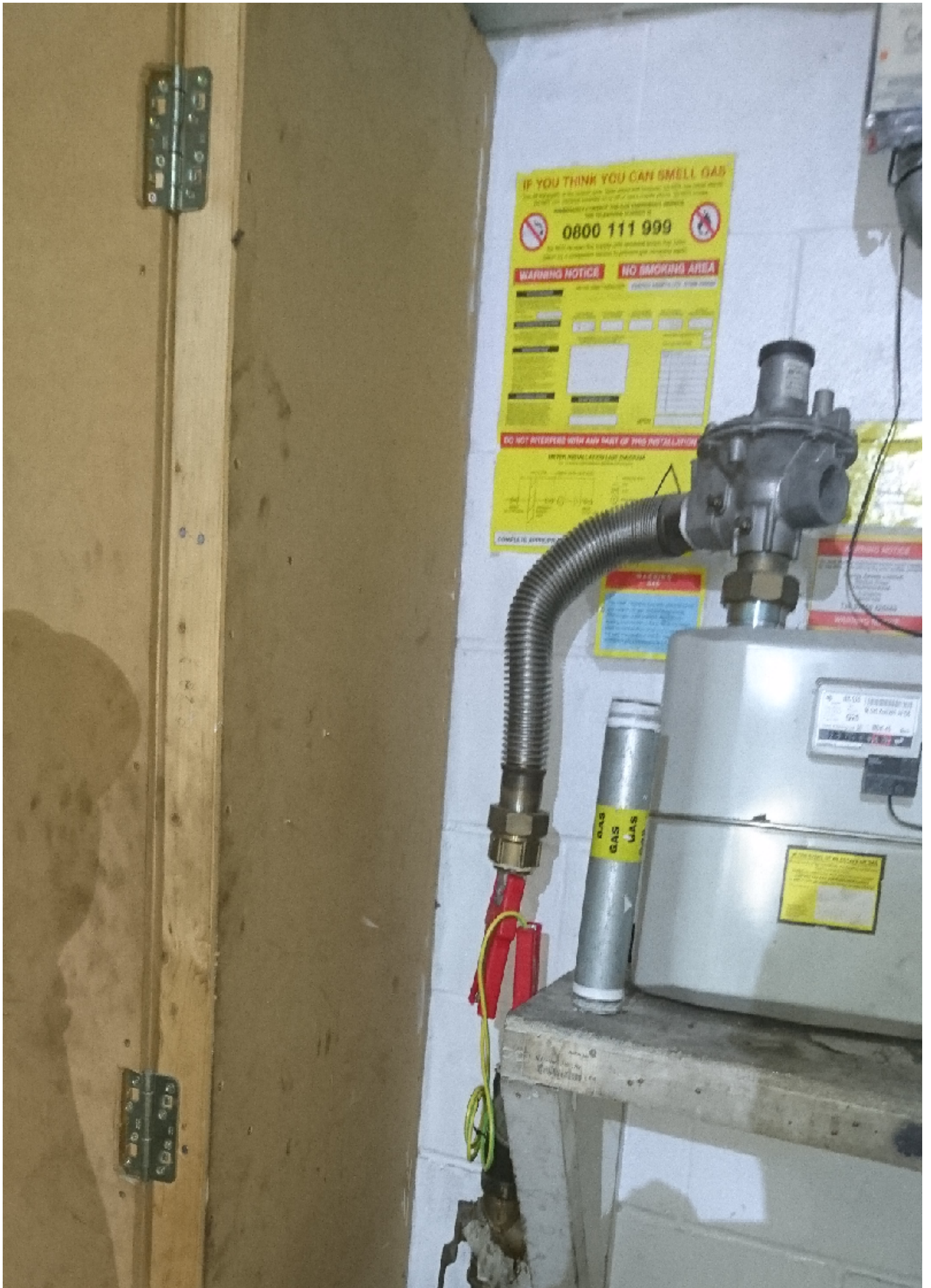


Company and gas fitter fined after gas explosion

A self-employed gas fitter has been fined after he and his son received serious burns following an explosion at a motor vehicle showroom in Glasgow.

Glasgow Sheriff Court heard that on 3 August 2016 Kenneth Ewen had been asked to install a heater in the wash area at Arnold Clark Limited on Kilmarnock Road. While carrying out the work Ewen asked his son to hold onto the end of a one inch gas pipe that had been connected to a redundant heater. There was an explosion and Kenneth Ewen and his son both sustained serious burn injuries. Several other men working in the immediate area were also put at risk of serious injury.



