

Safetyline 119

H & S UPDATE NOVEMBER 2010

The University's provision for **dealing with visitors with impaired mobility** is severely hampered by our lack of knowledge about their presence on campus. Recently we added a paragraph to "Visitor Information" page on the University's website asking that Disabled visitors who are likely to require help to evacuate a building on campus let the Department they are visiting know this in advance so that arrangements can be made by the Department to facilitate their evacuation if it becomes necessary. We will also place signs, where appropriate to do so, in building foyers or other readily visible locations informing visitors to speak with management in the Department they are visiting if they are likely to need such help. If you need help to determine how best to help visitors with impaired mobility, contact Safety Services and we'll do what we can to help. If necessary, Evac Chairs can be brought to the Department for the duration of visits and staff in the Department trained in their use if we have sufficient time to arrange this in advance.

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*A recent court case about a malicious **discharge of a powder fire extinguisher** highlighted the mess caused when a powder extinguisher is discharged. Although these are extremely versatile extinguishers in that they can put out almost any type of fire, they do create a significant mess which will need to be cleaned up after the event.*

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The Electrical Safety Council reports that in recent years the use of "**foreign**" (**non-UK electrical appliances**) in the UK has risen dramatically due to an expanding migrant population and cheap online deals for electrical appliances; the use of which without the correct conversion plugs or replacement 3-pin plugs can cause fires. Many Fire Services and Trading Standards section of LA's are reporting large numbers of domestic fires caused by electrical appliances and overloaded sockets and adapters. Faulty second-hand electrical appliances bought from charity shops are also identified as a cause for concern.

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*HSE have issued a new simplified "**Guide to thorough examination of lifting equipment**" to help employers better understand what "thorough examination" means in practice. This can be downloaded from HSE's website on <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg422.pdf>*

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Many **low-cost kettles** come fitted with a 0.75mm cable (copper wire diameter); the size is often printed on or moulded into the outer cable insulation. In the UK, appliances with high loads (like kettles) usually have a 1mm cable, but BS EN 60335 allows an exception for kettles providing the cable length does not exceed 75cm. However, even at this length in use 0.75mm cables get warm. We strongly recommend that new kettles with 0.75mm cables should be fitted with 10 Amp fuses, instead of usual 13 Amp. If PAT testing is done by the University PAT Service in your Department, they will check that the correct fuses are fitted on their next visit.

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*Please complete and return the "**Health and Safety self-audit questionnaires**" to Safety Services as soon as possible if you have not already done so. Over the next few weeks I will respond by email to all questionnaires received. Many thanks in anticipation.*

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I'm delighted to say that **Out of Hours Training Course results** (practical sessions and online) can now be accessed directly from the University' website similar to the way you can access Fire Training results, either by clicking on the "Training" icon or the "Online Training" button in the left-hand margin on Safety Services Home page. Follow the prompts through to the link, click on the link and then search by "Department" or "Name" exactly as you do for Fire Training results. Choose departments from the drop-down menu. It might take about a week to update the web report and only the names of those have been successful in the training are shown. We trust this will eliminate the need for printed reports and vouchers to be sent to Departments in future.

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*The HSE's 4<sup>th</sup> **ladder exchange programme** runs to the end of November.*

*Safety Services - working to make your University safer*