

News story: MOT fails could be avoided by basic car maintenance

Nearly 50% of all faults found on MOTs could be avoided by carrying out regular, simple checks and maintenance, like replacing bulbs, wipers and tyres.

Between April 2015 and March 2016, nearly 1 in 5 cars taken for their MOT had problems with lighting and signalling – including simple problems such as blown bulbs.

Top reasons for MOT failures between April 2015 and March 2016

Type of defect	% of MOTs where the defect was found
Lighting and signalling	18.9%
Suspension	13%
Brakes	10%
Tyres	7.7%
Issues affecting the driver's view of the road	7.2%

Tips to avoid a fail and stay safe

Check that brakes work smoothly, tyres are legal, headlights and other lights work, windscreen wipers and washers work, and the driver's view of the road is clear of any obstruction.

The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) is urging drivers to carry out regular, simple checks on their vehicles to avoid MOT fails and the accidents that defects cause.

Make sure that:

- brakes work smoothly and that the vehicle doesn't pull to one side
- tyres are correctly inflated, have no cuts or bulges, and that they all have at least 1.6mm of tread
- headlights and other lights work – give them a tap to check they're not loose or damaged and check the colours are correct and match
- windscreen wipers and washers work
- the driver's view of the road is clear of any obstruction, such as stickers, toys or air fresheners

Car defects contributing to accidents

The [2015 road casualties report for Great Britain](#) shows that car defects were a contributory factor in 1,131 accidents.

Over 75% of defects that contributed to accidents were either braking or tyre

issues.

The MOT is there to help avoid this and help you keep your vehicle safe to drive. However, you need to follow the standard to pass the MOT all year round.

Safe to drive at all times

DVSA Chief Executive, Gareth Llewellyn, said:

DVSA's priority is to help you keep your car safe to drive on our roads.

Don't wait until your MOT to find out if your car needs attention. Make sure your car is properly maintained and safe to drive at all times.

Carrying out regular checks on lights and tyres will help you to stay safe and legal, as well as saving you time and money when your car's MOT is due.

Find out more about [getting an MOT](#).

The [MOT testing data for Great Britain for 2015 to 2016](#) has more information about why other types of vehicles fail their MOT.

[HSL: DSEAR Compliance for Managers and Supervisors – Buxton, 9 Mar 2017](#)

[Book Course](#)

HSL is to run a 1 day course on DSEAR – Compliance for Managers and Supervisors.

9 March 2017

HSL is to run a course on the identification and control of risks from dangerous substances required to comply with the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 (DSEAR).

The regulations place duties on employers and the self-employed to protect employees, contractors and others from the risks from fires and explosions related to dangerous substances stored and used in the workplace.

This course explains the duties that DSEAR places on employers and the actions needed to comply with them. It focuses particularly on the assessment

of risks and the application of controls to both minimise and mitigate those risks.

The course will cover

Who should attend?

Managers and supervisors of process plant and operations, where dangerous substances are used or stored, who need to understand how to manage the risks from dangerous substances within the framework of the DSEAR duties.

Venue

The course will be run at the HSL laboratory in the spa town of Buxton. Buxton is in the heart of the Peak District and has good links to mainline train stations and Manchester International Airport. This course can be run at your site or local area by arrangement.

Details of hotels in the Buxton area can be found at www.visitbuxton.co.uk

Cost

The cost of this course is £495 per person (includes course notes, certificate of attendance and lunch/refreshments).

[Book Course](#)

Please note the invoice option is not available within 4 weeks of the course date, or for overseas customers. If you are selecting the invoice option for payment, it will be mandatory to input a purchase order/reference number as we are unable to process booking forms without this.

For further dates and additional information email: training@hsl.gsi.gov.uk or contact the Training & Conferences Unit at HSL directly on +44 (0)1298 218806.

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[HSL: Biological Monitoring for Chemical Exposures at Work – Buxton, 9](#)

Mar 2017

Book Course

HSL is to run a 1/2 day course on Biological Monitoring for Chemical Exposures at Work.

9 March 2017

Biological monitoring is a useful tool for occupational hygiene and health professionals. It is based on the analysis of hazardous substances or their metabolites in urine, blood or breath, and is used to assess chemical exposures by inhalation, ingestion and absorption through the skin.

