



THE BUILDING SAFETY GROUP

TRAINING NEWS

**CITB Training Still Mandatory
Despite Funding Changes**

**Silica Dust Training: A Legal and
Moral Imperative for the
Construction Sector**

**Handle With Care: Mastering Power
Tool Safety**

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CITB Training Still Mandatory Despite Funding Changes

Recent changes in CITB funding for certain health and safety courses should not diminish companies' legal obligations to provide mandatory training.

In this article, The Building Safety Group (BSG) examines why construction companies must maintain their commitment to health and safety training, regardless of funding availability — and explores practical strategies for managing these essential obligations.

It is worth noting that some essential health and safety qualifications continue to receive funding, though at modified levels. As a result, construction firms must now allocate additional resources from operational budgets to maintain compliance.

Legal Obligations Remain Unchanged

The first and most important distinction to make is this: funding availability and legal requirements are not the same thing. The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 establish clear, unequivocal employer responsibilities — responsibilities that exist entirely independently of CITB funding arrangements.

These legislative frameworks mandate that employers ensure workforce competency through appropriate training, regardless of financial considerations. Put simply, the law does not change because the funding does.



Duty of Care

The duty of care extends to all construction workers, requiring demonstrable competence before undertaking site activities. Whilst the CITB maintains valuable construction training standards, legal compliance ultimately derives from statutory legislation enforced by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

The consequences of non-compliance are severe. Companies face substantial fines, prosecution, and prohibition notices that can halt operations entirely. Recent case law demonstrates the HSE's robust enforcement approach, with penalties reaching hundreds of thousands of pounds for serious breaches.

The damage, however, goes beyond financial penalties. Non-compliance inflicts lasting reputational harm, potentially excluding companies from tender opportunities and damaging client relationships.

Crucially, the courts consistently reject financial constraints as justification for inadequate training provision — worker safety supersedes commercial considerations in all circumstances.

The Business Case for Continued Training Investment

Construction remains one of Britain's most hazardous industries, with HSE statistics recording significant numbers of fatalities and serious injuries every year. Against that backdrop, the financial implications of workplace accidents dwarf training expenditure considerably.



Direct costs include compensation claims, legal fees, and increased insurance premiums. Indirect costs reach further still, encompassing project delays, productivity losses, and diminished staff morale. Analysis consistently shows that the average cost of a serious workplace accident exceeds training investment by substantial margins — often by a factor of ten or more.

The long-term consequences compound the immediate impact. Companies with poor safety records face exclusion from major contracts, as principal contractors increasingly scrutinise supply chain safety performance. Insurance premiums rise sharply following incidents, and recruitment becomes more difficult as skilled workers gravitate away from organisations with questionable safety cultures.

Real-world case studies make the cost differential stark: comprehensive training programmes costing thousands of pounds routinely prevent accidents that could cost millions in combined direct and indirect expenses. Viewed in that light, training is not merely a compliance expense — it is a strategic investment in long-term business sustainability.

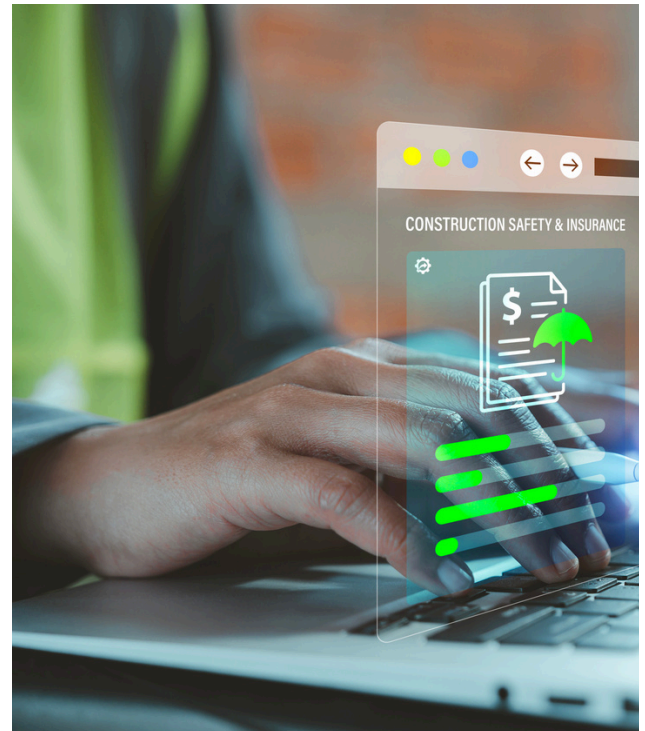
Practical Strategies for Managing Training Obligations

Funding changes are a challenge, but they are not insurmountable. Construction companies have a range of practical strategies available to manage training obligations effectively. Alternative funding sources are a logical starting point.



