

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Happy New Year to all of our readers, and let's hope 2015 will be a good one!

In the latest issue of 'Health & Safety Times' we talk to Genevieve Murray, project co-ordinator and research at the Anti-Bullying Centre at DCU about the notable increase now in cyber bullying in the workplace. She maintains that a national survey is needed to address this issue, which she claims will highlight just how serious the problem has become.

Workplace bullying is currently covered in Ireland by a Code of Practice, but as Genevieve Murray notes, maybe it's now time to look at putting it on the statute books and to enact legislation on the subject.

Following the Health and Safety Authority's landmark year, its CEO Martin O'Halloran points out that 1,000 lives have been saved since the HSA was set up in 1989. However, he candidly tells us that there's no 'silver bullet' to providing adequate health and safety practices in the workplace.

On a Euro note, the two national winners of the Good Practice Awards now go forward to represent Ireland on the European stage in the spring. The project leaders from Navan Dairy Discussion Group and Focus Ireland outline the reasons they entered the 12th awards scheme, and the lessons they learned in the process. Best of luck to both Irish winners in Europe, and best wishes to you all for 2015!

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5 NEWS UPDATE

For the fifth year running the agriculture sector has recorded the highest number of fatalities, representing roughly 55 per cent of all work-related deaths in 2014.



15 EURO NEWS

As part of the Healthy Workplaces Manage Stress campaign, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) has launched an e-guide on managing stress and psychosocial risks.



22 HSA 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Up to 1,000 lives have been saved since the Health and Safety Authority was set up 25 years ago. Martin O'Halloran, CEO for the past seven years, says there's no 'silver bullet' to providing adequate health and safety practices in the workplace.



29 WORKPLACE BULLYING

A national survey on workplace bullying would assess the problems facing Irish workers, according to Genevieve Murray, co-ordinator, researcher and trainer with the Anti-Bullying Centre. She claims that greater public awareness is key in dealing with the issue before it spirals out of control.



35 NISO NEWS

During February and March, the Regional and Northern Ireland heats will take place before the All Ireland Safety Quiz Final is held in Belfast on 18 April.



37 SAFETY AWARDS 2014

Cold Chon (Galway) Ltd (Chemoran) was the Supreme Safety Award Winner for 2014 at the 23rd Annual National Irish Safety Organisation/Northern Ireland Safety Group (NISO/NISG) Safety Awards.



43 GOOD PRACTICE AWARDS

Focus Ireland and the Navan Dairy Discussion Group – the Irish winners of the Good Practice Awards – will now compete on the European stage this spring. The awards form a major part of the Euro Healthy Workplaces Campaign, which is focussing on stress management for 2014-2015.



49 CHEMICAL REGULATIONS

Pat Conneely, head of the HSA's Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Unit, looks forward to an improved regulatory regime under Seveso III Directive, and to working with other regulators and operators on the new measures.



53 FARM SAFETY

The 30 farming fatalities for 2014 represents a tragic year for the sector, says John McNamara, Teagasc Health and Safety Officer, adding that this must be a motivating factor to crop the tragedy, pain and suffering associated with farming accidents.

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58 CONSULTANT VIEWPOINT

Health and safety should always be on the agenda for every business and company throughout Ireland, rather than just in response to a crisis such as a serious accident, a fire, an explosion or a visit from a HSA inspector, writes consultant Mary Darlington.



61 LONE WORKER TECHNOLOGY

A new inter-communications initiative, Managed Emergency Response Services, has been developed by Tetra Ireland to offer local authorities and government agencies a 24/7, 365 days emergency response solution as part their unique lone worker management process.



63 FISHING SAFETY

With fishing now recognised as one of the most hazardous sectors in which to work, a guide has now come on stream to create a greater awareness of managing health and safety within the industry and controlling the risks.



65 PERSONAL INJURIES

Over €24 million was awarded in 826 cases for workplace accidents in 2013, and Stephen Watkins, Director of Corporate Services at the Injuries Board, says that a greater commitment is needed now more than ever for workplace safety in Ireland.



67 WORKPLACE HEALTH

Irish social enterprise MyMind has developed a new initiative to enhance resilience and emotional wellbeing of employees, which it claims will increase productivity and lower levels of absenteeism amongst staff.



69 WORKPLACE ABSENTEEISM

Fit for Work Ireland Coalition has called for a national early intervention policy to tackle workplace absenteeism, which the Coalition claims could save the Government €55 million in Exchequer savings.



81 UK NEWS

The UK government is breaking international rules requiring safety inspections of all workplaces, an International Labour Organisation (ILO) ruling has indicated.



86 INTERNATIONAL NEWS

A video message honouring the health workers killed so far in the current Ebola outbreak has been issued by the global public service union federation PSI.



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