An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Ewen

climbed up a ladder and held onto an adjustable wrench that was attached to the pipe his son was holding. Mr Ewen had previously used a mechanical angle grinder to cut through the gas pipe at the other side of the wash bay. He then used the angle grinder to cut through a mounting bracket that was still attached to the wall. There were insufficient and ineffective controls in place to address the risk from escaping gas causing harm during the gas work. The gas way in the premises had not been made safe to allow work to be carried out on the gas fittings.

For its failings, Thermatic Scotland Limited of Blairtummock Place, Glasgow pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) and Section 2(2)(a)+(c) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and was fined £1,600.

Kenneth Ewen of Woodbank Crofts, Westfield, Bathgate pleaded guilty to Section 3(2) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and was fined £1,200.

Speaking following the hearing, HSE inspector Gerard Muir said: "The injuries sustained by father and son could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices."

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

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

The post [Company and gas fitter fined after gas explosion](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

[Vehicle servicing company fined after truck rolled and crushed employee](#)

Volvo Group UK Limited has been fined after an employee at the Cardonald Depot was crushed by a truck, leading to serious injury.

Glasgow Sheriff Court heard that on 7 June 2016 an employee of Volvo Group UK Limited was testing the brakes of a low-loader truck unit and trailer at the Cardonald depot, Glasgow. He had raised the trailer off the ground using a pit jack. He did not apply the truck handbrake or use any wheel chocks to prevent the vehicle rolling. Whilst adjusting the brakes at the first axle, the truck unit rolled forward causing the jack to slip off the axle of the trailer, roll towards him and strike him on the body, crushing him against a set of steps in the pit and fracturing his spine.



An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Volvo Group UK Limited had failed to provide a sufficient number of wheel chocks for use by its employees and failed to provide information, instruction, supervision and training of its employees in their use. Volvo Group also failed to provide a suitable induction of the employee in safe working practices.

Volvo Group UK Limited, of Wedgnoek Lane, Warwick pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 and Section 33(1)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and was fined £13,333,33.

Speaking after the hearing HSE Inspector Jennie Stafford said: "Those in control of work have a responsibility to devise safe methods of working and to provide the necessary information, instruction and training to their workers in the safe system of working."

“If a suitable safe system of work had been in place prior to the incident, the life changing injuries sustained by the employee could have been prevented.”

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[Construction company fined after putting workers at risk of falling from height](#)

A construction company has been fined for failing to comply with work at height regulations, placing employees at greater risk of injury.

Westminster Magistrates’ Court heard that during an inspection on 23 May 2018 at Dudley House, The Grove, Hounslow, a number of issues in relation to working at height were identified. These included several unprotected edges, where a person could fall a significant distance and also a floor that was being removed by a handheld breaker whilst workers were standing on it. No measures were in place to prevent them falling if the floor collapsed.



An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the risk assessment identified measures that needed to be implemented. These measures were not implemented and therefore created a significant risk of people falling, and causing serious or fatal injury.

STS Constructions Limited of North London Business Park, London, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 6(3) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 and was fined £26,666 and ordered to pay costs of £1135.10 plus a victim surcharge of £120.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Matthew Whitaker said: "Falls from height remain one of the most common causes of work-related fatalities in this country and the risks associated with working at height are well known. Work at height is dangerous and should be planned correctly and the required measures implemented".

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The post [Construction company fined after putting workers at risk of falling from height](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

Employee sentenced after apprentice injured in fall from unstable box

An employee has been fined after an apprentice sustained serious injuries when he fell from a potato box lifted by a forklift truck.

Peterborough Magistrates' Court heard how, on 30 July 2018, Mr Francis Yardy used a forklift truck with an attached potato box to lift an apprentice electrician to a height of four metres to carry out electrical repairs at a potato storage warehouse near Ely. This was inherently unstable and the apprentice fell to the floor. The apprentice was admitted to hospital and sustained a punctured lung and broken ribs.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the apprentice's employer had carried out a risk assessment and purchased suitable equipment for work at height, but that this was not used by the employee in charge of work at the site.



Type of potato crate used

Mr Francis Yardy of Regent Avenue, March, Cambridgeshire pleaded guilty to breaching Section 7 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and has been fined £2,000 and ordered to pay costs of £560.40.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Graeme Warden said: "Unfortunately, forklift trucks are frequently used with potato boxes or pallets attached to lift people to work at height. This incident serves as a reminder of the potentially disastrous consequences."