Sector-specific grants and the Apprenticeship Levy can both offset training expenditure, reducing the burden on operational budgets. Efficient scheduling offers further savings — consolidating training sessions and utilising group bookings generates economies of scale and lowers per-person costs. Blended learning approaches present another cost-effective option.

By combining online theoretical components with essential practical sessions, companies can reduce delivery costs without sacrificing quality. Online courses covering topics such as silica dust awareness, for example, provide accessible and affordable ways to meet specific health and safety requirements whilst managing spending pressures.



Beyond delivery methods, companies should prioritise critical safety training and explore in-house options for refresher courses where appropriate. Taking a longer view also pays dividends: multi-year training plans and partnership arrangements with approved providers enable more predictable budget management and better value over time.

Taken together, these approaches demonstrate that financial prudence and safety obligations are not mutually exclusive — compliance can be achieved without disproportionate expenditure.

Source: BSG Training Team



BSG Comment

Legal obligations transcend funding availability. Construction companies bear absolute responsibility for workforce competency, regardless of subsidy arrangements — and that responsibility will not diminish as funding landscapes shift.

Encouragingly, the current challenges also create opportunities for innovation. Cost-effective solutions — from online training delivery and strategic provider partnerships to smarter scheduling — make it possible to maintain full compliance without prohibitive expenditure. The key is planning ahead and using the resources available wisely.

Using your CITB Employer Network

The Building Safety Group (BSG) are members of CITB's Training Provider Network and offer CITB-approved training solutions designed to support construction companies navigating the current funding opportunities. Our flexible delivery options accommodate varying cost constraints without compromising quality or compliance standards.

As experienced CITB partners, we provide expert guidance on maximising available funding and structuring training programmes efficiently.

Construction professionals should also take note of BSG's recommended training for specific job roles, as outlined in BSG's model Health & Safety Policy — available for members to download on the [BSG Hub](#).

Recommended Training / Job Role

All Directors [Directors Responsibilities](#)
Construction Manager [SMSTS/First Aid at Work/Scaffold Inspection](#)
Project Manager [SMSTS/First Aid at Work/Scaffold Inspection](#) | [CDM Awareness](#)
Contracts Manager [SMSTS/First Aid at Work/Scaffold Inspection](#) | [CDM Awareness](#)
Site Manager [SMSTS/First Aid at Work/Scaffold Inspection](#)
Engineer [2 Day Supervisor/First Aid at Work/Scaffold Inspection](#)
Foreman [2 Day Supervisor/First Aid at Work/Scaffold Inspection](#)
Operative [Safety Awareness/Toolbox Talks/Manual Handling](#)
Temporary Works Coordinator & Supervisor
[Temporary Works Co-ordinator \(2 Days\)](#)
[Temporary Works Co-ordinator Ref. \(1 day\)](#)
[CITB Temporary Works Supervisor \(1 Day\)](#)

BSG's tailored approaches suit organisations of all sizes, from small contractors to major construction firms.

Our commitment extends beyond course delivery to include training needs analysis and strategic planning support — ensuring companies maintain exemplary safety standards whilst managing costs effectively.



Training Provider
Network
Approved Member

Site Management Safety Training Scheme (SMSTS 5 Days) & Site Supervisors Safety Training Scheme (SSSTS) 2 Days

+ Refresher Courses



- Save with CITB funded training
- 20% discount for BSG Members
- Complimentary lunch & comprehensive course materials included

BSG is an accredited and leading training provider of the 5 day CITB Site Management Safety Training Scheme (SMSTS) and Site Supervisors Safety Training Scheme (SSSTS) 2 Day course. Taught by construction sector specialists, our course is suited to a range of roles including Site Managers, Supervisors, Project Managers as well as proprietors of small to medium-sized businesses.



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Silica Dust Training: A Legal and Moral Imperative for the Construction Sector

Silica dust represents one of the most significant yet frequently underestimated occupational health hazards facing the UK construction industry today.

According to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), over **500 construction workers** are believed to die annually from exposure to respirable crystalline silica (RCS), with thousands more suffering debilitating lung conditions.

Under the **Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002** and the **Health and Safety at Work Act 1974**, employers bear a legal obligation to protect their workforce from silica exposure.

Comprehensive training is not merely a regulatory requirement—it is an essential investment in worker health, business sustainability, and legal compliance that protects both employees and organisational interests.

