Health and Safety: is Britain going backwards?

Geoffrey Podger
Health and Safety in Britain: the good news
Figure 3: Standardised incidence rates (per 100,000 workers) of fatal accidents at work for 2012 (Eurostat)

Note: Figures exclude road traffic accidents and accidents on board transport in the course of work.
Asbestos is a hidden killer.
So now's the time to get clued in to the facts, so that you, your co-workers, your friends and your family are protected.

Asbestos: the Hidden Killer
Workplace Health Expert Committee

The Workplace Health Expert Committee (WHEC) provides independent expert opinion to HSE by identifying and assessing new and emerging issues in workplace health. Working under an independent Chair, WHEC gives HSE access to independent, authoritative, impartial and timely expertise on workplace health.

Note that the expert opinions expressed by WHEC on this site do not necessarily reflect HSE policy.
Integrated action

7.26 In our fight against accidental injury we can be successful only if everyone recognises that:

- There are key age groups that must be targeted. In particular, the greatest gain in lives saved and disability prevented would result from reducing injury (or its severity) in children up to 15 years (especially those from manual and unskilled households); in young people aged 16-24 years involved in road traffic accidents; and in older people who are at risk of stumbling or falling
- There are special factors associated with each different type of environment in which accidental injury occurs: the risks of death and injury can be reduced if the 'accident prone' features of roads, houses, workplaces, playgrounds and other settings are carefully analysed and measures designed specifically to reduce risk
- Single interventions will seldom be successful. A co-ordinated approach is needed. Individuals can take action for themselves and others. Transport, land use, housing, social and economic policies can all be harnessed together in ways which can reduce significantly the incidence of accidental injury.
Health and safety made simple

The basics for your business

If you think health and safety has to be complicated - it doesn’t.

This site is for employers and those who want some basic information on what they must do to make sure their businesses comply with health and safety law.

Managing health and safety doesn’t have to be complicated, costly or time-consuming. In fact it’s easier
"While I found that the HSE Board was overall adequately fulfilling its role, it was not described by anyone as dynamic or an example of best practice........

I fully support the need for HSE Board members who have experience of, direct contact with and preferably are currently active in, the relevant ‘user interests’, including employers, employees and local authorities, as envisioned by Robens"
The Myth Busters Challenge Panel provides a mechanism to independently challenge advice or decisions, made in the name of health and safety, that are believed to be disproportionate or inaccurate.

HSE Mythbusters Panel

Stop check

If you have a concern or complaint about workplace health and safety, this is not something the panel can consider. However, guidance on raising a workplace health and safety concern or a complaint is available.
NANNY'S IN A VERY BAD STATE
“For most small, low-risk businesses you require nothing more or less than a bit of common sense to ensure your employees don’t get harmed while they are at work.
Views on Common Sense

- "Common sense is not so common" Voltaire

- "Common sense is the collection of prejudices acquired by age 18" Einstein

- "Common sense tells us that the world is flat, that the sun goes around the earth, that heavy bodies always fall faster than light bodies, that boats made of iron will sink" Stuart Chase

- "We know that the war against intelligence is always waged in the name of common sense" Roland Barthes
"Common sense" versus "Competence"
"Look out, it's a vicious circle!"
The "Vicious Circle of Regulation"

- (1) Disaster strikes
- (2) New regulations/ regulatory agency introduced (can be disproportionate to problem)
- (3) Risks successfully contained
- (4) Regulation/ regulator disproportionately reduced in scope
- (5) New disaster strikes
THANKS FOR LISTENING

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