Further information about working safely at height can be found at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/work-at-height/index.htm>

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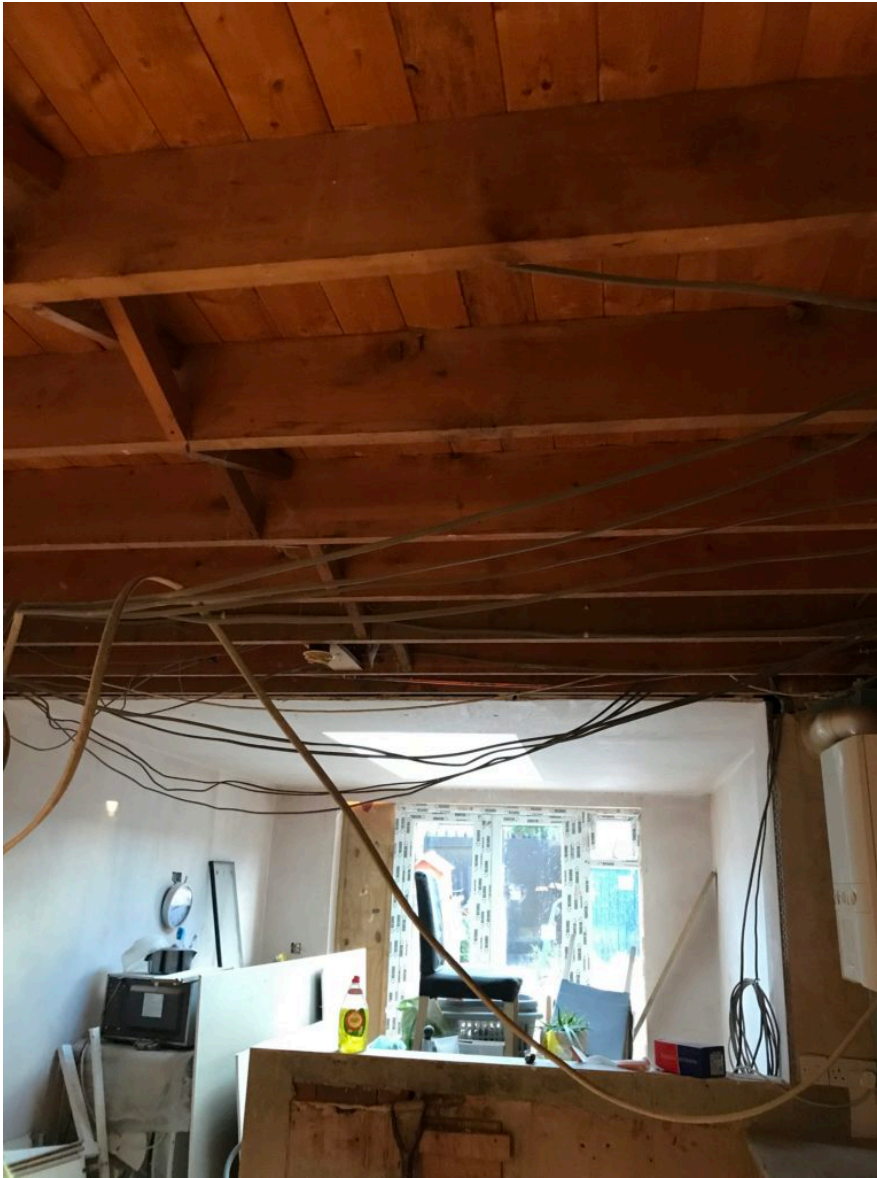
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Company and director fined following dangerous construction work around a domestic boiler

A building company and its director have been fined for unsafe construction work around a domestic gas boiler which resulted in a gas escape.

Birmingham Magistrates' Court heard how MD Building Contractors Ltd was contracted to undertake construction work at Brooklyn Avenue, Aston, Birmingham, between 26 July and 28 August 2017. The work was an extension to the kitchen.



An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that prior to the work commencing, a pre-existing gas boiler had been located in the kitchen with its flue going out of the rear wall. During the work the original flue outlet was removed, and an external wall was built around it. This had the effect of completely enclosing the flue inside the wall with no direct external exit point for the boiler to safely vent outside.



As a result the family of six living in the house were exposed to the risk of inhaling the products of the boiler burning, including Carbon Monoxide (CO), a poisonous gas that has no smell or taste.

Manjit Singh Dhaliwal (Director) of Manor Road, Halesowen pleaded guilty to breaching Section 37 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. He has been sentenced to a fine of £2,000 and ordered to pay costs of £431.50.

MD Building Contractors of Oak Road, Oldbury pleaded guilty to breaching Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulation 8(3). The company has been sentenced to a fine of £16,000 and ordered to pay costs of £513.10.

Speaking after the hearing HSE principal inspector Tony Mitchell said:

“Every year, around seven people die from CO poisoning caused by gas appliances and flues that have not been properly installed, maintained or that are poorly ventilated.

“Manjit Singh Dhaliwal was negligent in his duties as sole director to ensure that during refurbishment of the property that existing gas fittings were not adversely affected.

“All gas work must be done by registered Gas Safe engineers to ensure the highest standards are met to prevent injury and loss of life.”

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