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# THE BUILDING SAFETY GROUP NEWSLETTER







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## Preparing Your Construction Site for Severe Weather

Severe weather events can endanger life as well as impact a construction project's budget, schedule and workforce. A documented and practiced severe weather plan can help contractors prepare for the unexpected and work to prevent losses. Protect your site, workers and project by evaluating site-specific risks, properly securing materials and equipment and putting your severe weather plans into action. In this article, BSG discusses some of the adverse weather conditions which Site Managers may have to plan for, and what can be done to reduce the risks.

### Heavy Rain

Water is one of the leading causes of damage to buildings under construction. Heavy rains can flood a site when drainage systems aren't complete. These same rains can enter the exterior building envelope through unfinished window and door openings.



If roof drains are obstructed, the rising water may find another drain path or try to settle across a level surface.

Heavy rain can also reduce visibility levels for vehicle drivers and machinery operators, as well as cause muddy ground which poses a risk to the health and safety of site workers if slip or fall on unstable surfaces.

In addition, the risk of flash flooding from torrential rain not only poses a risk to the equipment and machinery, but it also poses a threat to life, since construction workers might be working in confined spaces.

If water begins to flow into these confined spaces, workers are at serious risk of drowning if they're unable to be safely removed in time.



## Heavy Rain BSG Recommends

- Identify the potential for flood and evaluate site drainage. Permanent and temporary drainage systems should be installed, maintained and inspected to help ensure they are free of obstructions in the event of heavy rains or flooding.
- Delay installation of high-value equipment, such as electrical switchgear, until drainage systems are in place and operational.
- Avoid installing finished products, until window and door openings are closed, roof is secured and the building is watertight.
- Use temporary coverings, if necessary, to help protect finished work.
- The location and construction of temporary roofs should be part of the construction planning process or where installation of the permanent roof is delayed.
- Have a site-specific plan in place, including emergency response, cleanup kit and trained personnel, to help assist with mitigating the damage.
- If possible, identify third-party cleanup contractors to help with recovery and remediation efforts. Ensure proper contractual agreements are in place.

## Snow and ice

Throughout the winter months, ice and snow can occasionally be a threat to construction. With ice posing slip hazards and snow causing poor visibility, both can cause problems. The best advice is to avoid beginning a construction project during the worst months, but this isn't always possible.

Similarly, to heavy rain, melted snow and ice can cause the same erosion issues.



However, the combination of snow and ice over a longer period can lead to issues with machinery and can even cause it to completely break down. This is a costly issue, and it can be time-consuming to bring in new machinery or get the old equipment fixed, so preparation should be made to prevent this.



## Snow and ice BSG Recommends

- Walkways should be kept clear and treated properly to help prevent slips and falls. Identify and remove ice or snowbanks that may exist overhead.
- Install air monitoring devices if equipment is to be operated in enclosed areas. Ensure operators inspect equipment prior to use.
- Water lines can be insulated to help prevent freezing and bursting of the pipes.



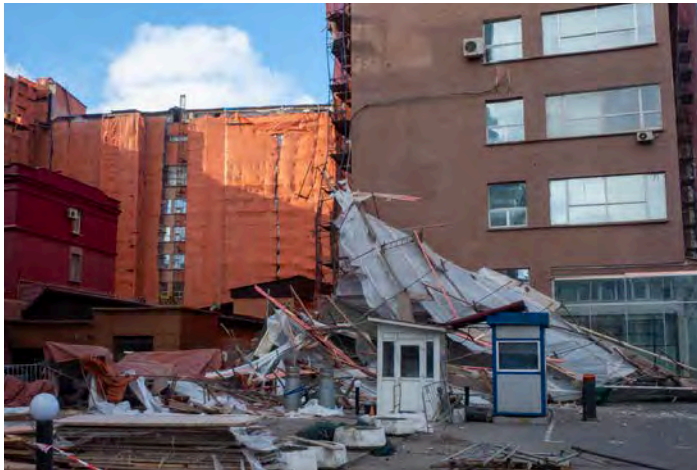
### Snow and ice BSG Recommends ctd ...

- Ensure proper use, maintenance and inspection of temporary heating devices. Maintain proper clearance zones and develop fuel storage plans.

### Wind hazards

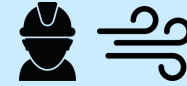
Strong winds not only affect the workers but also the materials on site, as they can be blown away if not secured down properly.

For the workers, risks are increased because of dust which causes irritation and reduced visibility.



Dust spread by the wind can also damage the environment if not handled carefully.

Evaluate your site's wind exposures to help eliminate or reduce the risk of damage or delay.



