

COMPANY DIRECTOR MAY GO TO PRISON

In our last newsletter we outlined the death of Alexander Wright, who was gathering soil samples in a trench at a building site when it collapsed in Stroud, Gloucestershire. Peter Eaton, the sole director of Cotswold Geotechnical Holdings Ltd, was in court in June and heard his company was charged with unlawfully killing Wright by gross negligence under the Corporate Manslaughter Act 2007.

In June the Guardian reported:

The present charge alleges that "because of the way in which the organisation's activities were managed or organised, [Eaton's company] caused the death of Alexander James Wright by gross negligence, which amounted to a gross breach of a relevant duty of care owed to the deceased, contrary to section 1 of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007".

Eaton, as an individual, also faces a second charge of killing by gross negligence on the same date, under common law. In addition he and the company face one health and safety charge each, in relation to the same incident.

The new offence came into force on 6 April 2008. Then the government said it "sets out a new offence for convicting an organisation where a gross failure in the way activities were managed or organised results in a person's death". The Health and Safety Executive called it a "landmark in law".

The response to this story has been exceptional, and many clients have asked what needs to be considered in relation to Health and Safety both within your company premises and externally where a worker is performing off site visits, driving for work etc.

Our team will be more than happy to discuss any issues arising in respect of this case or any other matter, so please do not hesitate to call us on 01793 828000.



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Peter L S Finlayson
Managing Director



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

PFA Consulting's commitment to its staff has been recognised by it receiving an Investor in People award from Business South West. The award is in recognition of the high standard and commitment to its staff and their training and development. Peter Finlayson, Managing Director, said:-

"The Company's aim is to provide a first class service to its clients while allowing its employees to enjoy a healthy balance between working and family life. Continuous improvement is an everyday part of our working environment. Our aim is to exceed the expectations of our clients and ensure our team enjoys a balanced work/life culture.

We have introduced a series of initiatives from a comprehensive induction program, office manual, corporate responsibility statement and policies that outline the firm's vision and values through to regular career development reviews and personal training plans.

By sharing insights in to how staff can provide a quality service to our clients, we can support a culture that inspires enthusiasm, professionalism and excellence."

CARBON FOOTPRINT



The energy used in constructing, occupying and operating of buildings accounts for a staggering **47%** of the UK's carbon dioxide emissions and is one of the most carbon intensive industries.

As such it is receiving an increasing amount of government attention. This has resulted in an escalating number of construction businesses being asked by clients to provide information on their carbon emissions and overall carbon footprint.

At PFA Consulting we are continuing to expand our Carbon Footprint service and have developed a suite of calculation methods for various industries. The construction

industry is noted as an area where improvements can be made and we are currently working with a large organisation to establish the Carbon Footprint at a significant construction project. The construction project will last for approximately one year and our consultants are supporting the project with measurement of raw materials delivered to site, energy monitoring and understanding the waste leaving site. Reductions in emissions are expected during the project and will supply benchmark data for that organisation to be carried into future projects.



Andrew Duncan
CMIOSH
SHE Consultant

FACT FILE

- 20% of the world's population from developed countries consume over 50% of the resources used by the human race each year.
- Latest figures show that the average annual cost to each household in the UK from leaving appliances on standby is £27.50. That's 8% of domestic electricity consumption.
- It's an unpleasant fact, but a quarter of what goes into our bins each week is waste food. That all goes to landfill to rot down producing the greenhouse gas methane. The worst culprit? Unopened or part used bags of salad. Next time you buy a food item and get one free make sure you plan to use it all, if you don't need it, don't pick up the free one.

SWINE FLU - WHAT TO DO?

As an employer there are a number of steps you can take to help protect your workforce from the health risks associated with Swine Flu. Guidance from the NHS on Pandemic Flu provides important practices which should be followed. These include:

- Using a tissue to cover your nose and mouth when coughing/sneezing, dispose of the tissue promptly and then wash your hands.
- You should not use cloth handkerchiefs or reuse tissues as this carries a risk of contaminating pockets or handbags.
- Clean your hands frequently, especially after coughing sneezing and using tissues. Soap and water is an effective means of cleaning hands.
- Minimise touching of the mouth, eyes and/or nose unless you have recently cleaned your hands.
- Normal household detergent and water should be used to clean surfaces frequently touched by hands.
- Clean your hands as soon as you get to work and when you arrive home.

DOES YOUR ORGANISATION HAVE AREAS WHERE SMOKING IS PERMITTED?

Have you considered the effects of second hand smoke on workers who might have to enter those areas to clean etc?

One of our consultants was recently intrigued by this situation when carrying out consultancy services at a hotel which contains bedrooms where smoking is permitted. The consultant identified that maids are required to enter the rooms shortly after guests have vacated them, often while there is still the residue of smoke in the rooms.

The Health Act 2006, Section 3, indicates that hotels can be classed as exempt from the description of smokefree premises but guidance on staff entering the rooms for the purpose of work is not clear. In consultation with the HSE, the Department Of Health and the Local Authority, our consultant established that under these circumstances organisations must use technologies to reduce risks to employee's health.



Our consultant advised the hotel's management that steps should be taken to reduce exposure to hotel staff where reasonably practicable, and the hotel now operates a smoking policy to protect its staff.