Biological monitoring is particularly valuable where substances may be absorbed through the skin or where control of exposure relies on personal protective equipment. It can also be used to investigate the behavioural aspects of exposure controls.

This workshop is an overview of biological monitoring and how it can enhance the service that occupational hygiene and health professionals offer.

- An introduction to biological monitoring.
- Practicalities – how to establish a biological monitoring programme.
- View from a practitioner – using biological monitoring to assess chemical exposures.
- Practical session – small group working using a case study.
- Interpreting results – understanding and acting on the results received.

The workshop is designed for occupational hygiene and health providers who are interested in what biological monitoring can do for them and their clients and for company employees specifically responsible for worker health protection.

Comments & Feedback

"Excellent, well worth the time."

Andrew Booth, RPS Business Healthcare

The course will be run at the HSL laboratory in the spa town of Buxton. Buxton is in the heart of the Peak District and has good links to mainline train stations and Manchester International Airport.

Details of hotels in the Buxton area can be found at www.visitbuxton.co.uk

Cost

The cost of this course is £295 per person (includes course notes, takeaway lunch and refreshments). A special offer is available to those attending the [Measurement of Hazardous Substances](#) course.

Book Course

Please note the invoice option is not available within 4 weeks of the course date, or for overseas customers. If you are selecting the invoice option for payment, it will be mandatory to input a purchase order/reference number as we are unable to process booking forms without this.

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[HSL: Behaviour Change: Achieving Health & Safety Culture Excellence – Buxton, 28 Feb – 1 Mar 2017](#)

[Book Course](#)

HSL is to run a 2 day course on Behaviour Change: Achieving Health & Safety Culture Excellence.

28 February – 1 March 2017

Not all risks can be engineered out of the work environment. Even with the best plans, procedures and systems in place, individuals at work still take short cuts and make mistakes. Sometimes risk-taking behaviour is intentional, for whatever reason. In other cases, risks may be taken due to a lack of understanding about a particular hazard, associated controls or inadequate training. To individual workers, such risk-taking can result in injury, ill-health and fatalities. To the organisation, some of the many costs can include lost time, damage to machinery, litigation, and prosecution. If unchecked, these costs can escalate.

This course, delivered by HSL psychologists, will provide you with an understanding of the many factors that influence both workers' and managers' behaviour. It will also highlight the strengths and weaknesses of traditional behaviour modification strategies for correcting unsafe and unhealthy behaviour, highlighting why such approaches may have limited impact. The course adopts a holistic approach to health and safety cultural improvement using behaviour change techniques (incorporating HSL's ASCENT – Achieving Safety Culture Excellence Now and Tomorrow programme) and concludes with strategies to help reduce the likelihood of risk taking behaviour for health and safety. It differs from other courses on this topic by demonstrating how

behaviour change, leadership and worker engagement can be incorporated into the wider health and safety management system to ensure an integrated, and therefore more effective approach to risk management. In doing so, both the immediate and underlying causes of risk-taking can be tackled head on. These strategies apply as much to manager behaviour as they do to operational staff.

- Why people take risks at work
- The consequences of risk taking for individuals and the organisation
- How to prepare an organisation for a health and safety cultural improvement programme
- Assessing safety culture and safety climate – use and follow up of the [Safety Climate Tool](#)
- Strategies for influencing senior management
- Factors that influence behaviour outlining HSL's model of behaviour change
- Human failure: errors and violations
- Strategies to identify the root cause of behaviours
- Evidence based strategies to encourage safer and healthier behaviour, e.g.
- Evaluating your programme and maintaining change

The course is most appropriate for health and safety managers with limited knowledge / experience of behaviour change approaches. However, it will also be relevant to those who have established behaviour change initiatives but are interested in how the psychological principles of human behaviour can be mapped onto an integrated health and safety management system.

In our experience whilst this course will prepare delegates to develop and implement a behaviour change programme, organisations often find that they want the security of having HSL experts available to support them through the process and help them tailor the approach to meet their current context, culture maturity level and audience.

We will advise and guide you, 'sense check' your ideas and trouble shoot problems that arise by drawing on our wealth of expertise (both theoretical and practical) and experience of applying such a process in organisations across industry. Our knowledge of what has and has not worked previously for other organisations can be invaluable.

