



Defibrillator survey raises workplace cardiac arrest concerns.....

More than half of British businesses do not have a defibrillator, show poll results released (Monday 18th February 2013) - despite the impact the device has on cardiac arrest survival rates.

The Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) commissioned a survey of 1,000 business decision-makers across the UK and found that 513 did not have the lifesaving equipment at work. Almost two thirds of those who said 'no' also come from medium to very large companies.

In support of National Heart Month, (held during February 2013), IOSH is encouraging companies to consider whether they should install a defibrillator, which restarts the heart using an electric shock.

IOSH research and information services manager Jane White said: "We want businesses to take a good look at the number of employees they have, their demographics and the kind of sector they work in, to assess whether they should get a defibrillator on-site."

Currently, 30,000 people in the UK each year have a cardiac arrest out of hospital and NHS data shows just 18.5 per cent of them survive. American statistics also show 13 per cent of workplace fatalities result from cardiac arrest.

Ms White added: "Using a defibrillator within the first few minutes after collapse gives the best chance of saving a life – it can increase survival rates by as much as 75 per cent. This just proves to businesses how important it is to have the equipment on-site." The full story can be found at: <http://www.iosh.co.uk/news/>



Summer myth, putting your foot in it....



An employer had advised its employees to wear summer footwear that has an enclosed toe and supported back. The employee queried this as it seemed to be over the top for the type of work environment they are in.

Panel decision:

There are no health and safety regulations which stipulate types of footwear for a low-risk office environment. The panel's view is that the company is misusing health and safety as an excuse for what is actually a company dress code/policy. If there are real health and safety concerns, the company may need to provide appropriate protective footwear for its employees.

Workplace temperature and thermal comfort.....



The term 'thermal comfort' describes a person's state of mind in terms of whether they feel too hot or too cold. Are you or your employees feeling uncomfortable with the temperature in the workplace? There's more to it than just room temperature.

More information can be found at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/temperature/thermal/index.htm>

'Free' Working at Heights Seminar



When: 25th June 2013

Where: Banqueting Suite, Bradford City Hall

For more information on how to book, refer to page 4



Current consultations and discussions.....

Revised codes of practice

Take the opportunity to influence health and safety policy and participate in HSE current public consultations and discussions - help make a difference. Current consultations can be found at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/live.htm>

New code launched to improve targeting of



Local Authority health and safety inspections.....

A new code has been launched to improve the targeting of health and safety inspections – ensuring that local authority checks are more focused on serious risks and poor performers.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has published the National Local Authority Enforcement Code following a public consultation.

Local authorities are expected to target proactive inspections risk activities in specified sectors or on workplaces where intelligence suggests that risks are not being effectively managed. A listing of the activities and sectors suitable for inspection is published along with the code. More information about the national code can be found on HSE's Website: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/lau/publications/la-enforcement-code.htm>

Bradford man may lose lower leg after work injury.....



A Bradford man may need to have his foot and lower leg amputated as a result of a crush injury caused by the safety failures of his employers more than a year ago.

The city's magistrates were told today (1st May) that 51year old David Wain, from Holmewood, suffered serious injuries when a 1.5 tonne pallet of tin plates fell onto his right lower leg and foot when he was employed by Emballator UK Ltd at their factory in Tyersal, Bradford.

The incident, on 6th February 2012, was investigated by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), which prosecuted the company after identifying a number of safety failings.

Bradford Magistrates' Court heard that Mr Wain, a coating assistant at the plant, which manufactures tin cans, had been told to use an older machine to turn the bulk tin plate as a fault had developed on the usual, more modern, pallet turner.

The full story is available at:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2013/rnn-yh-9313.htm>



Forum news - sponsorship...

You may recall our appeal for sponsorships when we sent out our Annual General Meeting invitation.

Over the past years the Forum has continued to improve health, work and wellbeing in the Bradford District and is continuing to hold a number of seminars with sponsorship from organisations and individuals and the voluntary work carried out by the working group members. We are seeking sponsors to support the refreshments that we lay on for future seminars. Sponsorship does not have to be the full amount from one person or organisation; we are happy to accept small monetary donations from a number of persons or organisations, who will be acknowledged at the events. If you feel that you could provide such sponsorship please contact us in the first instance by sending an e-mail marked for the attention of the Chairman, Treasurer or Secretary to: contact@baohsf.org.uk

At our last seminar we provided an honesty box for funds in which individuals were invited to place a £1 for refreshments that they received. The Forum are working on innovative ways to raise sponsorship and it is anticipated that any new volunteers will contribute to the enthusiasm shown by existing members to raising sponsorship. The Forum working group aims to implement topical subject seminars and initiatives to enhance health, work and wellbeing in the Bradford District.



