

Monthly roundup – December 2023

The final month of the year has seen the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) conclude complex prosecutions against two care settings. December also saw cases relating to two frightening offshore incidents that resulted in fines totalling more than £1million. Another prosecution came about after a member of the public captured shocking footage on their mobile phone of a dangerous disregard to safety while working at height.

Care home fined £125,000 after teenager's death



James and Melissa
Mathieson

A care home in Bristol was fined for not doing enough to keep people safe from vulnerable patients who posed a danger to themselves and others.

The complex HSE investigation and prosecution followed the death of Melissa Mathieson at Alexandra House on 12 October 2014. Jason Conroy murdered the 18-year-old and was jailed for life the following year, following a Crown Prosecution Service case.

Both Melissa and Jason were fairly new residents at the home having both moved there in August 2014, Melissa from Crawley, and Jason from a school in Shropshire.

You can read more on this story here: [Care home fined £125,000 after teenager's death | HSE Media Centre](#)

Construction fined after failing to provide basic facilities to workers

A Cheshire construction company was fined £5,000 after it failed to provide workers with adequate welfare facilities.

C.B. Homes Limited was carrying out work at a site on Bunbury Lane in Alraham when it was visited by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on 23 March 2023. The proactive inspection found the company had failed to provide workers with adequate facilities for workers to wash their hands.

It wasn't the first time the Tarporley-based company had failed to provide such facilities with enforcement action being taken by HSE on three other occasions. It is a legal duty for companies to provide workers with suitable welfare facilities.

You can read the full press release: [Construction fined after failing to provide basic facilities to workers | HSE Media Centre](#)

Roofing firm and company business partner sentenced following HSE investigations

A roofing company was fined a total of £881,000 after two workers were seriously injured during two separate incidents.

Billy Hewitt, a worker at Mitie Tilley Roofing Limited, fractured his pelvis after falling through a factory roof in Newcastle. Meanwhile, a 24-year-old labourer employed by RM Scaffolding broke his femur after falling through the roof of a building in Swansea while working on a project run by Mitie Tilley Roofing Limited.

The HSE investigated both incidents and prosecuted Mitie Tilley Roofing Limited. Paul Robinson, a business partner at RM Scaffolding, was also prosecuted following the incident in Swansea.

The full press release can be read here: [Roofing firm and company business partner sentenced following HSE investigations | HSE Media Centre](#)

Fines for repair firm and its director after man crushed at London garage



Company director Seyit Dilek left him standing under the vehicle while it was raised on a vehicle lift

A garage was fined £12,000 after a customer was crushed by his own vehicle at a garage in North London.

Tottenham resident Mahmut Emanet is “lucky to be alive”, according to HSE inspector Michelle Morphy.

The 62-year-old spent six days in a critical care unit after he sustained serious crush injuries in the incident. He has been left with permanent and life changing injuries.

You can read the full press release here: [Fines for repair firm and its director after man crushed at London garage | HSE Media Centre](#)

Leading textiles firm hit with £100,000 fine after worker loses hand

A linen services company has been fined £100,000 after a man’s hand had to be amputated.

Scott Drummond, from Rhyl, North Wales, suffered serious injuries to his hand after it became trapped in machinery at the laundry operated by Johnsons Textile Services Limited in Bumpers Lane, Chester, on 24 June 2021. The injuries were so serious that his hand was later surgically amputated above the wrist.

The 45-year-old had been investigating a fault on a large commercial dryer when he was caught by the machine.

You can read the full press release here: [Leading textiles firm hit with £100,000 fine after worker loses hand | HSE Media Centre](#)

Newport City Council fined £2million after death of much loved family man



Stephen Bell was working for Newport City Council when he was killed

Newport City Council was fined £2million after “a hardworking man who loved his family very much” was killed while carrying out road repair works.

Stephen Bell was barrowing tarmac from the back of the local authority’s tipper lorry when he was struck by a farm vehicle passing the road works.

The 57-year-old’s wife Jenny said how the events of 18 July 2019 had changed their family’s life forever.

