

Health & Safety Bulletin



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Sensitisers webpage



Sensitisers are substances which can cause sensitisation in the lungs (respiratory sensitisers) and/or skin (skin sensitisers) after exposure to them.

Once sensitised, individuals can have severe reactions to further exposure, even in small amounts. In the most extreme cases, individuals may develop asthma and/or dermatitis respectively.

Management of sensitisers is therefore crucial in ensuring staff health. A guidance page has been set up at: <http://edin.ac/22KDwDA> detailing identification of sensitisers, symptoms, control measures and occupational health input.



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Physiotherapy

As part of our approach toward proactive health interventions, the Occupational Health Unit (OHU) has a physiotherapy referral scheme, utilising the services of CSE's FASIC, whereby staff may be referred to the services of a Physiotherapist.

Access to the service will only occur where an OHU Adviser has assessed that the member of staff meets certain criteria and may benefit from early and pro-active intervention from physiotherapy treatment.

Previously staff who had injuries or musculoskeletal issues which were causing them problems at work, or perhaps meant that they were off sick, may have had to wait many weeks or months for this type of intervention available on the NHS.

There is a protocol and checklist for the criteria to enter the scheme and this includes a requirement for referral and assessment by the OHU staff. However where the criteria is met, this can significantly speed up access to Physiotherapy services, hopefully intervening in and alleviating the potential for prolonged symptoms and helping to get the individual concerned coping with their work requirements or indeed back into the workplace.

For more information follow this link <http://edin.ac/1mFs6zU>



Prosecution of Cranfield University by the Health and Safety Executive



Cranfield University has been fined after a worker suffered potentially life-threatening injuries whilst dismantling a bomblet.

Swindon Crown were told that, on 4 February 2011, three employees from the Explosives Research Section at the Defence Academy of Cranfield University were working to deactivate former military cluster bomblets, so they could be recovered for use in demonstrations. As the team were carrying out the deactivation, one of the bomblets exploded causing serious injuries to one of the workers.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

found no suitable risk assessment had been carried out for this type of activity and therefore the system of working was unsafe.

Further details on this case can be accessed on the HSE www site at: <http://tinyurl.com/q5cugue>

The Health and Safety Department at this University are not aware of any work with similar materials being done here - if anyone is involved in a project which involves highly flammable or explosive materials, and would like assistance with regard to risk assessment, please contact

Health.Safety@ed.ac.uk

Health and Safety Conference 2016

The next Health and Safety Conference will be held on Wednesday 16th March 2016.

The conference will launch the updated University Health and Safety Policy as well as provide an update on the most recent Aon audit programme. A formal invite email will be sent to all School Safety Advisers in due course with the date, time and venue as well as the final programme.

This is a great opportunity to network with not only members of the Health and Safety Department, but also fellow School Safety Advisers. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

To see presentations from previous Conferences, please go to <http://edin.ac/1O2FFTj>



Retirement of Jim Hogg

Jim Hogg will retire from the post of University Fire Safety Adviser towards the end of March 2016 - Jim's expertise, experience and good humour will be a significant loss to his colleagues in the Fire Safety Unit, the Health and Safety Department and the wider University.

Jim joined the University in 2000 as a Fire Safety Assistant, and became Deputy Fire Officer in 2002. Jim moved on to become the Deputy University Fire Safety Adviser in 2009, and succeeded Mike Moore as the University Fire Safety Adviser, and Head of the Fire Safety Unit, in 2011.

Arrangements for Jim's retirement will be widely communicated shortly.

Departmental Administrator



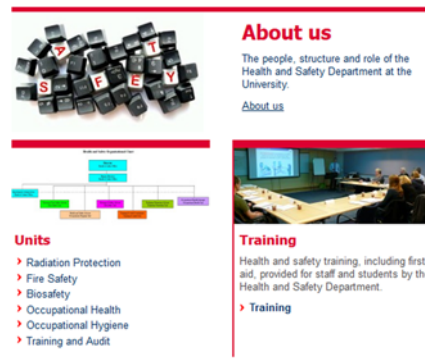
Welcome to Susan Burns who has joined us from the Finance Department having worked in the Pensions office for over 7 years. Prior to this Susan has previously worked in a range of positions within finance in companies as diverse as Scottish Brewers, Ethicon and Scottish Widow. Susan's role as the Departmental Administrator shall co-ordinate the administrative, organisational and financial aspects of work within the Health and Safety Department. You can contact Susan on 50 2461, email: susan.burns@ed.ac.uk.

H&S websites migrating to EdWeb

All of the Health and Safety Department's websites will be migrating to EdWeb in early March.

We hope this migration will occur without any downtime and there should be no interruption for end users with access during this time.

The architecture of the websites will not change, however, the way that EdWeb structures websites is slightly different from Polopoly, therefore finding the guidance you require may take a little more time until you become familiar with the new layout, and some links may need to be updated by Schools.



Post migration, if you require any assistance in finding guidance pages, please email Health.Safety@ed.ac.uk

Contact Details

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W: www.ed.ac.uk/health-safety

Forthcoming Training Courses

- **Laser Safety** - 22nd January 2016 <http://edin.ac/1N4taCS>
- **First Aid at Work Annual Refresher Training** - 2nd March 2016 <http://edin.ac/YPF9zq>
- **Fire Stewards & Fire Extinguishers Training** - 10th February 2016 <http://edin.ac/1JOeXft>

The above courses can be booked via the MyEd Event Booking Channel.

For more information on H&S training courses go to www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/training