

PRB CONSULTING

Health & Safety Bulletin

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HEALTH & SAFETY

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Heatstroke Deaths Warning: Construction Managers Must Protect Workers Against Extreme Temperatures

UK construction managers must take steps to protect site productivity and worker welfare as extreme heat increasingly becomes the norm on building sites during the summer months, researchers have warned.

Global energy solutions provider Aggreko's recent report, *Building in Resilience: Weather-proofing European Construction in a Changing Climate* found that more than 70% of UK construction managers surveyed cited extreme heat as the most significant threat to ongoing works.



Its advice for construction firms to secure the necessary equipment to maintain safe working conditions for future projects and reduce heat stress comes as Euronews reports the death of a 47-year-old construction worker near Bologna in Italy this week who sustained a suspected heatstroke while pouring concrete.

The risks posed by extreme heat was highlighted recently in *Heat stress and strain in commercial construction workers in the summer*: a pilot study published by Taylor & Francis in May, which concluded that construction workers are 13 times more likely to die from heat-related illnesses than workers in other industries.

The US-based researchers attributed the workforce's elevated risk to 'excessive heat stress from environmental exposure, metabolic heat generated from physical labour and the insulating effects of protective clothing.'

While a Met Office forecast reported by the BBC warns that the UK is more likely to experience a hotter-than-normal summer with an increased chance of heatwaves, Aggreko said that forward planning for cooling on site is not only important to protect worker welfare.

Drawing on the findings from a report by construction intelligence provider Glenigan, which predicts that UK construction will grow 24% over the next three years, Aggreko said the measures are also critical to protect site productivity, with 39% of its UK respondents to *Building in Resilience* reporting penalties due to weather-related disruptions.

'While the Glenigan forecast signals a strong period of growth for UK construction, our research shows that extreme heat could put this progress at risk. Rising temperatures can lead to equipment failure, material damage and health risks for workers on site,' said Tom Adlington, UK construction sector sales manager at Aggreko.

'By planning ahead and working with experienced partners, businesses can ensure they have access to the right ventilation and temperature control solutions. This is key to keeping projects on track and people safe.'

'As we look ahead to a period of accelerated growth in UK construction, it is vital companies do not overlook the operational risks posed by extreme weather. Through proper planning and ensuring access to the right equipment now, project stakeholders will be well-placed to withstand hotter and more challenging conditions when they arise.'



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- ✓ Good Occupational Health and Risk Management

- ✓ Manage fatigue risks, and reduce health risks
- ✓ Time v Cost - An Effective solution
- ✓ Monitor and Manage Fatigue and Risk Scores
- ✓ Enhanced commercial reporting
- ✓ Record and monitor every Exceedance



Top tips for safe working in the sun

1. Keep covered

It can be tempting for workers to remove excess articles of clothing to try and beat the heat. However, extra layers of protective clothing are a great way to avoid excessive exposure and block UV rays.

If heat is an issue, and extra clothing poses a greater risk, then provide staff with plenty of sun cream. This should be reapplied every two hours to ensure its effectiveness.

Although usually mild, sunburn does carry risk. If skin starts to blister, fills with fluid, or the person gets a fever, then seek medical attention immediately.

2. Stay hydrated

Dehydration can be very dangerous, especially in a role that involves vigorous movement or exercise.

To avoid dehydration, make sure employees have plenty of cool water and you remind them to keep drinking before, during and after work.

Caffeinated and fizzy drinks can also cause dehydration, so should not be relied on as the only source of sustenance. Encourage staff to drink water as much as possible.

3. Reschedule work

Ideally, workers should avoid direct sunlight, though this can be unavoidable when working outdoors. If you're not able to provide shade, then try to adjust working hours to cooler times or cloudy days.

Checking the UV index each day can help ensure that you have adequate protective measures in place. If the index is very high on certain days, then you know that your staff will need to take particular care.

4. Take breaks

Where it isn't possible to reschedule the work entirely, frequent rest breaks can help minimise the risk of heat-related illness, particularly heat stroke.

Heat stroke occurs when core body temperature approaches 41°C, affecting the nervous system and the body's ability to regulate temperature. In some cases, heat stroke carries a risk of death from cardiac or respiratory arrest. It can also lead to liver failure, so must always be treated as an emergency.

Frequent breaks in the shade or cooler areas will allow the body to cool down, minimising the risk of dangerously high internal temperatures.

5. Check skin regularly

Encourage employees to check their skin regularly for any new unusual moles or spots. Moles or freckles that seem to be changing in size, shape or colour could be an early indication of skin cancer.