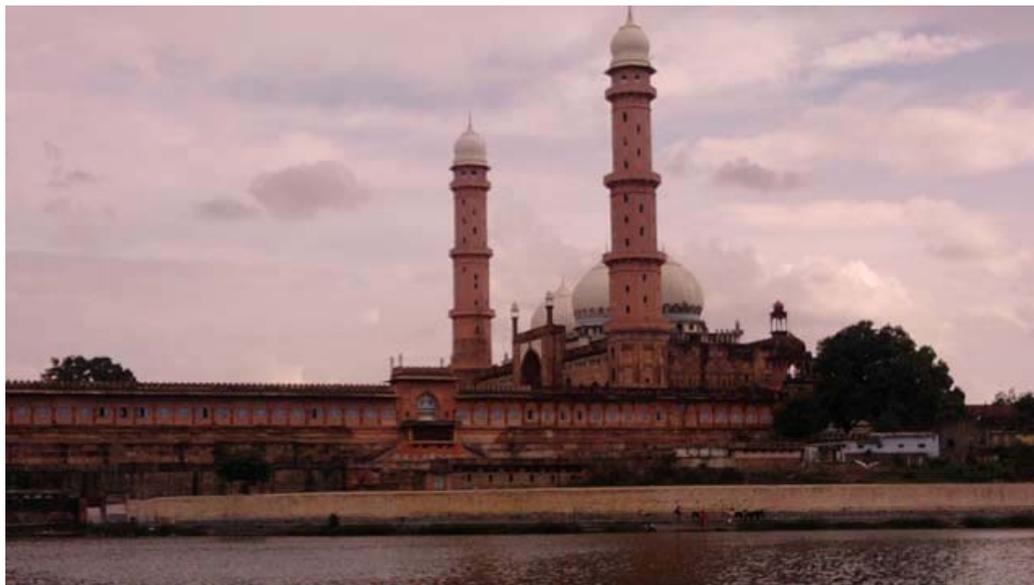
During the Forum next free seminar on the 25th June (see page 4), refreshments will be provided but at a cost:

Tea/coffee - £1.00 and biscuits 50p — will be provided on arrival and at the break

Please continue to support the important work of the Forum.

Bhopal 29 years on.....

Bhopal is the capital of the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. It is famous for its many picturesque buildings, hills and lakes, as illustrated in this picture..



But, for most people, Bhopal is associated with the world's worst industrial disaster. On the night of 2 December 1984, more than 30 tons of methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas was created in a dense cloud over a resident population of more than half a million people. Consequently there was massive panic as people woke up in a cloud of noxious gases that burned their lungs. At least 3,000 people are thought to have died in the first 24 hours - and thousands more from the after-effects.

Greenpeace cites a total casualty figure of 20,000. It is also thought that many more were rendered sick and have been facing chronic health problems such as psychological and neurological disabilities, blindness, skin, vision and breathing disorders and the newborn children still suffer from serious birth defects, even after generations. The soil and ground water near the factory site has been contaminated by the toxic wastes and other chemicals leaking out from the factory.

The disaster was caused by water entering a chemical storage tank, leading to a massive run-away reaction releasing the toxic gas cloud. At that time, workers at the plant were cleaning out nearby chemical pipes with water, and claims have been made that because of bad maintenance and leaking valves, it was possible for the water to leak into the tank. The Union Carbide Corp. maintains that this was not possible, and that the disaster was an act of sabotage by a "disgruntled worker" who introduced water directly into the tank. Much speculation arose in the aftermath.

Union Carbide has made the following statement:

' The 1984 gas leak in Bhopal was a terrible tragedy that understandably continues to evoke strong emotions even 29 years later..... In the wake of the gas release, Union Carbide Corporation, and then chairman Warren Anderson, worked diligently to provide aid to the victims and set up a process to resolve their claims. All claims arising out of the release were settled (in 1989) at the explicit direction of and with the approval of the Supreme Court of India.'

The settlement was for \$470 million - a total of only \$370 to \$533 per victim, according to Greenpeace. It is alleged that factors that may have contributed to the disaster included:

- The chemical plant's poorly chosen location—located near a densely populated west city area
- Using hazardous ingredient chemicals (methyl isocyanate) instead of less dangerous ones
- Storing these chemicals in large tanks instead of several smaller storage tanks
- Possible corrosion of the metals in the pipelines
- Poor maintenance at the chemical plant
- Failure of several safety systems, which were not in operation at the time

Deficient staffing policies, such as in the number of employees hired and their training for working with dangerous chemicals. Some of these issues are highly contentious and the debate continues to rage – but some key messages shine through to those who work in the field of health and safety - maintenance, training, implementation and strict management of safe systems of work. These issues form key parts of health and safety law.

The huge volume of written information, films and documentaries about the disaster act as an extremely somber warning about the importance of legal compliance and high health and safety standards.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.bhopal.org/>



'Free' Working at Heights Seminar

9.30 am - refreshments and registration

10.00 am - start

12.00 pm - finish



How to book.....

Click on: <http://workingatheight2013.eventbrite.co.uk/>

If you wish to attend, you can register simply by completing the event booking form via the link above. In return once registered, you will receive email confirmation of your place. Please note that places are limited.



City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

www.bradford.gov.uk

How to contact the Forum: contact@baohsf.org.uk www.baohsf.org.uk