

Welcome to another edition of 'Astute Safety Thinking' In this month's edition:

- Asbestos: Young tradespeople need to know the risk.
- Slips, Trips and Falls.
- Hot of the Press - Green mark Accreditation
- Why Astute Safety Consulting
- Property owner sentenced after builder suffered life changing injuries
- Company fined 2.3m after workers out at risk of death
- Company fined £175.000 after worker suffers brain trauma
- Coronation weekend celebrations - Saturday 6 to Monday 8 May 2023



Asbestos: Young tradespeople need to know the risk

Millennials, gen Z workers and other younger people who work as plumbers, electricians, and in other trades need to take the risk of asbestos much more seriously.

That's the message from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). The workplace regulator has launched a new campaign to raise awareness of the risks associated with the dangerous substance.

The campaign, called Asbestos and You, will target all tradespeople with a focus on younger workers in trades such as plastering and joinery.

HSE wants to reach construction workers who started their careers after the use of asbestos was banned in 1999.

The regulator is concerned the length of time it takes for symptoms to develop after asbestos exposure could lead to a perception among today's younger workers that it is something that only impacts older people who were working before the ban.

Five thousand people a year still die from asbestos related illnesses and asbestos can still be found in buildings built or refurbished before the year 2000.

Asbestos containing materials were used extensively in the construction and maintenance of buildings in Great Britain from the 1950s until the ban. That means construction workers of all ages could still be exposed to asbestos fibres today.

HSE's chief executive Sarah Albon said: "Asbestos exposure in Great Britain is still the single greatest cause of work-related deaths. We are committed to protecting people in the workplace and reducing future work-related ill health.

"Everyone working in construction today, of any age, must take the risk from asbestos seriously. "Asbestos is dangerous when not maintained in a safe condition or if physically disturbed without the right measures in place to avoid fibres being released into the air."



If asbestos fibres are inhaled, they can cause serious diseases such as mesothelioma, asbestos related lung cancer, asbestosis, and pleural thickening. Construction tradespeople of any age are at significant risk if they disturb materials containing asbestos during repairs and refurbishment.

HSE's head of health and work policy Mike Calcutt said: "These diseases often take a long time to develop, and it can take 20 to 30 years for symptoms to appear.

"It is crucial that all workers know how to recognise the dangers and take the right actions to protect themselves and those around them from being exposed to asbestos fibres." For further information, please visit <https://www.hse.gov.uk>

Slips, Trips and Falls

Slips, trips, and falls are the single most common cause of major injury at work and 20,070 people were injured in 2018/19 – representing 29% of all the non-fatal injuries reported to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). In addition, they caused 2 deaths.

- Slip: a slip occurs when the foot loses its grip on the walking surface.
- Trip: a person may trip when an obstruction is put in their path whilst they are walking or running.
- Fall: a fall is a result of losing one's balance (e.g. as a result of a slip, trip or falling into, or off something).

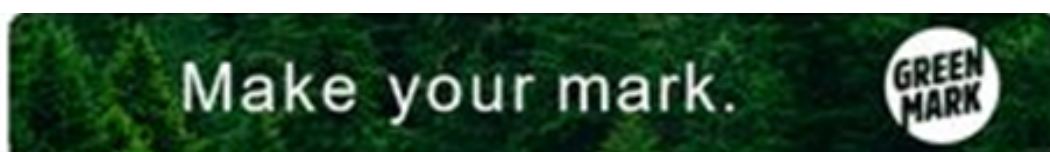
Main causes of slips:

- Wet or dusty floors
- Lack of concentration e.g. using a mobile phone when walking
- Spillages
- Items left lying on floors
- Loose floor coverings on slippery floors
- Poor lighting
- Wet or icy conditions
- Unsuitable footwear
- Poor floor cleaning arrangements
- Unsuitable or poorly selected floor coverings.



Preventing slips, trips, and falls:

- Concentrate when walking – look where you are going
- Regularly check the workplace for slip, trip and fall hazards
- Keep the workplace clean, tidy and clear of obstructions
- Mop up spillages
- Properly maintain buildings and equipment
- Hold on to handrails when using stairs
- Do not run
- Wear sensible footwear
- Immediately report or deal with any slip or trip hazards. See it; Sort it and report it.



Hot of the Press- Green Mark level 1 Accreditation!

