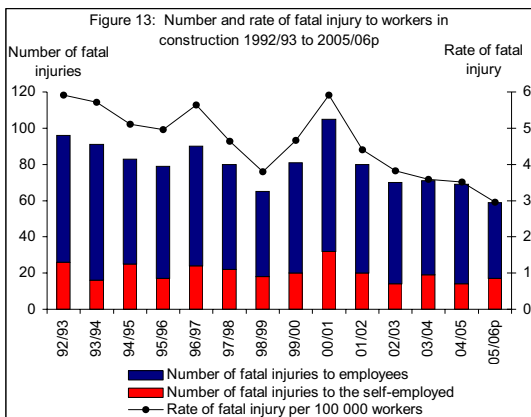




HSC Publishes the Statistics for Fatal Injuries in Construction 2005/06

Falls from Height - Lowest on Record

The HSC recently published the fatal accident statistics for workers and members of the public during 2005/06. The number of workers and members of the public fatally injured are based mainly



on reports by employers and others under RIDDOR. The fatal injuries include deaths up to a year after the date of the accident and therefore the statistics for the year 2005/06 are provisional and will be finalised next year. There were a total of 59 fatal injuries to construction workers in 2005/06, this represents a fall of 14% from the 69 deaths recorded in 2004/05. The number of fatal injuries to employees fell from 55 in 2004/05 to 42 in 2005/06. However, the number of deaths to the self-employed rose from 14 to 17.

Construction deaths accounted for 28% of the total 212 worker fatalities in 2005/06. This

Kind of accident	Agriculture, hunting, forestry & fishing	Extractive & utility supply industries	Manufacturing industries	Construction	Service industries	All industries
Contact with moving machinery	6	1	10	2	4	23
Struck by moving, including flying/falling, object	2	3	13	7	8	33
Struck by moving vehicle	8	-	5	8	14	35
Strike against something fixed or stationary	2	-	1	3	1	7
Injured while handling, lifting or carrying	-	-	1	-	-	1
Slips, trips or falls on same level	1	-	1	1	4	7
Falls from a height of which:	6	1	6	24	9	46
- up to and including 2 metres	1	-	-	4	3	8
- over 2 metres	5	1	4	13	3	26
- height not stated	-	-	2	7	3	12
Trapped by something collapsing/overturning	2	-	2	4	3	11
Drowning or asphyxiation	-	-	-	1	-	1
Exposure to, or contact with, a harmful substance	1	-	1	1	4	7
Exposure to fire	-	-	2	-	2	4
Exposure to an explosion	-	-	2	1	1	4
Contact with electricity or electrical discharge	-	-	1	3	7	11
Injured by an animal	2	-	-	-	-	2
Acts of violence	-	-	-	-	2	2
Other kind of accident	-	1	-	3	9	13
Injuries not classified by kind	3	-	-	1	1	5
Total	33	6	45	59	69	212

Falls from height account for around half of all fatalities in the period 1996/97 to 2005/06. This is the most common kind of fatal injury for both employees and the self-employed. Falls from height

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Chairman's Column

Following the surprising and sudden resignation of Des Daly from his position as chairman of the NASC Health & Safety committee, it obviously created quite a stir amongst the members. Having had time to reflect on these events I think we can all agree that Des Daly's absence on the committee and his contribution to the work of the confederation will be greatly missed by all.

His efforts to raise the profile of the safety committee through improvements in communications, via the Health and Safety chair website, clearly highlighted his commitment to bring together all the other NASC standing committee members in order to plan better for the future and to enable us to speak with a united voice.

I believe the safety committee has come a long way and achieved many significant milestones and objectives through all the hard work and effort put in by the various committee's and individual members, and I feel it is this strength in depth that we have built up over the years that will reinforce the standing of the committee.

I was a little apprehensive when I first considered taking up the position of chairman, but with the support and guidance of the NASC

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mainly involve roofs, ladders, scaffolds and raised platforms.

After falls from height, the most common kinds of fatal injuries to workers in the period are being struck by a moving/falling object (14%); being struck by a vehicle (11%); being trapped by something collapsing/overturning (8%) and contact with electricity or electrical discharge (8%).

In 2005/06, there were 24 fatal injuries to workers in the construction industry due to falling from height, a decrease of 2 from 2004/05. This continues the downward trend of the past ten years. Of the 24 fatalities, 13 were as a result of falling from a height of more than 2m, although this type of accident has reduced considerably in recent years.