There is no single approach which can be used to reduce or eliminate the spread of flu. A risk assessment of the company covering the environmental, organisational and individual areas will help to outline the ways of reducing the spread of the flu virus from those individuals who are showing symptoms to those who might become infected.

For further guidance please refer to www.nhs.uk

ACCIDENT/INJURY PREVENTION

By careful analysis of the hazards present in the workplace we will advise on hazard reduction, management and avoidance. Accidents and injuries are costly to individuals and businesses. We can help avoid the risk of these costs through proactive improvements.

TRAINING

- Accredited CIEH, Construction Skills, IOSH and NEBOSH Training.
- Training Needs Analysis.
- General Safety, Health and Environmental Training.

APPOINTED COMPETENT PERSON FACILITY

Our ACPF allows clients to meet their duties under the management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, by providing a competent, complete Health, Safety and Environmental advice service. This is the most significant step an employer can make when effectively managing Health and Safety.

CARBON FOOTPRINTING

PFA Consulting can independently measure client's carbon footprint and advise on potential cost savings.

CDM CO-ORDINATOR SERVICES

Our CDM Co-ordinators have many years experience working with contractors, architects and other designers on numerous construction projects. All hold NEBOSH qualifications and are Registered Members of the association for Project Safety.

RISK ASSESSMENTS

To comply with health and safety legislation there is a duty to carry out suitable and sufficient assessments of the risks employees are exposed to. We can provide a robust risk assessment method and training assessment techniques.

CONSTRUCTION ONLINE & CHAS

We are able to assist companies with their accreditation applications to help them pre-qualify on tender applications.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

For companies intending to obtain certification to a formal Environmental Management System, including ISO14001, the environmental policy is a vital document for implementation.

Our Consultants will review existing policies and to offer recommendations on areas for improvement in order to bring them in line with the ISO14001 standards.

FIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS

We provide a complete fire prevention assessment of client's premises, highlighting the main areas where improvement is required.

GENERAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Our dedicated team of consultants are committed to providing assistance to clients in a cost-effective manner.

HEALTH & SAFETY AUDITS

We will assist clients comply with safety, health and environmental legislation and to assist with their responsibilities and legal obligations. Our services will be tailored to meet the needs of each individual client.

HEALTH & SAFETY LEGISLATION

We will assist clients comply with safety, health and environmental legislation and to assist with their responsibilities and legal obligations. Our services will be tailored to meet the needs of each individual client.

HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY PREPARED TO OHSAS 18001 STANDARD

Your policy is the basis of your safety management system. Our policies are designed to meet the requirements of OHSAS 18001 providing the highest standard in safety management.



Paul Sheehan
CMIOSH BSC (Hons) PgD
SHE Consultant

AS WELL AS QUALITY TRAINING, I OFTEN GET ASKED ABOUT WHAT OTHER SERVICES WE PROVIDE AT PFA CONSULTING. HERE ARE A FEW



SAFETY HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

Our consultants will provide a tailored integrated Safety, Health and Environmental Policy and procedures reflecting workplace activities including:

- Safety, Health and Environmental Policy.
- Working procedures.
- Permits to Work.
- Risk Assessment.
- Method Statements.
- Workplace Auditing.
- Workplace Inspections.
- Accident Investigations.

The documents are based on BS OHSAS 18001:2007 and ISO 14001:2004

TRAINING NEWS

TRAINING STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

PFA Consulting provide in-house and on-site training courses. Our courses are delivered in a relaxed, structured environment by appropriately qualified, professional and friendly trainers. Trainers are selected for teaching and practical experience within their specialist fields allowing them to offer real-life solutions to delegates. This enables them to offer efficient, effective, information-rich training.

As part of our course portfolio, we offer:-



4 Day IOSH Managing Safely Course
20, 27 August & 3, 10 September 2009 ● 19-22 October 2009



5 Day CITB Site Managers Safety Training Scheme
18, 25 August, 1, 9, 17 September 2009 ● 5, 6, 12, 13, 19 October 2009



13 Day NEBOSH National General Certificate
Week 1: 2-6 November, Week 2: 6-20 November,
Revision/Practical Exam Dates: 9, 10, 11 December 2009



18 Day NEBOSH Construction Certificate
Week 1: 2-6 November, Week 2: 9-13 November, Week 3: 23-27 November,
Revision/Practical Exam Dates: 9, 10, 11 December 2009



1 Day CIEH Level 2 award in Conflict Resolution & Personal Safety
26 August ● 30 September 2009

1 Day CIEH Environmental Awareness Certificate
24 September ● 15 October 2009



Tracey Deick
SHE Support Manager



SPECIAL OFFER

Book one delegate on any of our training courses during August and receive a second place half price (training to be undertaken by December 2009).



PFA Consulting are a preferred supplier of training to the armed forces as part of their resettlement programme.

NEW ACCREDITATION FOR PFA CONSULTING



David Moore
DipSM MIIRSM DipEM AIEMA
Senior SHE Consultant

Now more than ever businesses need to take environmental issues seriously, not just for the health of the planet, but also for the wellbeing of their organisation.

We are pleased to announce that PFA Consulting is now accredited to deliver the CIEH 1 Day Environmental Awareness Certificate. This qualification lays the foundation for a better understanding of significant environmental impacts.

