most common cause of fatal injury, with 46 workers being killed following a fall compared to 53 workers killed in 2004/2005. The HSE has recently run a campaign warning of the dangers of working at height in a bid to further raise awareness of the dangers and reduce this figure still further.*

~~~~~  
We recently received a phone call from a department who were trying to contact the Campus Control Room but were unaware that the **Emergency Number for the Control Room is 4444**. The fire training lecture and web training package and Health and Safety Codes of Practice all list this number, and most telephones have a small blue sticker on them stating "In Emergency 4444". Please ensure staff and students in your department are familiar with this number.

~~~~~  
*To date we have received 23(out of 80) completed **Health & Safety self-audit questionnaires** from departments. Due to fire drills and other commitments we were rather later than anticipated responding to those we have received. Please return your questionnaires as soon as possible.*

~~~~~  
HSE have a new booklet available titled "**An introduction to Health and Safety**" which attempts to summarise all the relevant health and safety aspects we should be considering in our workplaces. This can be viewed or downloaded free from <http://hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg259.pdf>.

~~~~~  
*The HSE's "**Principles of sensible risk management**" can be viewed on <http://hse.gov.uk/risk/sensible.htm>.*