The Hidden Danger: Understanding Silica Exposure

Respirable crystalline silica consists of microscopic particles released during common construction activities including cutting, grinding, drilling, and polishing materials such as concrete, stone, brick, and mortar.

The insidious nature of RCS lies in its invisibility; these particles are approximately 100 times smaller than ordinary sand, making them imperceptible to the naked eye yet capable of penetrating deep into lung tissue.

The health implications of silica dust exposure are severe and irreversible. **Silicosis**, an incurable lung disease causing progressive breathlessness and reduced quality of life, remains a primary concern. Furthermore, the HSE classifies RCS as a known carcinogen, directly linked to lung cancer development.

Workers may also develop **Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)** and experience increased vulnerability to **tuberculosis**. The particularly troubling aspect of silica-related diseases is their long latency period—symptoms may not manifest for 10-20 years after initial exposure, by which time irreparable damage has occurred.

This cumulative exposure risk means that every unprotected incident contributes to long-term health deterioration.

Legal Obligations and Compliance Risks

UK construction companies operate within a stringent regulatory environment designed to minimise silica exposure. The **COSHH Regulations 2002** mandate that employers conduct thorough risk assessments, implement appropriate control measures, and provide adequate training to all affected personnel. The HSE has established a workplace exposure limit (WEL) of 0.1 mg/m^3 for RCS, measured over an eight-hour reference period.

Non-compliance carries substantial consequences, including unlimited fines, criminal prosecution, and potential corporate manslaughter charges in cases of gross negligence resulting in worker fatalities.



Beyond financial penalties, companies face reputational damage that can severely impact their ability to secure contracts and retain skilled personnel. In an increasingly competitive tendering environment, demonstrable commitment to health and safety compliance has become a fundamental business requirement.

Employers must recognise that their **duty of care** extends beyond mere regulatory box-ticking to encompass genuine protection of workforce wellbeing.

Essential Training Components and Practical Solutions

Effective silica dust training programmes must encompass several critical components. Workers require comprehensive instruction in risk identification and awareness, enabling them to recognise high-risk activities and materials.

Training must emphasise the **hierarchy of controls**, prioritising elimination and substitution wherever feasible, followed by engineering controls such as water suppression systems and on-tool extraction equipment. When other measures prove insufficient, proper respiratory protective equipment (RPE) selection, usage, and face-fit testing become essential.

Additionally, employees must understand the importance of participating in regular health surveillance programmes and recognise early warning signs of silica-related conditions.

Source: BSG Training Team



BSG Comment

Investing in thorough silica dust training delivers substantial returns beyond regulatory compliance.

Companies experience reduced worker illness and absenteeism, directly improving productivity and project timelines.

Insurance premiums and compensation claims decrease as incident rates fall, whilst enhanced regulatory compliance minimises legal liability.

Furthermore, demonstrating genuine commitment to worker welfare improves morale and retention, reducing recruitment costs in an increasingly competitive labour market.

Silica dust training represents a non-negotiable investment for responsible UK construction companies. The evidence is unequivocal: comprehensive training programmes protect workers from devastating, irreversible health conditions whilst simultaneously safeguarding business interests through regulatory compliance and enhanced reputation.

BSG Comment ctd ...

Construction firms must prioritise silica awareness training as fundamental to their operational framework, recognising that workforce health and business sustainability are inextricably linked.

The cost of prevention pales in comparison to the human and financial toll of neglect. Immediate action to implement comprehensive silica dust training is not merely advisable—it is imperative.

BSG Silica Dust Awareness Training

Selecting appropriate training provision is crucial for compliance and effectiveness. The Building Safety Group's Silica Dust Awareness Online Training offers a practical solution that helps to address regulatory requirements whilst minimising operational disruption.

Our IIRSM-approved course provides comprehensive coverage across 10 modules, including risk assessment methodologies, RPE selection and usage, legal duties under COSHH regulations, and control measures best practices. At £25 per person, the fully online format delivers time-efficient training in just over 40 minutes, with same-day digital certification valid for three years.

Visit BSG's website for details:

[Silica Dust Awareness Online Training](#)



BSG Training Courses Update

New Online Safety Training Courses Added to BSG E-Learning Portfolio

BSG is pleased to announce a significant expansion of its e-learning portfolio with the introduction of two new mental health training courses, reinforcing the company's commitment to comprehensive safety and wellbeing provision within the construction industry.

Priced at just £25 per person, these accessible courses address the growing recognition that workplace safety extends beyond physical hazards to encompass psychological wellbeing.

Addressing Mental Health in Construction

The newly launched Mental Health in Construction — Online Training delivers sector-specific content tailored to the unique pressures faced within



construction environments, where demanding schedules, physical strain, and project-based employment can significantly impact worker wellbeing.

