

# Safetyline 83

H & S UPDATE NOVEMBER 2007

**Telephones in all Porters Lodges** are being upgraded to 2-button versions that will either contact the Porter's mobile phone or the "University Control Room" by pressing the appropriate button. The change has been made following concerns by staff that there was no means of communicating with the Control Room outside normal hours when in unfamiliar buildings, or if there was an incident around the access requiring emergency services or security attendance.

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CCOHS have granted the University complimentary access to the **ILO Encyclopaedia of Occupational Health and Safety with the CISILO Database** until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008. The ILO Encyclopaedia is aimed at both specialists and non-specialists and is both authoritative and easy to read. Doctors, engineers, hygienists, lawyers, managers, nurse, regulators, toxicologists, trade union leaders and anyone with an interest in safety and health at work will find practical answers to their questions in this reliable reference. There are over 1,000 articles in the fourth edition of the Encyclopaedia, complemented by over 1,000 illustrations. With a focus on hazard recognition, prevention and control, the Encyclopaedia provides detailed information on all aspects of occupational health and safety. To access this for the next 3 months:

1. Go to <http://www.ilocis.org/en/default.html>, then either: -
  - a) search the individual ILO Encyclopaedia or CISILO collection by clicking on its name, or
  - b) search both collections by entering your term(s) in the main search box.
2. Select a record to open then enter User name (=ILOCOMP) and Password (=ILOCOMP).

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A short "**Noise awareness**" PowerPoint presentation reflecting the current noise Regulations is now available on the Safety Services website and can be found as a button on the left hand margin of the "Training" section - <http://www.shef.ac.uk/safety/training/Noise.ppt>

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New and revised **Workplace Exposure Limits** (WELs) implementing the 2<sup>nd</sup> EU list of Indicative Occupational Exposure Limit Values (Directive 2006/15/EC) have been approved by HSC which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007. The EH40 document available from the HSE website on <http://www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/table1.pdf> is likely to be revised shortly to reflect these changes.

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I'm very pleased to report that the numbers of staff undertaking **fire training** has increased significantly so far this year and that the number of **false fire alarms** has decreased compared to the same period last year. Thank you all for your cooperation and vigilance.

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*Cloths contaminated with **Linseed oil** have been known to spontaneously ignite as they dry and have caused fires. Dispose of such wastes safely to avoid the potential for fires.*

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With the arrival of new students to our University it is important that we consider what assistance those who have disabilities require to evacuate safely in the event of a fire. It is important to consider all the buildings that a student may visit during their stay here and make arrangements to ensure that they are able to escape safely. Refuges can be used as a place of temporary safety but we cannot leave those unable to evacuate to be rescued by the Fire Service. **The responsibility for the safe evacuation of our buildings lies with the University not the Fire Service.** Contact your Disability Coordinator or Safety Services if you need advice or assistance.

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*It's almost Bonfire Night again and **Fireworks** will be lighting the night sky to impress and delight. However every year several adults and children get seriously injured by fireworks and unwanted fires are an additional risk. Do take care when handling fireworks, follow instructions carefully, keep as far away as practicable from buildings and make sure children, in particular, are kept far enough back to avoid injury, and that animals are kept inside. Have a bucket of water handy to douse dud fireworks or extinguish sparks. If possible go to an organised event, the fireworks tend to be better, the display usually lasts longer and the crowd is better managed. Anyway, have a great time and let's hope the weather stays dry.*

*Safety Services - working to make your University safer*