### Wind Hazards BSG Recommends

- Brace building components: Panels, masonry walls and other building components should be braced and inspected according to engineering design or recommended manufacturer guidelines.
- Building envelope or roof panels not fully installed should be anchored or secured each day. Consider covering large wall openings with tarps until windows, doors or glass curtain walls are installed.
- Properly store and secure materials for windy conditions. Loose materials such as sand, topsoil and mulch may need to be covered with a tarp.
- It is important to secure larger materials (e.g., metal sheeting or plywood), which could become projectiles and cause additional damage.
- Adhere to the manufacturer's operation and storage guidelines for all equipment at the job site. For cranes, be sure to review LOLER guidance for work stoppage.

For advice relating to **site specific operations**, we recommend that members always adhere to the following guidance:

### Scaffold Inspection

It is the scaffold users/hirers responsibility to ensure that all scaffolding has been inspected as follows:



- Following installation/before first use
- At an interval of no more than every 7 days thereafter
- Following any circumstances liable to jeopardise the safety of the installation, eg high winds

All scaffolding inspection must be carried out by a competent person whose combination of knowledge, training and experience is appropriate for the type and complexity of the scaffold. Competence may have been assessed under the CISRS or an individual may have received training in inspecting a specific type of system scaffold from a manufacturer/supplier.

A non-scaffolder who has attended a scaffold inspection course, eg a site manager, could be deemed competent to inspect a basic scaffold structure.

The scaffold inspection report must note any defects or matters that could give rise to a risk to health and safety and any corrective actions taken, even when those actions are taken promptly, as this assists with the identification of any recurring problem.

## Temporary Works

Any scaffold or temporary structure, such as site hoarding, Heras fencing, false works should also be checked it meets the design and inspected by a competent person each time it is exposed to conditions likely to cause deterioration, for example, following adverse weather conditions.

Therefore, BSG recommends inspections should be carried before the arrival of any high winds and again before putting back into use.

## Roof Works

Is there a wind speed above which roofing work should stop? Do not consider going on any roof in poor weather conditions such as rain, ice, frost or strong winds (particularly gusting) or if slippery conditions exist on the roof. Winds in excess of 23mph (Force 5) will affect a person's balance.

## All Working at Height

Any working at height planned during these adverse weather conditions should be reassessed and the additional hazard from very high winds should be considered.

For example, mobile alloy tower scaffolds should not be put into use if wind speeds exceed 17mph.

## Lifting Operations

BSG recommends that all lifting operations are suspended during these high winds.

The HSE advises against carrying out crane operations with wind speeds over 25mph and where gusts are forecast over 35 mph.

If you have any questions about how to keep your sites during bad weather, please contact us: **0300 304 9070** [info@bsgltd.co.uk](mailto:info@bsgltd.co.uk)



## Noise breaches up 35% on construction sites

The Building Safety Group (BSG) has reported a 35% increase in the number of noise infringements occurring on construction sites. BSG’s statistic came to light after comparing the number of noise breaches recorded in 2023 with those documented in 2024.

BSG’s report is concerning when some 17,000 people in the UK suffer deafness, ringing in the ears or other ear conditions caused by excessive noise at work.

### Noise exposure

Exposure to high noise levels can cause permanent hearing damage for construction workers, without the sufferer becoming aware of the problem until it’s too late. It can often lead to tinnitus or even deafness. Noise can also be a serious safety hazard at work, interfering with communication and making warnings harder to hear.

The HSE estimates that more than 2 million people in Great Britain were exposed to unacceptable levels of noise at work.





Noise induced hearing loss is the second most common reason for employers' liabilities claims for Occupational Health.

### Court cases

Two recent court cases have seen construction companies heavily penalised for noise violations. Soldi Investments Ltd was fined £12,835 for failing to comply with a Control of Pollution Act notice to control noise during the construction of a store in 2023. **Westway Construction** was ordered to pay £5000 following reports that builders had been carrying out noisy and heavy-duty building works at a site on Newport Road, Hayes. (See 'Court Cases' p. 26 for further details).

### Cumulative effect

Andy Harper, Head of Technical and CDM Support for the Building Safety Group commented: "Exposure to many different sources of noise on a construction site has a cumulative effect and can cause irreparable damage, even if a worker is only exposed to a single source for short periods of time."

### Workers at risk

Andy added: "Workers are also at risk if they have muffled hearing at the end of the day, even if it is better by the next morning.

There is no need for hearing to be damaged - under the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005, employers have a duty to protect workers and take steps to reduce the risk."



