

## **National Occupational Safety and Health Committee (NOSHC)**

**Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

### **ENA update**

#### **Electricity industry Powering Improvement (PI) strategy**

##### *\* Working with Contractors*

A new five year phase of the Powering Improvement initiative launched in 2015, and work has been progressing under this year's theme of working in partnership with contractors. A number of contracting businesses have presented at National HESAC meetings outlining their approach to managing health and safety, including Balfour Beatty, Leven Energy Services, Morgan Sindall, Doosan Babcock and Morrison Utility Services. These companies and 2015 Powering Improvement Champion Stewart Fraser (Leven Energy Services) are working with network companies through the PI programme.

A Powering Improvement workshop was held in April to review industry practices around working at height and looking at opportunities to enhance standards in this key area of risk. A new ENA working group has been formed to address these issues, alongside a number of other new groups including one looking at underground link boxes and cable pits, and another which will revise and update the industry Model Distribution Safety Rules.

Further HESAC and Powering Improvement workshops will be held in October, when engagement with the contractor community will continue with presentations from Amey, Murphy and O'Connor.

A seminar was held in August with the focus on Occupational Road Risk and member company and contractor representatives responsible for road safety within their businesses attended the seminar. This provided the opportunity to share best practice and routes to improving safety and environmental performance.

##### *\* Powering Improvement 2016*

Work is already underway to shape the second year of the current Powering Improvement strategy. It has been agreed that the annual theme for 2016 will be occupational health. This will build on the good work carried out in this area in 2011 and ensure that the vital matter of the health of workers remains high on the agenda within the industry.

#### \* New Powering Improvement Website

To ensure the industry is kept up to date with the latest Powering Improvement developments, a new website was launched in July. The new site has an improved design and contains quick links to past work, new focus areas and the latest news from the world of Powering Improvement. Visit [www.poweringimprovement.org](http://www.poweringimprovement.org) . Powering Improvement also has its own twitter account to keep people up to date, follow @PI\_Strategy.

#### \* Working with ISSA

As part of the industry's desire to learn and benchmark performance against other organisations, a partnership has developed with the International Social Security Association (ISSA) a European body with a similar ambition to improve occupational health and safety. A joint collaboration project with the ISSA Electricity Section has led to the publication of a booklet 'Guidance for the Management of Health & Safety Performance'. This is designed to support and empower middle managers in the electricity industry to be more effective in managing health and safety within their overall role, through the provision of simple, practical information and tools.

#### **SHE Management Conference**

In April ENA hosted the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) Management conference in Bristol. The conference brought together key representatives from across the sector to promote the importance of health and safety and share learning to help drive improvement in this vital area.

The event also marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Health and Safety Executive. Close working between network companies and the HSE has been a cornerstone of the success the industry has achieved in reducing the number of injuries and fatalities in the years since privatisation.

#### \* SHE 2016

Plans for SHE 2016 are already taking shape. The conference will be hosted by Northern Ireland Electricity at the Belfast Hilton Hotel on 11-13 May 2016 and a number of high profile speakers have been lined up. More details on this conference will be made available on the ENA web site events page.

## **Metal Theft Update**

### **\* APPG Combating Metal Theft**

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Combating Metal Theft, which ENA is secretariat to, held its AGM in June. The purpose of the meeting was to officially re-register the group in the new Parliament and elect officers.

The group discussed the areas of progress and remaining challenges in combating metal theft across the country and in different industries. It was agreed that the APPG will look to produce a report on the success of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act since its implementation. This would be done over the course of the next year.

### **\* Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill**

The Scottish Parliament has passed the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill, which includes measures to help combat metal theft north of the border. The Bill will introduce a tighter licensing regime for scrap metal dealers, including new rules that will prevent cash payments.

ENA contributed to the legislation and briefed members of the Scottish Parliament on areas of improvement during the drafting of the Bill, based on the experience in England and Wales.

## **Utility Strike Avoidance Group**

The Utility Strike Avoidance Group (USAG) has held its first ever conference and exhibition at Heathrow Airport. ENA helped organise and chair the event, which brought together utility companies and key stakeholders, including Government and academia, to work together to improve health and safety performance in the avoidance of utility strikes.

Damage to underground infrastructure during digging work is a safety risk to workers and members of the public, as well as resulting in significant financial loss and disruption to vital services. The USAG is a collaborative group of over 150 utilities asset owners, industry groups and contractors that seek to ensure the highest standard of safety when work is being undertaken on the vital utilities infrastructure which serves homes and businesses. The first USAG Conference focussed on how to raise awareness of the risks of utility strikes, learning the lessons from company case studies, including Scottish Power, and managing behaviour to drive change throughout companies and their workforce. Delegates were also invited to join a number of new Working Groups which have been set up to take this initiative forward.