

EDITOR'S COMMENT

'Health & Safety Times' is delighted to be on board again as the Irish media partner of the latest European Healthy Workplaces Campaign for 2016-2017.

A major part of this campaign, organised by the European Agency for Safety and Health (EU-OSHA) is the European Health and Safety Week, which this year kicks off on Monday 24 October. During that week the annual 'National Inspection Day' on Wednesday 26 October will encourage all safety reps to inspect their workplace.

The week-long range of events forms a major part of the latest 'Healthy Workplaces for all Ages' campaign rolled out by European Agency for Safety and Health (EU-OSHA), and is aimed at people in organisations, companies and workplaces of all sizes and sectors.

Companies and organisations in Ireland have by now entered the campaign's latest Good Practice Awards – by submitting practical examples of good practice in the management of OSH within the context of an aging workforce.

Two national winners will be selected from the entries – one from organisations with less than 100 employees and one from those organisations with 100 employees or more.

The two Irish winners will then go forward to the European leg of the competition where they will be judged against other national winners.

If successful at the European stage, the overall winners will receive their awards at the Healthy Workplaces Good Practice Awards next April.

Good luck to all those who entered the 2016-2017 Awards – and don't forget that old adage: practice makes perfect!

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Staff at Louth County Council take the third highest amount of sick leave in the country when compared with other local authorities.



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Up to 7,000 additional businesses signed up to BeSMART.ie – the Health and Safety Authority's online safety management tool – according to figures released in the HSA Annual Report for 2015.



- 13 **HEALTHY WORKPLACES**
Health & Safety Times' has again joined the EU-wide network of media partners to promote the latest campaign 'Healthy Workplaces for All Ages' (2016-2017), rolled out by European Agency for Safety and Health, which is now calling on all organisations and companies to come on board and to also highlight the European Good Practice Awards.



- 15 **EURO NEWS**
Eurofound's latest pan-European survey, which provides the first comprehensive image of job quality in Europe since the Great Recession, will be presented in Brussels on 17 November.



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The National Irish Safety Organisation has launched a 'Driving for Work Award' as part of the overall Occupational Safety Awards for 2016.



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Celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the IOSH Northern Ireland Branch also included a special presentation to two founding members of the branch - Wilson Lambe MBE and James Cockrane.



- 22 **WORKPLACE HEALTH**
With the lack of any regulations on drug testing for employees in Ireland, leading to much uncertainty and confusion amongst employers, Maurice Quinlan, Director of the EAP Institute, suggests the Health and Safety Authority may adopt the European Workplace Drug Testing Society (EWDTs) guidelines as the basis for a code of practice on testing.



- 25 **CONSTRUCTION SAFETY**
Construction workers who speak about their accidents and rehabilitation in order to help others in a moving new video series 'In the Blink of an Eye' were applauded by Minister for Employment and Small Business, as he launched this year's Construction Safety Week.



- 26 **PERSONAL INJURIES**
Revised guidelines on the level of compensation awarded in personal injury cases come at a time when consumers' insurance premiums are sky-rocketing. However, Conor O'Brien, CEO of the Injuries Board, would prefer to see a reduction in incidents leading to the actual claims.



- 29 **CARBON MONOXIDE AWARENESS**
Ireland's fifth annual Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week has again raised awareness of the dangers of carbon monoxide and highlighted the measures that can be taken to prevent it.

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More awareness of health promotion practices are needed among the farming community, with farmers now identified as having high levels of preventable ill health, writes Dr John McNamara, Health and Safety Specialist with Teagasc.



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A unique new national network of occupational health doctors aims to change the way in which employers look after the health, safety and welfare of their staff, by cutting absenteeism and boosting workers' productivity.



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The biggest lesson of all when it comes to engaging your employees is to remember that 'employees' is just another word for 'people' and people like to have fun, says international communications and leadership consultant Gina London. Here the former CNN anchor outlines the strategies around improving employee engagement.



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The Health and Safety Authority's new free short online training course on chemical safety in the workplace is aimed at workers, supervisors and safety representatives, in any sector where chemicals are used.



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Nearly half the number of UK workplaces have never had a health and safety inspection – including more than 80 per cent of construction workplaces – according to a new TUC survey of health and safety representatives.



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US firefighters are more at risk of cancer and post-traumatic stress disorder than the general population, according to findings of a new report from the International Association of Fire Fighters.



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