### BSG Recommends

For advice and guidance on how to reduce of hearing damage caused by noise, please take time to view:

[Noise on a Construction Site](#)

[704 Exposure to Noise.doc](#)  
(login to BSG Hub/BSG InTel/H&S Docuemnation/Risk Assessments/Occupational Health)

[HSE - Noise](#)

## New BSG Members



BSG would like to welcome the following new members who have joined us since our last newsletter:

BSN Group Construction  
Emcus Limited  
Five Rivers Environmental Contracting  
Guild Conservation  
Manak Homes  
Richfords Ltd Pool  
SNIPEF Edinburgh  
The Complete Roofing Company



# BSG HEALTH & SAFETY AWARDS 2025



The Building Safety Group (BSG) will be hosting its eighth, annual Health & Safety Awards ceremony on **Thursday 12th June 2025 10.30am - 2pm** at the renowned [Black Country Living Museum](#) in Dudley, DY1 4AL.

The day will also include a presentation by our keynote speaker, **Emma Evans**, who specialises in Health & Safety law across a range of high hazard industries, including the construction sector.



Emma Evans, Partner at Bexley Beaumont

Please view our [website](#) to register and submit your nomination.

[Register to attend](#)

[Submit your nomination](#)

[BSG Awards 2025](#)





## Directors' Responsibilities

Failing to adhere to directors' responsibilities can lead to severe consequences, not only for the individuals involved but also for the company, its employees, and the wider community.

Directors of construction companies have significant legal and moral responsibilities regarding health and safety.

In this article, BSG outlines the key aspects of these responsibilities, focusing on the construction industry's unique challenges and the regulatory framework that governs it.



### Legal Framework

**1). Legal Framework:** The primary legislation governing health and safety in UK construction is the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (HSWA). This is supplemented by:

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM 2015)
- The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007

Directors must ensure their companies comply with these regulations to avoid legal consequences and protect their workforce.

## Key Responsibilities

### 2). Key Responsibilities:

#### a) Policy Development:

- Establish a clear health and safety policy
- Ensure the policy is communicated to all employees and stakeholders
- Regularly review and update the policy

#### b) Risk Assessment:

- Ensure comprehensive risk assessments are conducted for all construction activities
- Implement appropriate control measures based on risk assessments
- Regularly review and update risk assessments

#### c) Training and Competence:

- Provide adequate health and safety training for all employees
- Ensure workers are competent to perform their tasks safely
- Maintain records of training and competence assessments

#### d) Resource Allocation:

- Allocate sufficient resources (financial, human, and material) for health and safety measures
- Invest in appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety equipment

#### e) Monitoring and Review:

- Implement systems to monitor health and safety performance
- Conduct regular site inspections and audits
- Review incident reports and take corrective actions

#### f) Communication:

- Foster a culture of open communication regarding health and safety issues
- Encourage reporting of near-misses and potential hazards
- Regularly consult with employees on health and safety matters

## CDM 2015 Specific Responsibilities

**3). CDM 2015 Specific Responsibilities:** Under the CDM 2015 regulations, directors must ensure their company, when acting as a principal contractor:

- Plans, manages, and monitors the construction phase
- Coordinates health and safety matters with other contractors
- Provides suitable site inductions
- Prevents unauthorized access to the site
- Provides welfare facilities for workers

## Corporate Manslaughter

**4). Corporate Manslaughter:** Directors should be aware that under the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007, companies can be prosecuted for serious management failures resulting in a gross breach of duty of care. This emphasizes the importance of active involvement in health and safety management at the highest level.



## Best Practices

**5). Best Practices:** To effectively fulfil their responsibilities, directors should:

- Lead by example and demonstrate commitment to health and safety
- Regularly visit construction sites to assess safety measures
- Stay informed about industry best practices and emerging risks
- Engage with industry bodies and participate in safety initiatives
- Encourage a reporting culture where workers feel comfortable raising concerns

## Continuous Improvement

**6). Continuous Improvement:** Directors should foster a culture of continuous improvement in health and safety by:

- Setting measurable health and safety objectives
- Benchmarking performance against industry standards
- Investing in new technologies and innovative safety solutions
- Encouraging employee suggestions for safety improvements

In conclusion, Directors of UK construction companies bear significant responsibilities for ensuring the health and safety of their workforce and others affected by their activities.

By understanding and fulfilling these responsibilities, directors not only comply with legal requirements but also contribute to a safer, more productive construction industry.

Prioritising health and safety at the highest level of the organization is crucial for protecting lives, maintaining a positive reputation, and ensuring the long-term success of the business.



Andy Harper, Head of Technical and CDM Support

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### BSG Recommends

For further guidance, click below to view BSG's webinar about **Directors' Responsibilities**, which was recently hosted in association with [Select](#).



#### [BSG Directors' Responsibilities Webinar](#)

In addition, please consider enrolling on our [Directors' Responsibilities](#) course.

