

# Engineering company fined after worker suffers finger amputation

An electromagnetic brake manufacturing company was sentenced today after a worker suffered serious injuries to her arm and hand when she became entangled in a spindle drilling machine.

Peterlee Magistrates' Court heard that on 28 September 2018, Amy Howe, an employee of Stephenson Gobin Limited, was working at the company's Bishop Auckland site. She was working on an adapted three spindle drill, used to manufacture parts for brake motors, when her gloved hand became entangled in the unguarded rotating spindle. Amy suffered serious injuries to her arm and hand including multiple fractures and the amputation of a finger. More than a year on from the incident the mother of two young children is still unable to return to work. She faces further surgery to both her hand and arm.



An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the company had carried out a risk assessment on the drill and had identified that there was a risk of entanglement on the rotating parts. However, it failed to provide guarding to the area and instead relied on employees to keep their

hands away from the danger area. In addition, employees were not warned about the increased dangers of entanglement when wearing heavy-duty gloves of the type being worn at the time of the incident.

Stephenson Gobin Limited, South Church Enterprise Park, Bishop Auckland, County Durham pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 11(1) of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 and was fined £5,334 with £1,369.60 in costs.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Shuna Rank: "Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards. In this incident a worker suffered and continues to suffer from serious, life-changing injuries which could have easily been prevented."

For more information on this, please visit:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/engineering/getting-started.htm>

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg229.pdf>

#### **Notes to Editors:**

1. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is Britain's national regulator for workplace health and safety. We prevent work-related death, injury and ill health through regulatory actions that range from influencing behaviours across whole industry sectors through to targeted interventions on individual businesses. These activities are supported by globally recognised scientific expertise. [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)
2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: [www.legislation.gov.uk/](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/)
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>

The post [Engineering company fined after worker suffers finger amputation](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

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## **[HSE releases annual injury and ill-health statistics for Great Britain](#)**

The number of injuries and incidents of ill-health in workplaces across Great Britain is still too high, new statistics show.

The annual report by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) includes statistics for work-related ill health, workplace injuries, working days

lost, enforcement action taken, and the associated costs to Great Britain.

Figures show that around 581,000 workers sustained non-fatal injuries in 2018/2019, with 1.4 million workers suffering from work-related ill-health.

The statistics, compiled from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and other sources, illustrate that in Great Britain in the 2018/2019 period there were;

- 147 fatal injuries at work
- 1.4 million working people suffering from a work-related illness
- 364 cases were prosecuted and resulted in a conviction; fines from convictions totalled £54.5 million
- 28.2 million working days lost due to work-related illness and workplace injury

The estimated economic cost to Great Britain totalled £15 billion in 2017/2018.

There have been no significant changes to industries in which there is a higher risk of sustaining an injury while at work, with construction and agriculture still amongst the high-risk sectors.

Despite Great Britain continuing to be one of the safest places to work, the reported figures highlight there are still areas to be improved upon to prevent fatalities, injuries and ill-health. The figures highlight the scale of the challenge HSE currently faces in making Britain a healthier and safer place to work.

In response to the report, Martin Temple, HSE Chair, said:

“Great Britain’s position as one of the safest places to work should be a point of pride for us all, but these figures show there is still much to be done to ensure workers go home both healthy and safe.

“These figures should highlight to us all the vital importance of managing risk and promoting behaviours to improve the standard of good health and safety practice in the workplace.

“We must all share the responsibility of ensuring everybody is aware of what they need to do to work right by preventing work-related incidents, and making our places of work healthier and safer for everyone.”

The full annual injury and ill-health statistics report can be found on [HSE’s website](#).

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## [Registered charity fined after resident of care home fell down a set of stairs and was fatally injured](#)

Nazareth Care Charitable Trust, a registered charity, was today fined after an elderly resident of one of its care homes was fatally injured when she fell down a set of stairs.

Edinburgh Sheriff Court heard that on 16 May 2017, Sheila Whitehead, an 87-year-old resident at Nazareth House, Hill Head, Bonnyrigg, Midlothian, a care home operated by Nazareth Care Charitable Trust, fell down a stairwell. She suffered a fractured skull and subdural haemorrhage, which ultimately resulted in her death.



An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Nazareth Care Charitable Trust failed to identify and implement adequate measures required to control the risk of care home residents falling down the stairs. The stairwell involved in the incident consisted of a flight of six steps, which descended from the main corridor on the ground floor down to the

entrance of the boiler room. It was found to lack an effective physical barrier that prevented access to the stairwell, in an environment where many residents, due to their conditions and ailments, were at an increased risk of suffering a fall.

Nazareth Care Charitable Trust of East End Road, East Finchley, London pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and was fined £40,000.

Speaking after the hearing, Nikki Jack of HSE said: "This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures.

"Organisations should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards".

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## **[Self-employed gas fitter jailed for illegal gas work](#)**

A fitter has been jailed after carrying out illegal gas work which was deemed by Gas Safe Register as immediately dangerous to life and property.

York Magistrates' Court heard that between 14 and 15 November 2015 and in the summer of 2017, Paul Golding undertook illegal gas work at an address in Scarborough.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Mr Golding was not Gas Safe registered, nor did he hold the relevant competencies to undertake the work. Mr Golding was aware that he should not have been undertaking gas work but did so in contravention of an HSE Prohibition Notice served on him in 2015.

Paul Golding of Queen Margaret's Road, Scarborough was found guilty of breaching:

- Section 3 (2) of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974
- Section 33 (1) (g) of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974
- Regulation 3 (1) of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998
- Regulation 3 (3) of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998.

He was sentenced to 18 months custody.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Darian Dundas commented: "Paul Golding undertook gas work which he knew he was not registered to do. HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate action against rogue gas fitters who disregard the law and place lives at risk.

"Working with domestic gas appliances is difficult, specialised and potentially very dangerous, so it is vital that this is only undertaken by trained and competent engineers who are registered with Gas safe."

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2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: [www.legislation.gov.uk/](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/)<sup>[2]</sup>
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk><sup>[3]</sup>

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## [Ferry operator prosecuted after worker injured by moving vehicle](#)

A ferry operator has been prosecuted after an employee sustained serious injuries when he was struck by a van being reversed out of a docked vessel.

Liverpool Magistrates' Court heard that on 17 September 2017 George Ball, a pontoon traffic marshall working for Stena Line Limited, was struck by a 3.5

tonne delivery van at the company's port terminal in Birkenhead, Wirral. The van was being reversed off the Stena Lagan vessel onto the pontoon area by a port service operative.



The vehicle reversed over Mr Ball's head and body after the initial collision had knocked him down. Mr Ball suffered multiple injuries that included numerous fractures to his skull, ribs and other bones, loss of sight in one eye. He has been left with double vision in the other eye and ongoing mental health problems.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found there was no consideration of physical segregation of pedestrian operatives from moving vehicles when vessels were being unloaded. Stena Line Limited had failed to adequately assess the risks to pedestrians from moving vehicles and consequently put in place effective control measures leading to a safe system of work.

Stena Line Limited of Station Road, Ashford, Kent, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £400,000 and ordered to pay costs of £6576.15.

HSE inspector Rohan Lye said after the hearing, "The injuries sustained by Mr Ball, which affect him to this day, were easily preventable. The risks to pedestrians from moving vehicles is an obvious one which should have been identified and controlled.



“Had Stena Line Limited employed suitable control measures the life changing physical and emotional injuries which continue to impact Mr Ball and his family would have been avoided.”

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2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: [www.legislation.gov.uk/](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/)
3. More information about workplace transport safety can be found at
4. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport/index.htm>
5. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>

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