Complementing this is the Mental Health Awareness — Online Training course, designed to equip all team members with broader understanding and practical skills for fostering supportive workplace cultures.



Both courses are **CPD certified**, ensuring quality-assured learning that meets professional development standards. Upon completion, participants receive digital certificates valid for three years.

Our fully online, device-friendly platform enables flexible learning, allowing construction professionals to complete training at their convenience without disrupting operational schedules.

Comprehensive Safety Training Portfolio

Our latest online additions complement an already comprehensive range of e-learning courses launched by BSG. Click on a course link below to learn more.

- ✓ [Construction Design Management \(CDM\)](#)
- ✓ [Behavioural Safety in Industry](#)
- ✓ [Fire Safety Awareness](#)
- ✓ [Hand and Power Tool Safety Awareness](#)
- ✓ [Health & Safety in Offices](#)
- ✓ [Mental Health Awareness \(NEW\)](#)
- ✓ [Mental Health in Construction Training \(NEW\)](#)
- ✓ [Silica Dust Awareness](#)
- ✓ [IATP Asbestos Awareness](#)
- ✓ [Working at Height Awareness](#)
- ✓ [Risk Assessment Training](#)
- ✓ [Manual Handling in Construction Awareness](#)

Meet BSG's Trainers



Paul Mackley

Training Liaison Officer within the BSG Training Team.

Paul joined The Building Safety Group in May 2019 to help build and develop the plant training division, and in September 2025 stepped into a newly created role with expanded responsibilities following the departure of the training manager.

He now oversees quality assurance across the training department, manages the trainer team, and maintains relationships with awarding and accrediting bodies to ensure all necessary standards are upheld.

Before joining BSG, Paul spent nearly a decade with Bristol-based Didac Ltd, where he successfully established a new industrial training unit that grew into a leading provider of industrial and construction training across the UK.

His credentials are impressive — he has held ITSSAR Cat 1 Instructor and Cat 4 Tutor accreditations for over 30 years, contributed to the development of ITSSAR training syllabuses, and previously held accreditations with NPORS, ALLMI, and RTITB.

Drawing on more than three decades of industrial and construction training experience, Paul Mackley is a dedicated and knowledgeable

Outside of work, Paul enjoys a rather unique hobby — flying hot air balloons with friends and family, having had the wonderful opportunity to take to the skies at events both at home and abroad.

Testimonials for Paul

“Engaging info, presented really well to a level that could be taken in easily, plenty of opportunities to ask questions” **Basic Scaffold Inspection – June 26**

“Trainer is exceptionally good and engaging” **Basic Scaffold Inspection – June 26**

“Delivered in a calm way that made you feel at ease so you could relax and concentrate” **Basic Scaffold Inspection – June 26**

“Friendly, enjoyable, welcoming” **Basic Scaffold Inspection – April 26**



Paul Mackley - Courses

Paul delivers the following courses at BSG

[Basic Scaffold Inspection](#)

[Working at Height](#)

[Mobile Scaffold Tower \(3T & AGR\)](#)

[IATP Asbestos Awareness](#)

[Abrasive Wheel](#)

[Manual Handling](#)

[Plant & Machinery](#)



Ian Barrett

With over 25 years of experience in the construction training industry, Ian Barrett brings a wealth of knowledge, enthusiasm, and

practical expertise to his role as BSG Trainer within the BSG Training Team.

Ian is genuinely passionate about empowering individuals and businesses with the skills and certifications they need to thrive in a demanding and ever-evolving sector.

As an approved trainer across CITB, EUSR, Quallsafe, and Nuco programmes, Ian specialises in delivering high-quality, industry-recognised training that keeps teams compliant, safe, and confident on-site. He has built a strong reputation working alongside a wide range of construction companies, with a particular focus on providing small to medium-sized businesses with cost-effective, practical guidance on compliance and safety.

At BSG, Ian delivers a comprehensive suite of courses, including the CITB Site Management Safety Training Scheme (SMSTS), SMSTS Refresher, Site Supervisors Safety Training Scheme (SSSTS), SSSTS Refresher, and the CITB Health and Safety Awareness course.

Whether working with experienced site managers or those just starting out in a supervisory role, Ian's approachable style and real-world insight make every training session both engaging and genuinely valuable.

If you're looking to upskill your team or meet your compliance requirements, Ian is a fantastic first point of contact.

