

Safetyline 70

H & S UPDATE OCTOBER 2006

Fire alarms - it is vital that people in each building are charged with phoning the Control Room on 4444 to ensure they are aware of the alarm and that the Fire Service is called. Many buildings have no automatic link to Control, and of those that do, we still receive reports of links failing which means the Control Room are not aware of the alarm and do not call the Fire Service.

EEF has issued guidance on the web to help companies establish the **risks and benefits of bringing young people into the work environment**, and indicating how the visit should be planned in advance and managed during the visit. A flowchart is included indicating the responsibilities of the school and host organisation. The 25-page guide can be obtained for free at www.eef.org.uk/UK/publications/guidance/public/briefingES200503311.htm. Although the guide is aimed at manufacturing businesses, the principles contained are valid for all such visits.

An article in this months ATL magazine suggests that **if you're worried about your hearing** a free confidential telephone hearing check is available by dialling 0845 6005555. Entitled "Britain's Biggest Sound Check", the test is offered as part of the Royal National Institute for Deaf People's "Breaking the Sound Barrier" campaign, which aims to reach out to the four million people in the UK who are losing their hearing but doing nothing about it.

Safety Services will be contacting all first year students by e-mail during October with the web address for the relevant **Health and Safety Code of Practice**.

The HSE has launched 'Principles of Sensible Risk Management' as part of a campaign to promote practical health and safety guidance as opposed to petty 'killjoyism'. They want people to focus on real risks – those that cause real harm and suffering – and stop concentrating efforts on trivial risks and petty health and safety. To support the initiative, IOSH has issued the following simple risk management guidelines: - 1) Make sure everyone is involved from the start. 2) Everyone should understand what they are responsible for and what their rights are. 3) You can't get rid of all risk entirely, so don't try. Solutions should be sensible, cost-effective, proportionate and based on good practice - and they shouldn't bring miles of red tape. 4) Good health & safety advice helps achieve results and doesn't have to stop people doing things.

Marigold Industrial has updated its popular **non-latex, powder free neoprene glove** "Suretech Pharma" glove for the cleanroom and pharmaceutical sector by producing a new version in a neutral colour. They have a specialised Biogel coating, are comfortable to wear and easy to don and take off, according to Marigold. The gloves are Gamma irradiation sterilised and packaged in a powder free controlled environment to minimise particulate contamination, supplied in individually sealed pair packs and are available in full and half sizes from 6 to 9.

*New guidance from HSE explains **the impact shift-work can have on health and safety** and covers risk assessments, shift-work schedules, and advice on controlling, managing and monitoring the risks of shift-work. The 36 page document titled "Managing shift work" (HSG 256) is available from HSE books at £9.95.*

The **health and safety self-audit questionnaire** was sent to all Heads of Department and Departmental management in early September and to date we have received 6 returns, to which I have yet to respond. Please do arrange to complete and return these by the end of this month as the results of this survey are reported to the Health and Safety Committee and Departments failing to respond will be chased for their return. Thanks.

Safety Services are no longer able to cover the cost of **externally run first aid courses**. Sorry.

Safety Services - working to make your University safer