HSL experts can provide a variety of 'next step' solutions to help kick start your health and safety cultural programme, including:

1. Delivery of a one hour presentation to your senior management team outlining HSL's ASCENT approach to achieving safety culture excellence.
2. A two hour facilitated exercise encouraging the SMT to develop an organisational vision and associated values. Alternatively, HSL can provide you with a training/facilitation pack allowing you to run the exercise.
3. A workshop to explore your leadership capability to deliver a change programme.
4. Facilitated 'ask the expert' session affording you and your team an opportunity to ask a member of the HSL safety culture team direct questions about your issues and support in developing your approach.
5. Facilitated action planning session using gap analysis to identify what you are currently doing for each of the 5 steps in the ASCENT process and identify what actions you might consider taking.

For further information and pricing on this post event consultation, please email jane.hopkinson@hsl.gsi.gov.uk

The course will be run at the HSL laboratory in the spa town of Buxton. Buxton is in the heart of the Peak District and has good links to mainline train stations and Manchester International Airport.

Details of hotels in the Buxton area can be found at www.visitbuxton.co.uk

Cost

The cost of the course is £825 per person (includes course notes, lunch and refreshments).

Comments & Feedback

"Excellent course, professionally presented, that provided a range of ideas and approaches as to how we can modify behaviour."

Chris Huckle, Rothamsted Research (North Wyke)

[Book Course](#)

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[News story: Britain, coalition and Iraqi forces to maintain momentum in campaign against Daesh, Defence Secretary says](#)

Speaking in Iraq, where local Iraqi and Coalition forces recently scored a major victory in the fight against Daesh in eastern Mosul, Sir Michael welcomed the progress made in defeating Daesh in Iraq.

Sir Michael saw how Britain's commitment to training Iraqi forces, which was stepped up last year is having an effect in the fight against Daesh. Numbers of Iraqi Security Forces trained by UK and Coalition personnel has increased threefold since October 2016, with around 3,000 Iraqi forces now being trained every month, 10,000 troops have been trained since the end of October 2016, increasing the Iraqi force's skills and ability to defeat Daesh.

With operations to clear the western approaches to Mosul already underway, Sir Michael met with the Prime Minister, President and Defence Minister of Iraq, and the Prime Minister and other representatives of the Kurdish Regional Government of Iraq, to take review campaign progress and planning

During his visit, Sir Michael also met with UK personnel training Iraqi security forces. Britain leads the Coalition's training programme in Iraq, and so far has helped to train nearly 40,000 troops. The training in countering improvised explosive devices (IEDs) is proving to be vital, as Daesh have booby trapped many parts of eastern Mosul during its occupation. Iraqi forces have been using their training to dispose of these crude devices, allowing their forces to advance and civilians to safely return to their homes. This training will also prove essential when forces move into the heavily mined and densely populated neighbourhoods of western Mosul.

The liberation of eastern Mosul marked a major victory for Iraqi forces, who Sir Michael praised for their patient and deliberate operation, taking care to minimise the risk to civilians. The RAF also played an important role in the Iraqi victory, providing sustained close air support to Iraqi troops. RAF Reaper aircraft played a particularly vital role, delivering precision attacks on Daesh extremists engaged in street fighting, while also using its advanced sensors to alert Iraqi ground forces to the presence of civilians.

Residents in eastern Mosul are already returning to their homes, with over 29,000 having done so in recent weeks. The liberation has also enabled more than 23,000 children to return to school and continue their education.

Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon said:

Iraqi forces, supported by Britain and the Coalition, have made strong progress in the fight against Daesh. We're keeping up the momentum with operations to liberate western Mosul due to start shortly.

This will be a more complex fight in a densely populated urban environment. Britain will continue playing its part providing precision strikes, vital intelligence, and training Iraqi forces to deal with explosive devices planted by Daesh.

Sir Michael also announced that Britain will send a UK military officer to help lead NATO's newly established training mission in Iraq, from July this year. The new NATO training and capacity building team will help the Iraqis in dealing with the threats they face, including to counter Daesh improvised explosive devices. The UK has already contributed £1 million to help establish NATO's presence in Baghdad, which will provide expert advice on defence issues to the Iraqi Government.