Testimonials for Ian

"Delivered very well, made it easy to understand" **SSSTS – May 26**

"The delivery by the trainer made the course engaging, interactive and actually a very enjoyable week" **SMSTS – June 26**

"The course was delivered in a calm, engaging manor. Ian was a great teacher, engaging and enjoyable" **SMSTS – June 26**

"Ian, the trainer was an absolute superstar, creating great energy and enjoyment – great job" **SMSTS – June 26**



Ian Barrett - Courses

Ian delivers the following courses at BSG

[CITB Site Management Safety Training Scheme \(SMSTS\)](#)

[CITB Site Management Safety Training Scheme Refresher \(SMSTS R 2 Days\)](#)

[CITB Site Supervisors Safety Training Scheme \(SSSTS\) 2 Days](#)

[CITB Site Supervisors Safety Training Scheme Refresher \(SSSTS R 1 Day\)](#)

[CITB Health and Safety Awareness](#)



Angie Shaw

Meet Angie Shaw, BSG's Health & Safety Trainer and a truly valued member of the BSG Training Team.

With decades of health and safety experience and over fifteen years in training, Angie brings a wealth of knowledge and genuine passion to everything she delivers.

Angie has been instrumental in shaping and expanding BSG's training offering and developing course content in line with awarding body criteria. She delivers a broad range of essential programmes, including CITB SMSTS, SSSTS and Health and Safety Awareness— qualifications that are vital across every industry sector.

What really sets Angie apart is her approach. She creates a warm, interactive environment where delegates feel comfortable contributing, sharing experiences, and learning from one another. She firmly believes that a great trainer makes all the difference, and that learning should be fun, confidence-boosting, and accessible to everyone, regardless of ability.

Angie's impressive qualifications include the NEBOSH General Certificate and Construction Certificate, alongside a Professional Trainer qualification and a Certificate in Preparing to Teach in the Life-long Learning Sector.

She also holds certificates for every course she delivers, having personally attended each one — a testament to her commitment to excellence and continuous professional development.

Testimonials for Angie

"Just think Angela is a fantastic trainer"

SSSTS – Apr 26

"Angie was very helpful when people needed more help and advice" **SMSTS – May 26**

"Angie was very clear, patient and great at explaining any queries" **SMSTS – March 26**

"Engaging trainer and a very inclusive approach to learning" **SMSTS – March 26**



Angie Shaw - Courses

Angie delivers the following courses at BSG

[CITB Site Management Safety Training Scheme \(SMSTS\)](#)

[CITB Site Management Safety Training Scheme Refresher \(SMSTS R 2 Days\)](#)

[CITB Site Supervisors Safety Training Scheme \(SSSTS\) 2 Days](#)

[CITB Site Supervisors Safety Training Scheme Refresher \(SSSTS R 1 Day\)](#)

[CITB Health and Safety Awareness](#)

[IATP Asbestos Awareness & IATP Non-Licensed Asbestos Work](#)



Phil Hooper brings more than ten years of hands-on training experience to the BSG Training Team, and it shows in every session he delivers.

Phil Hooper

Specialising in first aid and a broad range of safety courses, Phil has built a well-earned reputation for training that's practical, thorough, and genuinely engaging — the kind that delegates actually enjoy and remember.

His expertise covers some of BSG's most in-demand courses, including First Aid at Work, Emergency First Aid at Work, First Aid at Work Re-Qualification, Fire Safety, and Mobile Scaffold Tower training (3T & AGR).

Whatever the course, Phil's focus remains the same: making sure every learner walks away with the real confidence and skills to put their training to use when it counts.

Away from the training room, Phil works as an event medic at fairs, music venues, and sports events across the South West — staying calm and composed in exactly the situations his delegates are preparing for. That real-world experience gives his sessions an extra edge that's hard to replicate.

He's also a qualified hot air balloon pilot and has delivered fire and first aid training to balloon pilots across Europe and beyond. Safe to say, Phil knows a thing or two about keeping people safe at altitude.

Testimonials for Phil

"Phil interacted well, was very knowledgeable and made the course enjoyable" **Emergency First Aid at Work – June 26**

"Great information, teacher was top notch, thoroughly enjoyed his teaching style" **Emergency First Aid at Work – June 26**

"Trainer very helpful and kind" **Emergency First Aid at Work – May 26**

"Excellent trainer, everything well explained and patient with the students" **Emergency First Aid at Work – April 26**



Phil Hooper - Courses

Phil delivers the following courses at BSG

[Abrasive Wheels](#)

[Asbestos Awareness](#)

[First Aid at Work](#)

[First Aid At Work Re-Qualification \(2 Days\)](#)

[Emergency First Aid At Work \(1 Day\)](#)

[Fire Safety](#)

[Harness Safe Use & Inspection](#)

[Manual Handling](#)

[Mobile Scaffold Tower \(3T & AGR\)](#)

[Working at Height](#)



**Peter
Robertshaw**

Peter Robertshaw brings a wealth of knowledge and hands-on experience to his role as BSG Trainer within the BSG Training Department, making him a genuinely valued member of the team.