By attending our half day course, delegates will gain a greater understanding of:

- Their responsibilities under Health and Safety Law
- The HSE guidance available for Directors
- Effective management of occupational Health and Safety
- New Legislation

BSG **members** who attend this course will automatically receive a **20% discount**.



## How to prepare for an HSE inspection

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has been reminding businesses that it is continuing to carry out spot checks and inspections to ensure their people are working safely. Those visits also ensure any measures that have been put in place, remain in line with UK and devolved government guidance.

Nobody wants to be targeted for a health and safety inspection. Even so, it always pays to be prepared. In this guide, BSG outlines how to prepare for a health and safety inspection (or investigation) in the workplace, what it might mean for you and, crucially, how you ensure compliance in your own business.

### During the visit

The inspector will look at how you keep your workers, and anyone who may be affected by your work, healthy and safe. They may also give you advice on health and safety or make sure you are providing suitable welfare facilities, such as running hot and cold water and toilets. While the inspector is with you, they may:

- Ask you about your workers and what they do look at any possible health risks arising from the work you are doing
- Look at any machinery or other equipment that you have
- Ask to see records or other documents
- Take photographs

The inspector will want to know about:

- The main health and safety issues in your workplace
- Your own knowledge or experience of health and safety

The inspector may also talk to you about things like safety standards, guidance and everyday practices in your industry.

### Your workers

The inspector will need to talk to your employees or their representatives during the visit.

### What if there's something wrong?

The inspector may take action if they find you're breaking the law during the visit. They may also tell you to stop a dangerous activity in your workplace immediately. For example, a dangerous activity could be people working on a roof where scaffolding is unsafe.



# How to prepare for an HSE inspection ctd ...

## After the visit

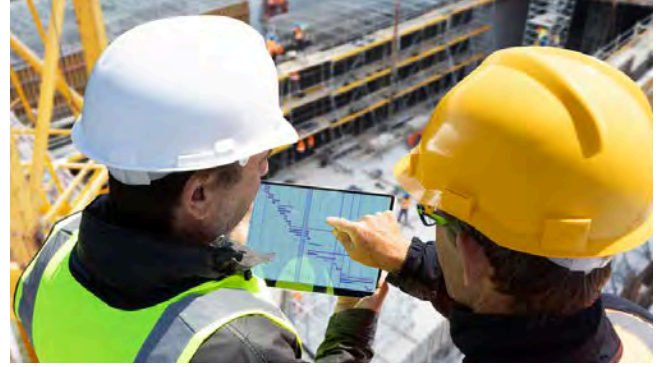
After the inspector has finished looking round your workplace, they might:

- Offer advice (either verbal or in writing)
- Give you a notification of contravention
- Give you an improvement notice
- Give you a prohibition notice
- Prosecute you for breaching health and safety laws

## How to prepare for a visit

Ideally, a company's preparations should begin long before the threat of an announced or unannounced inspection. This means completing and fully documenting all the relevant risk assessments and addressing any remedial actions. An inspector will want to see that a business has the correct attitude towards health and safety, and to see that ethos embedded in its culture. In advance of an inspection, ask yourself: could I answer the following questions?

- Has someone in the organisation taken ownership and responsibility for health and safety matters, and is that person easily identifiable?
- Are all of my health and safety policies and procedures properly documented and reviewed, with up-to-date risk assessments in place?
- When were my employees last trained, has this been documented, and is there need for refresher training?



- Do I have any outstanding remedial actions following previous HSE interventions that should already have been completed?
- Did the last internal or external inspection highlight areas that needed to be remedied as a priority?
- Is all the company's machinery or equipment in good working order?
- How are my health and safety arrangements supervised (and escalated to senior management, as appropriate)?

## What else can you do?

Here are four things you can do to prepare for future HSE inspections:

### **1). Conduct regular risk assessments**

It's vital that you conduct regular risk assessments to help identify potential risks and hazards which may occur during daily tasks and processes. Once these risks are identified, it's the employer's job to put proper control measures in place to reduce them.

Don't forget to review your risk assessments at a regular intervals when certain changes within processes or substances arise.

## **2). Invest in employee training**

A large part of creating a safe working environment is properly training your employees.

It's your job to conduct comprehensive training to teach all employees about potential risks which may arise when working with hazardous substances and how to mitigate them.

Remember, training is not a one-time thing, so make sure you're conducting regular refresher sessions to help reinforce safety behaviours.



## **3). Enhance control measures**

Regularly review the control measures you've implemented and think about how to continuously improve your processes.

As previously stated, be aware of control measures placed regarding ventilation systems and maintenance, PPE, as well as housekeeping procedures.