“I do not have the words to express the pain my family and I felt when we heard the news and losing him so suddenly has taken its toll on us all and has left us all heart broken,” she said.

The full press release can be read here: [Newport City Council fined £2million after death of much loved family man | HSE Media Centre](#)

Offshore companies fined after grandfather injured on North Sea gangway



The damaged boot Mr Hill had been wearing at the time of the incident

Two offshore companies were fined a combined total of more than £1.2m after an offshore worker's feet were crushed while walking along a gangway over the North Sea.

HSE prosecuted both Shell and Ampelmann Operations following the incident off the Norfolk coast on 17 October 2017.

Martin Hill, a grandfather of eight from Norwich, says he now struggles to go on walks and carry out simple DIY tasks as a result of his injuries.

You can read more on this prosecution here: [Offshore companies fined after grandfather injured on North Sea gangway | HSE Media Centre](#)

Farming business fined after a walker dies in cattle incident



Marian Clode

A farming business was fined after a member of the public died after being butted several times by a cow in front of two onlooking grandchildren.

Marian Clode, 61, was on a family walk on 3 April 2016 when the attack happened on a public bridleway in Northumberland. She died in hospital three days later.

The family had been staying at a cottage at Swinhoe Farm, Belford and said Marian “was dearly loved and still so sadly missed.”

You can read more about this prosecution here: [Farming business fined after a walker dies in cattle incident | HSE Media Centre](#)

North Wales health board fined after failings resulted in woman’s death



Dawn Owen

One of the largest health boards in Wales was given a £200,000 fine after a patient died in its care.

Llandudno Magistrates’ Court heard that 46-year-old Dawn Owen was found unconscious at the Hergest Unit – a secure mental health unit – at Ysbyty Gwynedd in Bangor on 20 April 2021.

Dawn’s family have called on Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to act on the findings of the HSE investigation, calling her death ‘wholly avoidable’ and ‘completely unnecessary’.

You can read more about this prosecution here: [North Wales health board fined after failings resulted in woman’s death | HSE Media Centre](#)

Company fined after worker spotted on pallet raised by forklift truck



A company has been fined after shocked onlookers spotted an employee precariously working from height while standing on a pallet raised by a forklift truck at Ramsgate Harbour.

HSE was alerted to the activity after it was reported by a member of the public, who managed to capture the terrifying debacle on video.

The worker was part of a team of three at EAP Limited that were removing work equipment from the deck of a boat in the harbour's slipway.

You can read the full press release here: [Company fined after worker spotted on pallet raised by forklift truck | HSE Media Centre](#)

Offshore drilling company fined after crane boom collapse



Damage to the lifeboats following the collapse

An offshore drilling company has been fined after a crane boom collapsed catastrophically.

Nobody was hurt in the incident on 31 March 2016 but a chaotic scene ensued after the collapse of the Rowan Gorilla VII's boom, with flying debris damaging a nearby vessel, whipping a hose out of control before it ruptured, leaving a cloud of cement dust.

It happened offshore in the North Sea as staff were preparing to recover a faulty submersible pump.

HSE inspectors described the incident as an "accident waiting to happen".

For more on this prosecution you can read the full press release: [Offshore drilling company fined after crane boom collapse | HSE Media Centre](#)

Company fined £900,000 after dad crushed to death



Lee Benham with his wife Kelly and two children

A company in Leicestershire has been fined £900,000 after a father-of-two was crushed to death.

Lee Benham died on 4 November 2021 while attempting to move a scissor lift at Nationwide Platform Limited's workshop in Liskeard, Cornwall.

The 45-year-old LGV driver had operating a scissor lift from the ground to clear an access path so he could move pieces of machinery out of the workshop and load it onto his lorry in the yard.

Lee's wife, Kelly Benham, said: "There are no words that can describe when you have had your heart ripped out."

The full press release can be read here: [Company fined £900,000 after dad](#)

[crushed to death | HSE Media Centre](#)