There are many online services that can help with tracking skin changes or abnormalities. These can often be downloaded directly to an employee's devices, providing an extra level of security.

However, anyone who notices any of these changes should see their GP or occupational health services immediately.

Source: IOSH Magazine



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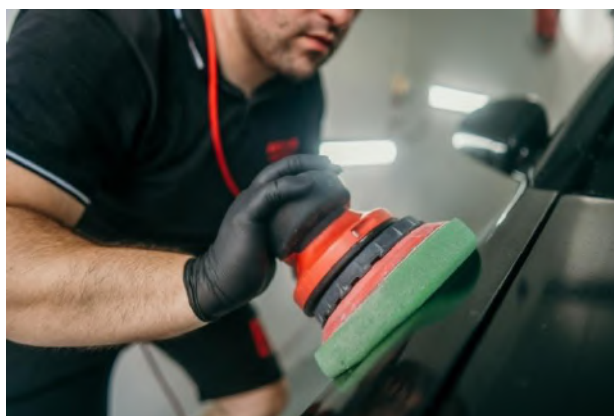


Car Dealership Fined After Employees Diagnosed with HAVS

A CAR dealership franchise in Devon and Cornwall has been fined more than £200k after two of its workers were diagnosed with Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS).

The pair were diagnosed with the condition in November 2022 following repeated exposure to vibration from working for Rowes Garage Ltd at its bodyshop in Truro. They regularly used hand tools like random-orbital sanders and reciprocating saws for car body repairs.

Prolonged and regular exposure to vibration can affect a worker's health resulting in painful and disabling disorders of the nerves, blood supply, joints and muscles of the hands and arms. These disorders are collectively known as HAVS and the risk of onset or worsening of it increases with daily exposure and varies widely between individuals. Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance can be found [here](#).



One of the affected employees, who did not wish to be named, said: "It's hard to say exactly how long I have had the symptoms for, but I think maybe about eight years.

"My fingers would go white and I'd lose feeling. This was particularly bad in damp or cold weather.

"I can say that over the years my symptoms seem to have got worse. The blanching has spread and I find it hard to pick up small items."

The HSE investigation found that Rowes Garage had not put in place adequate management arrangements to assess and monitor the exposure of its employees to vibration. There was no suitable and sufficient risk assessment and control measures had not been implemented despite the likelihood of the exposure action value being exceeded.

Employees were not informed of the risk via information, instruction or training. Additionally, despite both employees reporting symptoms of ill health for a number of years, the company failed to take sufficient action to reduce their exposures.

Rowes Garage Ltd of Vertu House, Fifth Avenue Business Park, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear (since November 2023), pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £204,000 and ordered to pay £8,099 in costs at Plymouth Magistrates' Court on 8 May 2025.

HSE inspector Emma O'Hara said "Rowes Garage Ltd had been exposing employees to the risks arising from the use of vibrating tools for a significant period of time.

Source: Health & Safety Matters



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Company Fined After Load Falls and Kills Cyclist

A ROAD haulage company in Nuneaton has been fined £90k after a metal heat exchanger fell from its lorry killing a cyclist.

A Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV), operated by JW Morley Transport Ltd, was driving down College Street, Nuneaton, on 18 June 2021 carrying four heat exchangers weighing over 10,000kg, when as it went round a bend, the load shifted in the vehicle causing one of the straps securing the load to snap.

This resulted in one of the heat exchangers falling from the lorry, killing 70 year old Christopher Baker, who was cycling alongside the vehicle.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation revealed that the heat exchangers were inadequately secured on the vehicle, which made the load prone to toppling, and the ratchet straps used to secure the load were in poor condition.

HSE provides guidance on load securing online at: Workplace transport safety – Workplace transport safety – A guide to workplace transport safety

Nina Day, senior policy advisor in the Transport & Public Services Unit of HSE said: “The lorry should not have entered the public road network.

At the point it did there was an immediate and likely risk of harm to other road users, pedestrians, and the driver himself. The fatal load shift was due to the grossly inadequate manner of loading and securing the load and was both foreseeable and entirely preventable.

“If the heat exchangers had each been placed inside a metal or wooden transport frame and secured with a minimum of three webbing straps each, with friction matting between the transport frame and the load bed, the load would not have shifted under normal driving conditions.”

The investigation also found that although the driver was trained in driving Heavy Goods category C he had not received training in load security, which would have equipped him with the means to devise a suitable securing scheme for an unusual and high-risk load like the heat exchangers, nor had he been provided with a securing scheme by JW Morley Transport Ltd.

