



Health & Safety Bulletin



Issue 11

September 2014

University Optometrists

The University appointed optometrists, Roger & Smalridge, closed their branch in Forrest Road on 6th June and are now operating solely from the branch at 1 Goldenacre Terrace.

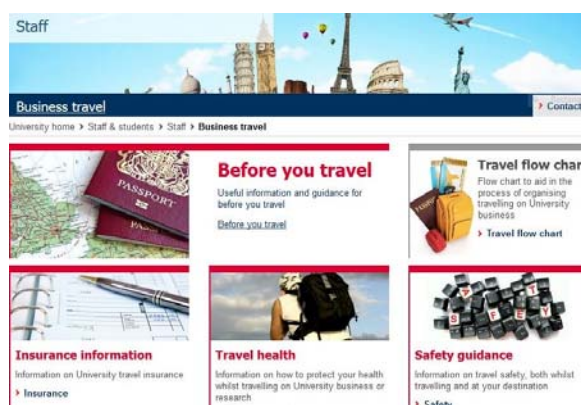
The Health and Safety Department have been in the process of sourcing a second optician in the southside of Edinburgh since we were informed of this relocation in premises.

However, at present all VDE tests are to be carried out at the Goldenacre branch of Roger & Smalridge. There is parking locally at this optician or the bus services 8, 23 & 27 all pass within 5 minutes' walk of the branch.



New Business Travel website

During the 2012, the University and Aon (Insurance brokers to the University) Partnership Health and Safety audit programme focused on the risks associated with work related overseas travel. One reoccurring theme from many schools was that they felt the University provided a significant amount of information on booking travel, insurance and health and safety whilst working abroad, however, it was fragmented and not always easy to find.



With this in mind, the Health and Safety Department, in conjunction with the International Office, Occupational Health Unit, Insurance Office and Procurement Office, have developed a website to bring all this information together. We are very pleased to be able to launch this website now and hope that it fulfils the gap identified by the audit process.

The website can be found directly at the link below and is also linked from the Services & Support section in the Staff website. <http://edin.ac/1pQ3xPC>

Retain Update

The Health and Safety Department were successful in obtaining funding to undertake more development work on the RETAIN system.

It is currently only used for recording radiation substances but we are hoping to add the recording of micro-organisms, schedule 5 materials and biological projects to the system.

This project will likely commence in January with a completion date sometime in March 2015 and more information will be disseminated closer to the time.

For more information about the RETAIN System please see the wiki at:

<http://edin.ac/1nadf06>

Laser-induced Eye Injuries in Children

It has come to the attention of the Radiation Protection Unit that every year a number of children are damaging their eyes by looking at laser beams or their direct reflections. Sometimes the injury is caused when a child looks directly at a laser beam, or directs it at a mirror, and sometimes by another child pointing the laser beam at them.



The extent of injury varies, but can cause sufficient incurable loss of vision to restrict their activities for the rest of their life. On two occasions the laser had been known to be given to the child by their parents.

The injury can be caused by either a powerful laser that is correctly labelled, or a laser that has been mislabelled as a lower power than it really is. With the advance in solid state and battery technology, it is now possible to purchase hand-held dangerous lasers from online retailers such as Alibaba, eBay and Amazon.

We would like to encourage all our readers to never regard lasers, INCLUDING LASER POINTERS, as toys. We will be issuing further guidance on this matter shortly. In the meantime, advice can be obtained from Colin.Farmery@ed.ac.uk, tel. 650 2818.

New member of staff – Fire Safety Unit

The Fire Safety Unit welcomes a new staff member. Ashleigh Maule is the new secretary and is primarily based at Infirmary Street.

She has been with the unit for quite some time as a temporary secretary but has now joined permanently. She can be contacted at Ashleigh.Maule@ed.ac.uk or by telephone on 651 1226.

Maternity leave of Deputy Director

The Deputy Director of the Health and Safety Department, Karen Darling, is currently on maternity leave. We're very pleased to announce that she has had a beautiful girl named Rose.

In her absence, please contact the most appropriate person in the Department to assist you with her enquiry. If you are unsure, please call the main office who can direct you.

IOSH training

As mentioned in previous bulletin articles, the Health and Safety Department is accredited to deliver two IOSH training courses, Working Safely and Managing Safely.

A total of one hundred and eleven people have now attended the Working Safely course, and ninety have attended the Managing Safely course.

For further details please use the link below, or contact

safety.training@ed.ac.uk

<http://edin.ac/10dwYl0>



Contact Details

Health and Safety Department
Charles Stewart House
9-16 Chambers Street
T: 651 4255
E: Health.Safety@ed.ac.uk
W: www.ed.ac.uk/health-safety

Forthcoming Training Courses

- Basic Course in Radiation Protection in Teaching and Research - 22nd and 29th October 2014
- Laser Safety - 31st October 2014 www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/radiation-protection/training/timetable
- Biosafety Courses - October 2014 www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/biosafety/training/timetable
- BTI Biosafety Practitioner Level 1 (Foundation) - Hybrid course 19th-21st January 2015 www.bti.ed.ac.uk/courses/

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