

HSE launches second phase of construction inspection campaign

Construction projects across Britain are being urged to act now to ensure the health and safety of their workers is protected as the second phase of a targeted inspection initiative gets underway today.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) says 43 workers were fatally injured in 2015/16, and an estimated ten times that number died from construction related ill-health, with a further 65,000 self-reported non-fatal injuries.

HSE is now asking every construction contractor, client and designer to ensure they are not adding to this unacceptable toll of harm by failing to manage well-known risks.

In addition to things such as falls from height, the campaign will focus on control of harmful dusts including respirable silica from concrete, brick and stone, asbestos and wood dust, as well as work at height, structural safety, materials handling, good order and welfare provision.

HSE points to the mis-conception that health issues cannot be controlled in construction. It says harmful dust, whether silica or wood, is a serious issue and can be managed effectively with the right design, equipment and training. Health effects may not be immediate, but the ultimate impact on workers and their families can be devastating.

HSE carried out over 2000 inspections during the first phase of the initiative earlier this year with action being taken to address these issues in almost half of visits.

HSE's Chief Inspector of Construction and Director of Construction Division Peter Baker commented: "In phase 1 of this campaign HSE's inspectors found lots of good examples of small sites working safely and protecting workers health from exposure to harmful dusts, proving it can be done. My message to smaller businesses is don't wait for an accident or a visit from an HSE inspector – learn from the success of others and act now.

"Nearly half of construction fatal accidents and injuries reported to HSE involved refurbishment work.

"Some small refurbishment sites continue to cut corners and not properly protect their workers resulting in an unacceptable number of deaths and injuries each year."

Notes to Editors:

1. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is Britain's national regulator for workplace health and safety. It helps Great Britain work well by applying a broad range of regulatory interventions and scientific expertise, to prevent work-related death, injury and ill health. It does

so through research, information and advice, promoting training, new or revised regulations and codes of practice, and working with local authority partners by inspection, investigation and enforcement.

www.hse.gov.uk

2. More information about harm in the construction industry can be found at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/construction/> HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>
3. Free HSE guidance is available for construction employers and workers at www.hse.gov.uk about how to manage risks and prevent harm, as well as maintain productivity and business viability.
4. Join the conversation online at [@H_S_E](https://twitter.com/HSE) on twitter and [SaferSites](https://www.facebook.com/SaferSites) on Facebook.
5. For more information on HSE's campaigns visit:
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/strategy/index.htm> for Helping Great Britain Work Well and <http://www.hse.gov.uk/gohomehealthy/index.htm> for Go Home Healthy.

Heal