
Health & Safety Update



Established 1996

**Maximising your health and safety at work
Together we can do something wonderful for you,
your employees and your business.**

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We welcome your views, ideas and suggestions on this Newsletter at any time – please email your thoughts to: info@darlington.ie. You are receiving this Newsletter because you are on Darlington Consulting's database of clients, colleagues and friends. Feel free to share or forward it on to colleagues and friends.

The aim of this occasional Health and Safety Update is to keep you informed about Health, Safety and Welfare and HR News. If you do not wish to receive this Newsletter please send a blank email with “unsubscribe” in the subject line to: info@darlington.ie and we will remove your email. **Darlington Consulting is here to solve your health and safety and human resource problems with advice, guidance and practical tools. Our aim is to save you time and money and protect your most important asset – your people.**

Why you should invest in Health and Safety – my new video

I have recorded a video outlining why I believe all businesses should invest in health and safety. This is my first effort at a video – let me know what you think. It is on the home page of my website. View the video [here](#)

Health and Safety Professionals as the Enablers in Business

This is the title of my article which appears in the latest issue of Health and Safety Times – it is the 3rd article down - read it [here](#)

Wicklow County Council fined €355,000

A fine of €355,000 plus costs of over €95,000 was imposed on Wicklow County Council in October at the Dublin Circuit Criminal Court. The Council County Council had entered guilty pleas to three breaches of health and safety legislation. The fatal

incident occurred after some welding work had been undertaken at a disused/derelict building. The work was undertaken to secure an external steel sliding door and thus prevent unauthorised fly tipping into the building. The welding works, caused debris materials to smoulder inside the building leading to a fire developing some 20 minutes after the welding works had been completed. The two fire-fighters died whilst battling the fire. For more click [here](#)

Drummonds Ltd. fined €125,000 after death of two workers in grain silo

Agri-merchant business Drummonds Ltd. was fined a total of €125,000 plus HSA expenses of €19,600 and legal costs at Dundalk Circuit Criminal Court in October. Two workers entered an elevator pit to undertake some repair works on machinery by means of an access hatch and a vertical ladder fixed to the wall which led 3.4 meters below ground. Whilst in the elevator pit both men were overcome by a lack of

oxygen in the atmosphere. Both died as a result of the incident in August 2009. For more click [here](#)

Firms told not to slip up on safety as accident pay-outs total €22m

The Health and Safety Authority have provided us all with a very colourful infographic about accidents, claims and payouts. Slips, trips and falls still top the list and the most common day for accidents is Thursday. For full infographic click [here](#)

Electrician given 2 year suspended sentence for bypassing RCD

An electrician, who pleaded guilty to exposing workers to risk by bypassing the residual current device in an electrical circuit, was given a two year suspended prison sentence at Cork Circuit Criminal Court recently. He was also banned from working as an electrician for 5 years. For more click [here](#)

More Irish companies drug-testing employees

There has been a significant increase in the number of Irish companies drug testing their employees. A Northern Irish lab has said its traditional customer base of US or multi-national companies has evolved, with a number of indigenous firms now seeking their assistance. Scientists examine blood, saliva and urine samples given by workers when they are testing for traces of drugs or alcohol. For more click [here](#)

UK Nightclub owner fined over health and safety breaches

A nightclub owner in Bristol has been found guilty of a string of health and safety breaches at his city centre club. Previous breaches included: faulty emergency lighting; poor markings on stairs; no available hot water; no ground floor ventilation; a bolted exit door, lack of a handrail on the emergency route; lack of an emergency exit door sign, and a trip hazard near the emergency exit door. Recent breaches included the use of smoke machines and lasers even though he had been advised by health and safety officers not to use them. He was ordered to pay £2,250 in fines and £4,000 towards prosecution costs and a victim surcharge of £120. For more click [here](#)

Five signs that staff stress is out of control

According to Andrew Kinder these are the five signs of stress to look out for: Changes in behaviour: Highly emotional reactions: Looking lost, bewildered, overwhelmed: Loss of their sense of humour: Physical changes in appearance. For more click [here](#)

Western Australia needs EHS Managers

The state government is looking to Ireland and the UK to fill skills shortages in major planned resource and infrastructural projects in Western Australia. The following occupations in Australia are available to UK and Irish nationals: civil engineers, project managers, surveyors or **environmental health and safety managers** in the resources and mining sector as well as teachers, nurses, IT professionals, accountants, construction trades, mechanics, town planners and other occupations. For more click [here](#)

Five ways HR can help senior leaders regain staff trust

More than one in three employees (34 per cent) report their level of trust in senior managers is weak, according to the CIPD UK. And, worryingly, company leaders seem to be out of touch with how their staff feel, with senior managers more likely to report strong trust between employees and senior management (40 per cent) than non-managerial workers (27 per cent). This article lists 5 ways HR can turn this around. For more click [here](#)

Sales Assistant Awarded €9,500

The claimant worked as a sales assistant and was seen on CCTV buying some items while off duty but not paying for them all. The till operator did not charge her for all of her shopping. The claimant's position was that she had paid to the till operator what she had been asked to pay. The Company maintained that the claimant had not tendered the correct money for the amount on the receipt and had avoided paying for a box of cereal. The Tribunal ruled that the Area Manager had pre-judged the issue and was deemed to have been unfairly dismissed. She was awarded €9,500. For more click [here](#)

Darlington Consulting can provide advice and training on all of the issues raised in this Newsletter. We are here to advise, guide and train you and your employees in all aspects of workplace health and safety and HR management. Please call Mary Darlington on 096 37608 or 086 2437677 and or visit our website: www.darlington.ie.