

Safetyline 118

H & S UPDATE OCTOBER 2010

Fire Drills start this week! We intend to visit each Hall of Residence and every academic building over the next 3 weeks to carry out a fire drill and apologise now if anyone is seriously inconvenienced by these drills. The drills are a vital part of our emergency procedures to evacuate buildings quickly and efficiently when there is a risk of fire and we do need everyone to cooperate. Last month on 13th September an unoccupied University building up near the Ranmoor Village was seriously damaged in a fire which started accidentally; fortunately no one was injured, no one had to be relocated and nothing of value, other than the property, was lost. But this demonstrates that fires do affect this University, they don't just happen to "others". Please cooperate with us during the drills; it's in all our interests.

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*The PAT Service are coming across **extension leads plugged into other extension leads** where insufficient electrical socket outlets are available. Using one extension lead is acceptable provided the plug on the lead is fused, but using more than one extension lead linked together is a dangerous practice as it is easy to overload a single socket with the potential to cause local overheating, equipment damage or even fire. If there are more items of electrical equipment than you have sockets for, you should contact the Department of Estates and ask them to arrange for additional sockets to be installed where you need them although there will be a cost to doing so. They will be able to check that the electrical system is not, or will not be, overloaded.*

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A Staffordshire company has been fined £8,000 after one of its **workers fell more than two metres** from a scaffold tower, fracturing one vertebra, crushing another and leaving him immobilised for more than six weeks. Falling from height is a major cause of death and injury at work, if you need to work above ground level, make sure you assess the risks of falling properly and use appropriate equipment for the task to minimise the risks to you or your work colleagues.

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*South Yorkshire Ambulance Service ran the first **externally-run First Aid at Work course** for us at 40 Victoria Street. 7 members of staff attended the 3-day course; all were successful and the feedback we've received indicates that everyone was very happy with the way the course was run. We will be running more first aid courses with external training providers. Please check the training course information on our website which will give the dates of future training sessions.*

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The **Fork Lift Truck** Association is offering a free, downloadable Powerpoint presentation and Good Practice Checklist to give managers an immediate insight into the key safety and operational aspects of fork lift truck use. This is in an attempt to raise awareness of these issues with managers who often have little knowledge to implement and enforce safe working practices. The link to the presentation is at <http://www.fork-truck.org.uk/sw-presentation>.

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*Over the past four week Police **Counter Terrorism Security** Officers have carried out 4 sessions of Project REVISE at the University to raise awareness among staff managing laboratories of the types of substances terrorists use and of the security measures which could be implemented to minimise the risks of unauthorised access to laboratories and theft of materials. If you missed these sessions and feel that your role requires you to attend one, we will be arranging a "mop-up" session in the next few weeks. Please let Dewi Thomas know as soon as possible if you wish to attend this session, on [d.g.thomas@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:d.g.thomas@sheffield.ac.uk).*

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If you have any **new staff or students with mobility problems** in your Department who are required to work above ground level, please remember that you will need to make arrangements with these people for their safe evacuation in the event of fire alarms or other problems affecting lifts. Information is available to assist the decision process on our website (Disability issues), or if you need some help with this contact Steve Massey s.massey@sheffield.ac.uk or Dewi Thomas (d.g.thomas@sheffield.ac.uk) to discuss options available.