Astute safety consulting are delighted to announce that we have received a Green Mark Level 1 accreditation! The Green Mark provides an internationally recognised environmental certification for companies that want to assure their clients and employees that they are conducting business to recognised environmental standards.

It's holistic approach to sustainability covers multiple areas, like carbon emissions, waste reduction and relationships with our customers. We will update you on the improvements we have made and the goals we have achieved on our sustainability journey shortly.

You can find out more about Green Mark at [greenmark.co.uk](https://www.greenmark.co.uk)

Why Astute Safety Consulting?



Safety Management

You need a team that can work with you to ensure that you comply with UK Health and Safety legislation.

Let us take care of your safety needs and lead and produce your:

- Risk Assessments
- Safer methods of work
- Safety Procedures
- Manual handling assessments
- Safety notices
- Workplace assessments
- Safety Audits
- Accident investigations
- Safety Management Systems



Safe Methods of Work

Once you know you need to control the risks in your business, you need to let the staff know how to work safely. There will need to be procedures and safe methods of work given and briefed to your staff, simply and clearly to ensure everyone is working safely.

Online learning

We've teamed up with Video Tile Learning to offer you the latest online learning resources, designed to improve you and your team's safety awareness and knowledge. You choose the subjects and learn at your own pace.

**BROWSE OUR TRAINING
MODULES**

Why Manage Safety?

Legal

Can you afford to have your company taken to court for an accident that you could have prevented?

The UK has well established laws, however the punishments for breaching these laws have become much more severe in recent years.

Did you know that you don't have to have an accident to be prosecuted?. If an inspector finds evidence that you are not complying with health and safety legislation, they can come into your business and charge you an hourly rate to put things right. Whilst doing this, if they find a serious breach, they can still take you to court to prosecute.

We can help you manage safety and reduce the likelihood of an accident in your business.

Moral

Are you doing enough to protect your team? If one of your staff were injured tomorrow, could you face people, knowing you could have done more to protect them?



How would you feel if your company or even you were personally prosecuted for an accident that could have easily been prevented?

It is quite an uncomfortable feeling if you think, hand on heart, that you could do more.

We will work with you to improve and manage safety in your business, reducing the likelihood of a preventable accident.



Property Owner sentenced after builder suffered life changing injuries

A Derbyshire property owner has been given a community order after a father-of-two sustained life changing injuries when a wall collapsed on top of him during a barn conversion.

Nigel Edwards failed to have a structural assessment of the outbuildings carried out as part of his planning for the project at his home in Woodhouses. The outbuildings were being converted into holiday let accommodation when a stone wall collapsed on 40-year-old Steven Tyson on 8 October 2021.

Tyson suffered a catalogue of serious injuries, including a fractured skull, a bleed on the brain and multiple broken bones, including 11 of his ribs. He was rushed to hospital, where he spent the next 18 days in "immense pain".

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Robert Gidman said: "It is vital that all demolition and dismantling is adequately planned and that a competent structural engineer is engaged by those in control of work where there is the risk of collapse of any structure. Read the full article [here](#).



Company fined £2.3 million after workers put at risk of death

A major pipeline transportation company has been fined £2.3million for safety breaches after its employees were exposed to risk of serious injury and even death while working on a leaking pipeline containing petrol under pressure.



HSE inspector Mark Leadbetter said: "This incident had the potential to cause serious injury or death to multiple casualties and could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices. Read the full article [here](#)

Company fined £175,000 after worker suffers brain trauma

A London company has been fined £175,000 after a worker suffered serious head injuries that saw him hospitalised for seven months.

A concrete pump operator was cleaning the pump's hose after it had been used to pump concrete for a ground floor extension at the property. As the pump operator was doing this, the pump became blocked, leading to a sudden release of pressure and causing the hose to whip and strike the worker in the head. The pump operator was not qualified to operate the machine. Read the full article [here](#).

Coronation celebrations that will bring communities together announced

6th-8th May 2023

Celebrate the King and Queen Consort's Coronation with a weekend of special events, including Coronation Big Lunches, street parties, and The Big Help Out.

Taking place on May 6 at Westminster Abbey, the Coronation will be attended by thousands and watched by millions worldwide.

The weekend festivities continue with a Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle on May 7, featuring a "Lighting up the Nation" display across the UK's iconic locations.



Make the astute choice and let Astute Safety Consulting help your business today.

www.astutesafetyconsulting.com