With a career spanning several decades in construction, civil engineering, and health and safety management, Peter has built an impressive reputation as someone who truly knows his subject inside and out.

Peter delivers a broad range of courses, including Temporary Works Co-ordinator's and Supervisor's Training Certificates, Director's H&S, One Day H&S Awareness, SSSTS, SMSTS, and Behavioural Safety — equipping delegates with the practical skills and knowledge they need to stay safe and compliant on site.

His background is wonderfully varied. Having served as a Director at Osborne for over 21 years and later running his own health and safety consultancy, HSPCL, Peter brings real-world insight to everything he teaches.

Peter has also worked as an instructor with CITB NCC since 2012, delivering both classroom and online training across a wide range of sectors — from railways and diving to hospitals, scaffolding, and the natural stone industry.

Peter's approachable style and depth of expertise make him a fantastic resource for anyone looking to develop their health and safety knowledge.

Testimonials for Peter

“Very informative, interesting course delivered well by a very knowledgeable trainer”

Temporary Works Coordinator – June 26

“Pete was extremely knowledgeable, would highly recommend him as a trainer”

Temporary Works Coordinator – June 26

“Great trainer, clear and concise, very well taught”

Temporary Works Coordinator – May 26

“Very engaging and knowledgeable tutor, good banter in what is quite a dry subject”

Temporary Works Coordinator – April 26



Peter Robertshaw - Courses

Phil delivers the following courses at BSG

[CITB Temporary Works Supervisor \(1 Day\)](#)

[CITB Temporary Works Co-ordinator \(2 Days\)](#)

[CITB Health and Safety Awareness](#)

[CITB Site Management Safety Training Scheme \(SMSTS\)](#)

[CITB Site Management Safety Training Scheme Refresher \(SMSTS R 2 Days\)](#)

[CITB Site Supervisors Safety Training Scheme \(SSSTS\) 2 Days](#)

[CITB Site Supervisors Safety Training Scheme Refresher \(SSSTS R 1 Day\)](#)



Patrick Delaney

Patrick Delaney brings a remarkable wealth of experience to his role as Health and Safety Trainer for BSG, with a career dedicated to keeping people safe that spans over four decades.

Patrick's journey began in 1980 when he joined the Royal Navy, serving proudly for eleven years aboard HMS Cardiff, HMS Birmingham, HMS Liverpool, and HMS Gloucester. Following his naval career, he went on to serve with Avon Fire and Rescue Service across multiple stations, where he developed and delivered training in First Aid, Trauma Care, and First Person on Scene (FPOS) before retiring in 2014.

Never one to slow down, Patrick founded P.I.K Training, delivering First Aid, Health and Safety, and medical event cover for high-profile events including Red Bull BMX and Motocross, polo events, show jumping, and Bristol Rugby. He also taught First Aid for the Football Association from 2014 to 2020 and holds a Level 3 qualification, keeping his skills firmly up to date.

At BSG, Patrick delivers a range of essential courses including Emergency First Aid at Work, First Aid at Work, Fire Safety, Working at Height, and Manual Handling. Outside of work, Patrick is a qualified Scuba instructor and volunteers as a First Aider for Paulton Rovers FC in the Southern League.

Testimonials for Patrick

"Good trainer with relevant anecdotes"
Manual Handling – Feb 26

"Trainer was very good, focused on items I felt were most relevant to my day-to-day role. Explained things in a simplified way"
First Aid at Work Requalification – June 26

"Pat's training technique really worked for me" **First Aid at Work Requalification – June 26**



Patrick Delaney

Phil delivers the following courses at BSG

[Emergency First Aid at Work 1 day](#)

[First Aid At Work Re-Qualification \(2 Days\)](#)

[First Aid at Work 3 day](#)

[Fire Safety](#)

[Working at Height](#)

[Manual handling](#)



Cris White

Cris White brings over two decades of hands-on health and safety expertise to his role as Health & Safety Trainer at BSG, and his passion for keeping people safe is evident in everything he does.

Cris began his career in civil engineering before spending 14 years with Royal Mail and Yeovil College, where he discovered a real talent for training and education. Since then, he has built an impressive portfolio of qualifications and experience, delivering courses in First Aid, Fire Marshal, Asbestos Awareness, Manual Handling, and much more. He also runs his own consultancy, Saludem Health and Safety, working with well-known organisations across the South of England and beyond.