After falling from height, the most common kinds of fatal injury are being struck by a moving/falling object, being struck by a moving vehicle and being trapped by something collapsing/overturning. In 2005/06, these kinds of accident accounted for 7, 8 and 4 fatal injuries respectively. Deaths due to being trapped by something collapsing/overturning fell by 69% from 13 in 2004/05 to 4 in 2005/06.

For full statistical report refer to <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/overall/fatI0506.pdf>

Safety Alert

Potentially Fatal Grinder Accident

How the incident happened.

A construction worker received a deep cut injury to his neck and the side of his head whilst using a 7" grinder to dress a steel plate. As he positioned himself to carry out the task, the drawstrings from his jacket hood became entangled in the rotating spindle of the grinder. This resulted in the grinder being drawn towards his head and neck. It happened so quickly that he had not time to think or react to protect himself.

This was a potentially fatal accident!



Points to be remembered:

1. Loose Clothing can present entanglement hazards whilst working with machinery (especially rotating equipment such as drills and grinders).
2. Keep all potential entanglement sources secure at all times or remove from danger zone e.g. drawstrings for hoods, cuffs, hi-visibility vests, loose clothing, lanyards and belts etc.
3. PPE selection should take into account the task and hazards the wearer will be exposed

to, as well as any additional risks that the PPE might create.

Work equipment must be subject to a PUWER (Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations) risk assessment, identifying all possible hazards including potential entanglement.

HSE Enforcement Campaign Sees A Scaffolder Issued With Prohibition Notice!



In May this year a scaffolder working for one of the member companies of the NASC had a nasty shock when a Health and Safety Executive inspector told him that he was serving him, as an individual, with a Prohibition Notice. He was told to report to the HSE office the next day and was advised to bring legal representation!

The inspector was visiting a construction site on his patch when the scaffolder was seen to be working unsafely.

The Prohibition Notice served on the scaffolder stated the reasons as **“for work carried out and controlled by you, involving a risk of serious injury from being liable to fall from unprotected edges or through unprotected openings, not following a safe system of**

work and contravening section 7 of The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Work at Height Regulations 2005 Regulations 6 (3) and 14 (2) because you have not taken suitable and sufficient steps e.g. fall protection such as guardrails or fall mitigation such as wearing a harness and lanyard to prevent you falling a distance likely to cause personal injury”.

The Notice prevents **HIM** from working unsafely on site.

Failure to comply with the Notice, which is kept on file for 3 years, is a criminal offence and carries a maximum 2-year prison sentence and a fine.

The member Company, whilst concerned that one of its scaffolders was working unsafely, drew a positive from the fact that the HSE had in this case, recognised that it had carried out its duties to train, instruct and supervise its operatives and that the scaffolder had to realise that he had a legal duty to work safely.

Reputable companies that invest in their personnel see this as a welcome change by the HSE. They see it as showing a willingness to support scaffold companies that do make the effort to do the right thing in carrying out the appropriate training and instruction, and by supplying the right degree of supervision.

In the past, irrespective of how well a company has tried to comply with the law, a misdemeanour by one of its employees could still have landed the company with a Notice.

Whilst this action by the HSE may seem drastic it has to be seen as a last resort to get someone to work safely when working at height, the potential consequences of not doing so, are well known by all.

So scaffolders **beware** you could get ‘**nicked**’ if you do not work safely and a prosecution could result in a fine of up to **£5,000!**

HSE Statement following major scaffolding collapses in the UK.

Following several major scaffold collapses in the UK, HSE inspectors carried out a number of site visits to discuss scaffolding issues. During their inspections the HSE found sub-standard scaffolds that had been erected and inspected by personnel with inadequate training, experience or the necessary skills to execute their roles competently. Many of the scaffolds should have been designed but were not.

As competent scaffold contractors you are required to provide suitable stable working platforms that have been erected by competent people. It is important that arrangements are in place to ensure this, and that these arrangements are reviewed regularly and take into account the following factors, and others that you deem to be appropriate:

- scaffold design
- arrangements for securing/stabilising scaffolds e.g. ties, buttresses etc
- intended and actual loadings on scaffolds, including the impact of wind when scaffolds are clad with debris netting or sheeting
- the risk of direct impact by construction plant or vehicles
- the frequency and thoroughness of scaffold inspection arrangements
- systems in place for the handover of new or modified scaffolds
- the training and competence of scaffold erectors
- the adequacy of the scaffold foundations
- selection and testing of ties
- public protection
- the prevention of unauthorised modifications

The HSE ask scaffold contractors to consider these issues and to ensure they have sufficiently robust arrangements in place to demonstrate compliance with the required standards.