## **4. Implement monitoring and recordkeeping practices**

Finally, make sure you implement proper systems for the surveillance and monitoring of workplace exposure levels (WEL) to effectively protect your employees. Without this, employees could unknowingly be exposed to high levels of hazardous substances which could lead to major health risks.

Having the proper documentation and records to prove you have done everything you can to maintain a safe workplace is also crucial for your HSE inspection. Make sure you maintain accurate records of all risk assessments, corrective actions, training and more to provide as evidence for any upcoming audit.

Source: HSE & Ecoonline



### **BSG Recommends**

Please take time to view additional information available on the HSE website:

[When a health and safety inspector calls](#)

[When an Inspector Calls](#)

[Fee for intervention \(FFI\)](#)

[Enforcement Policy Statement](#)



# Top six Health & Safety Trends in Construction for 2025



Keeping up with safety trends is an effective way for companies to ensure their safety processes measure up to the hazards facing their workers today. Here are six predicted safety trends for the construction industry in 2025:

## 1). Setting aside time for staff training

We've seen increasingly more studies that indicate just how effective training an employee how to do their job safely can be. This helps to ensure that workers carry out the required tasks carefully. BSG, on average, trains over 10,000 construction workers every year and we expect this figure to increase in 2025.

So, it is not surprising that we are seeing more companies set aside time for staff training because of the following recognised benefits which can be delivered for businesses:

- Helps your employees to identify hazards and adopt safe and healthy working practices
- Helps to avoid the pain, anguish and financial costs that accidents and ill health cause
- Fosters a positive culture of health and safety, in which unsafe and unhealthy working are not tolerated
- Enables your employees to spot ways to improve health and safety management
- Enables you to meet your legal duty to protect the health and safety of your employees and others

## 2). Honing in on mental health

Another positive trend sweeping across the construction industry is a heightened awareness of workers' mental health.

According to research, as many as a third of UK construction workers have suffered from mental health problems – leading to increased drinking, non-prescription drug use, self-harm and, in the most severe cases, suicide.



The intense workload attributed to construction has been linked to some cases to the ongoing cost of living crisis exacerbating these problems.

The silver lining is that with mental health talk now becoming destigmatized in the workplace, many companies are taking tangible steps to support any members of staff struggling mentally.

Such measures include ensuring risk assessments cover both physical and mental health, sharing resources around mental wellbeing and offering practical help in the form of trained peer support.

More people in leadership roles are also speaking up about their personal experiences with mental health – creating a safe space within their organizations in the hopes that this will develop a happier and healthier workforce in the long run.

BSG runs its own 'Mental Health Awareness' course, which has been developed to provide construction workers with the knowledge, confidence and ability to identify and support colleagues experiencing mental health issues, and importantly, direct them to suitable professional and non-professional sources of help. Please contact us if you would like further information.

## 3). Better on-site communication

While construction sites aren't renowned for having open lines of communication, the tide is turning. Many teams now kickstart each day with a morning briefing, enabling management to reiterate safety procedures.



These briefings also give workers an opportunity to air any concerns around the effectiveness of such procedures or whether any hazards that haven't yet been discussed have come to their attention.



#### 4). More Off-Site Construction

Some new construction management trends address both safety and efficiency simultaneously. Modular construction and prefabrication are quickly becoming an industry standard. While these methods are primarily a waste reduction and productivity improvement strategy, 89% of modular construction adopters say it's demonstrated safety benefits.



Prefabrication provides a controlled environment, where it's easier to automate dangerous tasks or assemble parts of buildings and structures away from the dangers and environmental elements of the live job site.

Distancing employees from the most hazardous work also reduces the number of on-site workers for final assembly, making it easier to avoid sudden injuries.

#### 5). Regular Construction Safety Audits

These trends point to safety as a whole becoming a larger focus for construction management. Consequently, more construction companies are performing regular checks and audits to stay on top of trends and enforce new safety policies.

Regular checks include ensuring teams meet any applicable regulatory and insurance qualifications. Safety is not just a concern at the contractor level. Project owners, government entities providing construction contracts and more are emphasizing safety. Many new bids and contracts now call for enhanced technologies and measures to ensure worker safety and mitigate risks.

Governmental regulations will likely tighten, making these checks more important. Regularly reviewing safety policies also helps reveal any emerging issues so firms can stop them faster.

If you would like BSG to carry out a full health and safety audit across your business, please contact us.