Alongside his consultancy work, Cris has spent several years supporting Crestmoor Group with site audits, risk assessments, and health and safety policies — giving him a well-rounded, practical understanding of the challenges businesses face every day.

Outside of work, Cris has an equally impressive record of service. He dedicated 25 years to the Royal Air Force Reserves, retiring in 2017 at the rank of Squadron Leader — a testament to his leadership, commitment, and discipline. With his wealth of experience and approachable style, Cris is a fantastic addition to the BSG training team.

Testimonials for Cris

“Cris did a cracking job”

Asbestos Awareness – June 26

“Very comprehensive, the trainer made some very good analogies which helped me remember the key info”

Non-licensed asbestos removal for groundworkers – May 26



Cris White

Phil delivers the following courses at BSG

[First Aid at Work](#)

[IATP Asbestos Awareness](#)

[Non-Licensed Asbestos Removal](#)

[Risk Assessment](#)

[CITB Health and Safety Awareness](#)



Training with BSG

(click on course title to open link and book)

Asbestos Awareness

Classroom

- 26 August
- 6 October

Emergency First Aid At Work (1 Day)

Classroom

- 18 August
- 17 September
- 16 October

CITB Site Management Safety Training Scheme (SMSTS) 5 days

Classroom

- 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 August
- 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 September
- 12,13,14,15,16 October

CITB Site Management Safety Training Scheme Refresher (SMSTS R) 2 days

Classroom

- 20, 21 August
- 23, 24 September
- 8, 9 October

CITB Site Supervisors Safety Scheme Training Refresher Scheme (SSSTS R) 1 Day

Classroom

- 28 September
- 29 October
- 27 November

CITB Temporary Works Supervisor (1 Day)

Classroom

- 12 August
- 9 September
- 5 October

CITB Temporary Works Co-ordinator (2 Days)

Classroom

- 10, 11 August
- 7, 8 September
- 6, 7 October



Visit [bsgltd.co.uk/ training/](https://bsgltd.co.uk/training/) for details about the full range of courses run by BSG

Click here to download our 2026 Training Schedule



BASIC SCAFFOLD INSPECTION

**2 day course for
managers and
supervisors who
inspect scaffolding**



20% Discount for BSG members

- Understand your legal obligations when using scaffolding
- Learn the techniques for scaffold inspection
- Build a sound knowledge of standard scaffold structures
- Save up on CITB funded training if you are a levy payer



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Handle With Care: Mastering Power Tool Safety

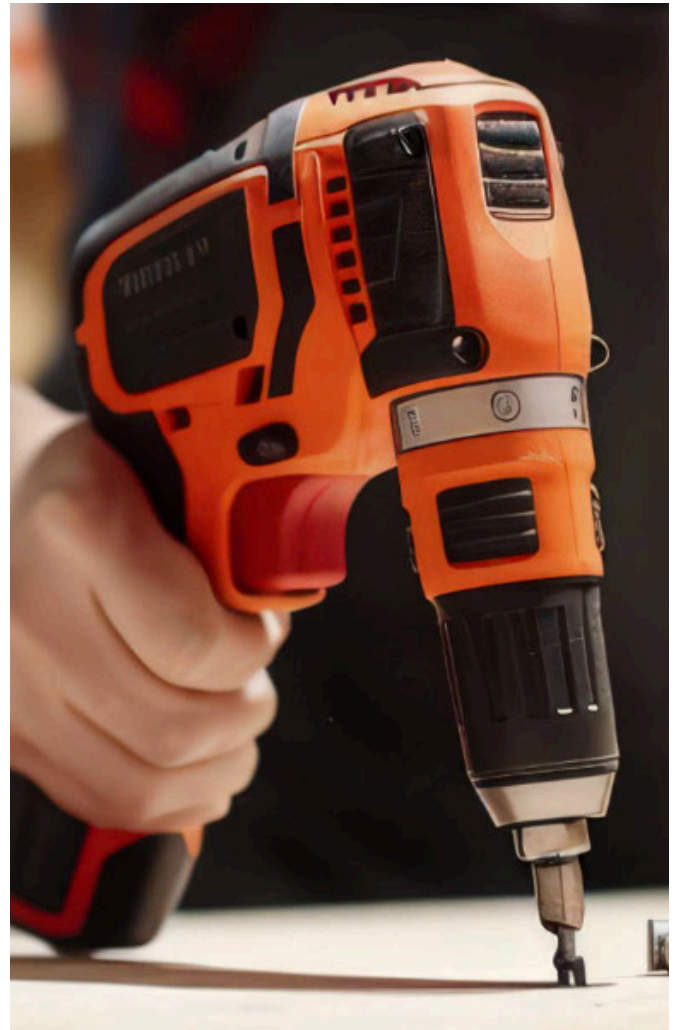
Hand and power tools remain fundamental to daily operations across the UK construction sector, yet they continue to represent a significant source of workplace injuries.