Protection of the Public - Child Safety

Following the death of a young boy who had used a scaffold to give him access to factory roof, where he fell through a glass roof light, the NASC were asked to comment on the recommendations it gives to its members regarding public protection.

In this particular incident there were no faults found with the scaffold and the ladder had been removed from the lower lift.

Scaffolding is frequently erected in areas to which members of the public have access, such as streets, courtyards, halls and gardens. The precautions that need to be taken to protect the public during the erection, modification and dismantling of scaffolds are similar to those

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which need to be taken to protect other workpeople on an enclosed site but, because of the public's unfamiliarity with the dangers and curiosity about the work and because there might be a large number of people at risk, high standards of physical protection and more effective systems of work and supervision will generally be needed.

During erection, modification and dismantling, care should be taken to protect the public and exclude unauthorised persons from the area of the work and a sufficient area around the work. In confined areas it may be necessary to provide an adequately protected thoroughfare while the scaffold is in use. Effective steps should be taken to prevent persons being struck by falling objects and again the provision of a protected thoroughfare, suitable brickguards, façade nets, sheeting or protection fans may be necessary.

In general, care should be taken that, at the lower levels of a completed scaffold, there are no protruding tubes, low headroom, etc. that could cause damage or injury to members of the general public or their property, e.g. clothing. Where access through parts of the base of a scaffold structure might prove hazardous, entrance to such areas should be barred by means of a horizontal tube or other suitable obstruction.

Children pose a special problem; many have been injured either through falling or causing the scaffold to collapse after climbing up the scaffolding, either by the standards or by ladders left at ground level. It is essential to remove and secure all ground level ladders whenever scaffolds are left unattended, and it is also advisable to consider boarding in the bottom lift of such scaffolds.

Holidays are a time for fun and adventure and some children are drawn to construction sites as exciting places to play, but they are not playgrounds and playing on them can have fatal consequences. Between 2001/02 and 2004/05, 3 children died and 235 were injured during construction works, in most cases simple precautions would have prevented the incidents ever happening.

The following practical advice for parents and workers will help keep children safe:

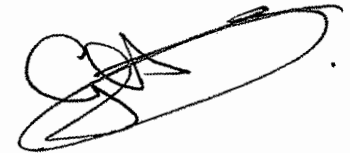
- Warn children against playing in dangerous areas, including building sites;
- Make sure you know where your children are going, and when they will be back;
- Encourage them to play only in safe areas such as playgrounds;
- Workers should watch out for children playing around sites, if you see children, stop work and make sure they are off site before you begin again;
- Lay heavy objects on the ground or fix them firmly upright so they cannot fall onto children and injure them;
- Secure sites adequately when finishing work for the day;
- Never allow children to ride in construction plant machinery.

In addition to the general duties to the public under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, outlined above, persons erecting or using scaffolding in or near public places may also have specific duties under other legislation.

Chairman's Column continued

team, in particular Dave Chapman and our new deputy chairman Rick Statham, I hope to continue the excellent work carried out so far. The committee continues to diversify its membership in order to get a broad spectrum of experience and knowledge that we can all draw upon to make the industry a more professional and safer place to work.

I plan to bring some new ideas and innovations to the committee whilst maintaining a simplistic and pragmatic approach to both problem solving and the sharing of best practice amongst the membership. I would like to thank everyone who has supported me by allowing me to take up the position of chairman of the health and safety committee and I look forward to working with you all in tackling the challenges ahead of us.



GED HENRY
CHAIRMAN
HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE



Fact File

Did you know that if a scaffolder during his working life (say an average of 30 years) erects a scaffold to a height of 6m every day, then over his total working lifetime he would have erected scaffolding equivalent to a height of 32 miles or 52000 metres.

This equates to:

**12140 London Buses (14ft)
920 Nelsons Columns (185 ft)
173 Eiffel Towers (986 ft)**

or

6 Mount Everests (29000 ft)