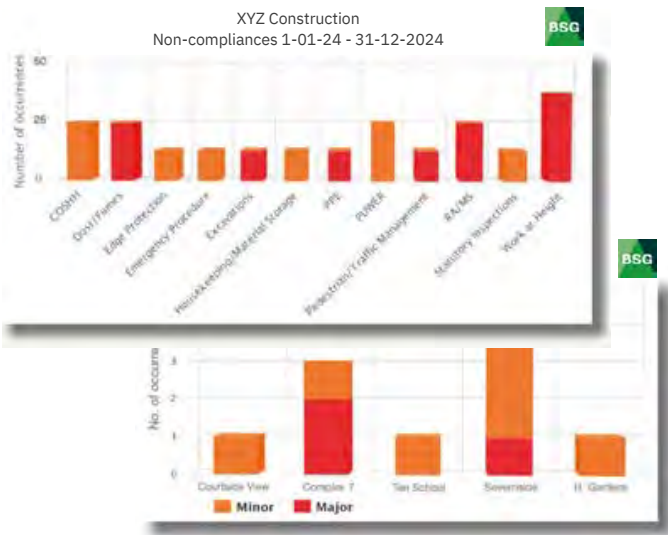
#### 6). Emphasis on Prevention Strategies

The shift from reactive to proactive approaches in health and safety is expected to continue to gain momentum in 2025. Companies are investing in prevention-focused initiatives to mitigate risks before they escalate. Robust risk assessments, predictive analytics, and early intervention programs are being implemented to identify and address potential health and safety hazards.

From site health and safety evaluations to mental health awareness campaigns, businesses are promoting prevention through education, training, and proactive measures. By empowering employees with knowledge and resources, companies aim to prevent accidents, injuries, and mental health crises before they occur, fostering a safer and healthier work environment.

This is why monitoring and reviewing health and safety performance has become essential for construction companies who are concerned about the well-being of their workforce and who would like to remain compliant with UK regulations and legislation.

BSG members have **free access to a comprehensive non-compliance and accident reporting suite**, which has been specifically developed to help businesses achieve these goals, and as a means to demonstrate effective health and safety management in the workplace.



By consolidating the information collected through site inspections, BSG can help construction companies to identify non-compliance and accident trends within their organisation.

Reports can be run across any selected time period and can be used to analyse over 50 different types of non-compliance and RIDDOR classified accident occurrences. Organisations can also use BSG reports to compare construction sites, so that poorly performing sites can be singled out and improved.



## BSG Reporting

BSG's reporting suite is accessed via the [BSG Hub](#).

Report information is constantly kept up to date, usually within the hour as new non-compliances and accidents are recorded.

Our reporting suite is used by members to:

- Identify non-compliance and accident trends
- Monitor and review site performance
- Single out poorly performing construction sites for improvement
- View company accidents as classified by RIDDOR
- Set Health and Safety KPIs
- Ensure regulatory compliance with RIDDOR reporting
- Quickly identify risks that need to be removed or reduced
- Implement and manage Corrective and Preventative Action tracking (CAPA)
- Notify and escalate incidents to the appropriate management level based on risk severity

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## Preventing crushes when working with MEWPs

IPAF's 'Crushing Can Kill' campaign aims to raise awareness and reduce crushing incidents involving MEWPs.

Here, BSG looks at how the initiative is addressing safety issues and providing robust guidance for the international community

The safe management and operation of MEWPs is critical in helping to tackle the concerning number of crushing incidents that occur on site every year.

The IPAF Global Safety Campaign 2024, titled 'Crushing Can Kill', has been launched to address the growing number of entrapment and crushing incidents involving MEWPs.

Tragically, these incidents have led to numerous fatalities and injuries over the past decade.

### Crushing hazards

Crushing hazards can include overhead structures, such as beams, low ceilings, doorways and other machines and equipment operating in the area.

Entrapment or crushing can occur when MEWPs are in both the elevated or stowed positions – if a platform occupant becomes trapped or crushed against an external structure, there is a risk of injury or death.

“The campaign aims to reduce these incidents by raising awareness, promoting proper training and encouraging adherence to safety protocols,” explains IPAF’s head of safety and technical, Brian Parker, who is leading the campaign alongside Alana Paterson, chair of the IPAF International Safety Committee.

“[The campaign] stresses the importance of risk assessments, correct machine selection, operator training and rescue planning. “It also provides neutral guidance to standardise safety practices globally, helping to introduce new solutions for safer MEWPs.”

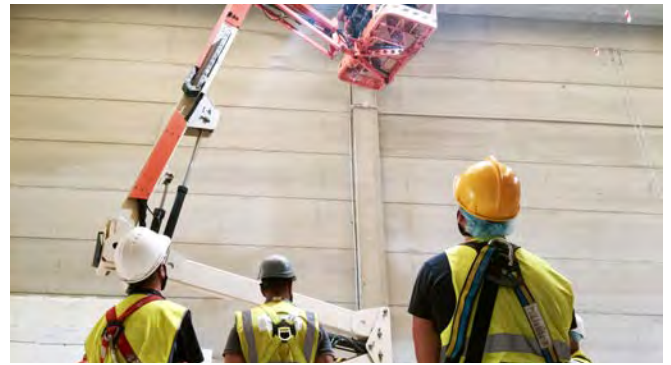
### Working safely

The Crushing Can Kill campaign has been launched amid a backdrop of concerning data related to MEWPs incidents.