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) data consistently demonstrates that tool-related incidents account for a substantial proportion of reportable accidents in construction environments.

Proper training and comprehensive safety awareness are not merely regulatory requirements—they are essential safeguards that protect workers' wellbeing whilst ensuring organisational compliance with stringent UK legislation. Here, BSG examines the critical safety protocols surrounding hand and power tool usage and explores accessible training solutions designed to mitigate workplace risks.

The Risks Associated with Hand and Power Tools

Construction environments present numerous hazards when hand and power tools are utilised without adequate safety measures. Common injuries include severe cuts, lacerations, and amputations resulting from improper handling or equipment malfunction.



Electrical hazards pose life-threatening risks, particularly when tools are used in damp conditions or with damaged cabling.

Hand-Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) affects thousands of construction workers annually, causing permanent nerve and circulatory damage from prolonged exposure to vibrating equipment. Additionally, noise-induced hearing loss remains prevalent amongst operatives using high-decibel power tools, whilst flying debris continues to cause serious eye injuries.

The financial implications of tool-related accidents extend beyond immediate medical costs, encompassing productivity losses, insurance premium increases, and potential project delays.

For employers, the legal ramifications can prove equally severe, with prosecutions and substantial fines imposed for safety breaches that result in worker harm.

UK Regulatory Framework and Legal Obligations



The legislative landscape governing tool safety in UK construction is comprehensive and uncompromising. The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 establishes fundamental employer duties to ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, the health and safety of all employees. The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998 specifically mandate that all work equipment must be suitable for purpose, properly maintained, and operated by adequately trained personnel.

The Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005 impose strict exposure limits and require employers to assess and manage vibration risks systematically. Under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015, principal contractors bear responsibility for coordinating safety measures across construction sites. Non-compliance with these regulations can result in prosecution, unlimited fines, and irreparable reputational damage.

Recent HSE enforcement actions demonstrate the regulator's commitment to holding negligent employers accountable, with several high-profile cases resulting in six-figure penalties.

Multiple Hazards

Effective workplace safety requires a holistic approach that addresses multiple hazard categories. Construction workers using cutting and grinding tools face additional risks from silica dust exposure—a serious health hazard that demands specific awareness and control measures.

Essential Components of Tool Safety Training

Effective tool safety training must encompass multiple competency areas to adequately protect workers. Pre-use inspection protocols enable operatives to identify defects before equipment failure occurs. Training should emphasise proper tool selection for specific tasks, recognising that inappropriate equipment increases accident risk substantially.

Correct operating procedures and techniques form the foundation of safe practice, whilst comprehensive Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements must be clearly communicated and enforced.

Maintenance and storage best practices prevent equipment degradation and unauthorised access, whilst emergency response procedures ensure swift action when incidents occur.

Risk assessment competencies enable workers to evaluate hazards proactively, and adherence to manufacturer guidelines ensures equipment is used within design parameters.

Regular refresher training maintains competency levels and reinforces safety culture throughout organisations.

Hand and Power Tool Safety Awareness Training

The Building Safety Group (BSG) offers a comprehensive online training solution specifically designed for construction professionals. This IIRSM-approved Hand and Power Tool Safety Awareness course provides flexible, accessible learning that accommodates demanding work schedules. The 40+ minute programme delivers essential safety competencies at a cost-effective £25 per person, with same-day digital certification valid for three years upon successful completion.



The course content addresses all critical aspects of tool safety, from hazard identification through to regulatory compliance requirements. This structured approach ensures that construction companies can demonstrate due diligence whilst equipping their workforce with practical knowledge that translates directly to safer working practices on site.



BSG Comment

Hand and power tool safety awareness represents a non-negotiable priority for responsible construction employers. The regulatory framework demands comprehensive training, whilst the human cost of inadequate safety measures proves immeasurable.

Investing in accredited, accessible training solutions such as those offered by BSG demonstrates organisational commitment to worker protection whilst satisfying legal obligations. Construction companies and electrical contractors must prioritise safety awareness training as a fundamental component of operational excellence.

By fostering a culture of education and vigilance, the industry can create safer working environments where every operative returns home unharmed at day's end.

Additional Resources

[Available to download from the BSG Hub:](#)

MS 16 Hand Arm Vibration at Work - 2026
304 Use of Hand Held Power Tools - 2026.doc

[HSE:](#)

[Hand-arm vibration at work: A brief guide](#)

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