Over the past decade there have been 118 fatalities, 16 major injuries, and five minor injuries linked to entrapment incidents, according to IPAF’s 2024 Global Safety Report.

The most affected occupations include MEWP operators, delivery drivers and technicians. In addition, 68% of fatalities in the past three years involved 3a mobile vertical lifts, highlighting a shift in trends.

“The Global Safety Report underscores the importance of continuous data analysis and global safety campaigns to tackle emerging challenges in powered access machinery operations,” says Parker.



Proper planning and following safety protocols are vital to reducing falls and accidents involving MEWPs, Parker adds. “Ensuring operators have received the correct training, selecting the right equipment for the job, and carrying out thorough risk assessments before starting work are essential steps to minimise risks,” he explains.

“Managers should monitor operator behaviour, avoid unsafe practices, and have clear rescue procedures in place. Regular maintenance also prevents mechanical failures, while careful site planning reduces the risk of collisions.

“Ultimately, well-planned and supervised operations significantly lower injury and fatality rates.”

### Legislation neutral

To help mitigate safety risks, the Crushes Can Kill campaign highlights the common causes of entrapment incidents, including poor planning, inadequate training, complacency, and equipment malfunctions.

As part of the campaign, IPAF has developed legislation-neutral guidance documents targeted at the global community of planners, employers, managers, supervisors, operators, rescuers, and training bodies.

“Our legislation-neutral guidance is designed to go beyond local legal requirements, offering universal best practices that can be applied across different regions,” explains Parker.



“These resources enable operators, supervisors, and planners worldwide to adopt consistent safety measures, regardless of jurisdiction.

“By providing legislation-neutral safety guidance, we aim to improve safety outcomes in all countries, supporting the international community with the tools and knowledge needed to prevent and reduce the occurrence of fatalities and major injuries when using powered access equipment.”

### IPAF guidance

IPAF guidance outlines the steps that should be taken before and during any activity involving MEWPs. At the planning stage, hazards should be identified before a risk assessment and safe system of work (SSoW) is produced.

The SSoW should be shared with all those involved with the MEWPs activity – operators, platform occupants, ground staff and other personnel. Everyone should be trained and familiarised with the MEWP being used. In addition, a rescue plan should be shared so everyone knows what to do if a crushing or entrapment occurs, including how to safely lower the platform.

### MEWP Supervision

During the operating stage, the MEWP activity should be supervised to ensure it is conducted safely. If the nominated rescue person or any other personnel identifies a risk of crushing or entrapment, the activity should be stopped immediately and the MEWP platform safely lowered.

Operators are also urged to avoid relying on secondary guarding, if fitted, and all platform occupants should remain vigilant and aware of their surroundings.

As well as resources aimed at standardising safety practices worldwide and supporting ongoing development of a new ISO standard for MEWP safety systems, IPAF has also released a new Toolbox Talk.

This resource focuses on the risks associated with operating MEWPs from ground controls with a person in the MEWP platform, as well as new guidance on the safe use of pedestrian controls.

Source: Construction Management



### BSG Guidance

Please take time to view additional information available on the [BSS Hub](#), as well as the HSE website:

#### [101 Boom-MEWP-1.doc](#)

located in H&S Documentations/Risk Assessments/Working at Height

#### [SFPSG\\_Managing\\_Safe\\_Condition\\_MEWPS](#)

located in H&S Documentations/Industry Guidance

#### [Mobile elevating work platforms \(MEWPs\)](#)





## HSE publishes annual work-related ill health and injury statistics for 2023/24

The HSE has published statistics that cover work-related ill health, non-fatal workplace injuries and enforcement action taken by HSE, in the 2023/24 period. Key figures include:

- 1.7 million workers suffering from a work-related illness, around half – 776,000 – of which were stress, depression or anxiety (2022/2023 was 1.8 million). Musculoskeletal disorders made up 32% of the statistic.
- 12,000 lung disease deaths estimated to be linked to past exposures at work.
- 61,663 injuries to employees reported under RIDDOR.
- 604,000 workers sustained a non-fatal injury at work; 138 workers were killed in work-related accidents.

There have been six cases of silicosis attributed to artificial stone (reported within THOR [SWORD]) at the end of 2023, with HSE stating that additional cases attributed to artificial stone from 2024 onwards will be reported once statistics have been finalised during 2025.

HSE are currently drafting new guidelines around engineered stone.



[\(HSE\) is drafting new guidelines for tradesmen working with engineered stone after report shows increased risk to silicosis.](#)

HSE’s Chief Executive Sarah Albon said: “This year marks 50 years since the legislation which established HSE was passed.

Much has been achieved in that time, including a dramatic reduction of around 85 per cent in the numbers of employee fatal injuries in the workplace.

### “We remain committed”

“Today, Great Britain is one of the safest places in the world to work but these statistics serve as a reminder that there is still room for further improvement, and we remain committed to ensuring people remain safe and healthy wherever work is taking place.”

HSE’s statistics also reveal the impact work-related ill health and workplace injuries are having on Britain’s economic performance. In 2022/23, the estimated annual costs of workplace injury and new cases of work-related ill health reached £21.6 billion, which is £1.6 billion less compared with 2021/22.

Source: SHP



## COURT CASES

Cheltenham Borough Council has successfully prosecuted the construction company that built a new supermarket on Cirencester Road in Charlton Kings, Cheltenham.

On 16 September 2024, at Cheltenham Magistrates Court, construction company 'Soldi Investments Ltd' was found guilty of failing to comply with a Control of Pollution Act notice to control noise during the construction of the store in 2022 to 2023.

### **Finéd £12,835**

The construction company was fined £6k and ordered to pay compensation of £2k, as well as £4,835 costs to the council, bringing the total to £12,835.

In October 2022, Cheltenham Borough Council received complaints that the construction was taking place on the site outside of the hours stipulated in the construction management plan and the noise was disturbing residents.



Credit: BBC

The council served notice on Soldi Investments Ltd that required works and other operations, which could be heard at the boundary of the site, were only to be carried out between 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays only.

# COURT CASES ctd ...

However, the notice was ignored and activity causing noise was recorded outside of these times.

## Noise was unbearable

Noise from generators, operatives working inside the store, and vehicles moving about the site, continued late into the evening and the early hours of the morning, with 23 breaches observed between January and March 2023. A local resident explained that at times the noise was unbearable and unrelenting, and it woke them from their sleep.

The director of Soldi investments Ltd, Mr Alexander Hiron Petheram, did not deny the contraventions of the notice, and apologised for them, citing health and safety and bad weather for why construction continued outside of the approved working hours.

The council submitted to the court that failure to comply with the notice was a result of poor planning and management by Soldi Investments Ltd and Mr Petheram.

## Unacceptable behaviour

Cllr Victoria Atherstone, cabinet member for safety and communities, said: “It is unacceptable behaviour to ignore council set hours for construction operations, on multiple occasions, causing much harm to residents in Charlton Kings.

## Successful prosecution for noise pollution

This successful prosecution shows that where building firms fail to take proper measures, they will have to face the consequences.

## Full power of the law

“Our officers will use the full power of the law to protect neighbours from loss of sleep and disruption to their normal lives.

In this case, our officers were not put off by the site operator trying to shirk responsibility during and since the construction work.



Cllr Victoria Atherstone

## Anti-social construction

“I would like to thank them for their determination and hard work on this case and I hope it provides a warning to others considering similar anti-social construction behaviour, that it will not be tolerated.”

Source: BBC & Cheltenham Borough Council



# COURT CASES ctd ...

A construction company has been fined £5,000 after Hillingdon Council caught builders doing noisy works outside permitted hours.

The council prosecuted Westway Construction Limited, of Boston Road, Hanwell, following reports that builders had been carrying out noisy and heavy-duty building works at a site on Newport Road, Hayes.

## Control of Pollution Act notice

Uxbridge magistrates heard that the company had failed to comply with the requirements of a Control of Pollution Act notice.



Credit: The Construction Index

The court was told the notice was issued on 1st November 2022, following complaints about noise nuisance from the site. The notice required that work at the site could only take place between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday, and from 8am to 1pm on Saturdays. Work was prohibited on Sundays or bank holidays.

However, following further reports of noise, the council's anti-social behaviour officers visited the site at around 9am on Sunday 19th February this year and witnessed drilling and banging, with builders witnessed working on the upper floors. This was in breach of the notice served, the court heard.

The magistrates reached their decision in the absence of any representatives from Westway Construction.



Cllr Eddie Lavery

Cllr Eddie Lavery, Hillingdon Council's cabinet member for residents' services, said: "Rogue businesses like this not only flout the rules but also impact adversely on the lives of residents living nearby.

We won't allow that to continue and will take the strongest action wherever possible. I hope this case serves as a warning to others to abide by the rules, or risk paying the price."

Along with the fine, Westway Construction was also ordered to pay the council's costs of £521.44.

Source: The Construction Index

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