Mr Baker’s widow Rose made a victim personal statement to HSE. She said “June 18th 2021 is a date that will forever live in our memories. That was the day we lost my Chris, my husband of over 54 years, my best friend and my soulmate. We did everything together both as a couple and as a family. We have always been a very close family, and it feels that the very heart of it has been ripped out.

“Chris and I had plans for our retirement after working so hard for so many years. Our children and grandchildren were our priority and now that precious time has been taken from them. No amount of words will ever express how we all feel. We are heartbroken, devastated and really don’t think we will ever be the same again”.

JW Morley Transport Ltd whose business is based at Sole End Farm Industrial Estate, Astley Lane, Bedworth, pleaded guilty to breaching section 3(1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974. They were fined £90,000 and ordered to pay £8,047.55 in costs at Birmingham Magistrates’ Court.

This prosecution was brought by HSE enforcement lawyer Edward Parton and paralegal officer Helen Hugo.

Source: Health and Safety Matters



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Director Killed by Reversing HGV

TEXTILE manufacturer has been fined £220k after one of its directors was killed by a reversing HGV in Rochdale.

Daniel Ames was a director of The British Millerrain Company Limited and had offered to stay behind at the company warehouse to wait for the return of the vehicle on 22 June 2023.

The truck arrived at around 5.30pm. Mr Ames spoke to the driver and confirmed he would act as banksman to help the vehicle reverse into the warehouse.

During the manoeuvre, the driver lost sight of Mr Ames and when he got out to check, he found him trapped between the vehicle and some steel storage racks in the warehouse. The driver called paramedics, but Mr Ames died in hospital from his injuries.

Speaking after the company was fined, Mr Ames' family said the outcome left them with 'mixed emotions'.

"Daniel went to work and never came home again and we have a massive hole in our lives that will never be filled," they said in a statement.

"We are glad the company have admitted being responsible for his death and been handed a fine. But we remain devastated that we no longer have Daniel in our lives. Today we have still lost a much-loved dad, husband, uncle, son and brother, and we are devastated that his life ended in this way.

"He got on well with all his colleagues at work and had a great career. He was a respected professional who loved his job and was well known in the industry and was excited for his future. But that was taken away from us all in an instant.

"He was a real family man with a great sense of humour who was always making people smile and laugh and he enjoyed life to the full. We all miss him so much."

The incident was reported to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), who carried out an investigation into what happened. That identified a number of failings exposing employees to various risks, including having no safe system in place for reversing HGVs. Employees confirmed they had been doing the task for several years but had never received any training. This included one employee who said he had on occasion reversed HGVs into the warehouse with someone else acting as banksman – despite neither being trained to do so.

The HSE investigation also found the company had no risk assessment in place in relation to this work, with the regulator serving it with an improvement notice. Following the incident the company carried out a risk assessment that resulted in a safe system of work being implemented, which meant vehicles were no longer reversed using a banksman. Relevant guidance can be found here: [Workplace transport – HSE](#).

The British Millerrain Company Limited, of Unit 1 Park Mill, Buckley Road, Rochdale, pleaded guilty to breaching section 33(1)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The company was fined £220,000 and ordered to pay costs of £5,634 at Manchester Magistrates Court on 10 July 2025.

HSE inspector Jane Carroll said: "This is a tragic case. Daniel was clearly popular and respected, but his leadership and dedication to his colleagues was not properly protected by the defendant.

"A safe system of work was not in place. We will always take action against those who fail to protect people in work."



Source: Health & Safety Matters



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Recent Court Cases – HSE

Farmer fined following death of worker

A Gloucestershire farmer has been fined after the shepherdess he employed was killed in a quad bike crash. The overloaded quad bike overturned. The 22-year-old was found by a jogger several hours later.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the ATV overturned due to an overloaded front rack, uneven tyre pressure, unstable load from lack of baffles in the spray tank and the potential for the spray lance to be used during movement.

LEGAL BREACHES	FINE	COURT COSTS
Regulation 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health and Safety At Work Act 1974	£1,000	£6161.72

Builder sentenced for unlicensed asbestos removal

A builder has been fined after carrying out unlicensed asbestos removal work at a house in Cheadle, Manchester.

The builder had been contracted to carry out renovations at the property including roofing work. Despite being warned by the customer that asbestos was potentially present in the fascia boards, Mr Mutch proceeded to remove the asbestos-containing materials on 8 September 2022.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that unlicensed and therefore illegal asbestos removal work has been carried out. This type of work should only be undertaken by a licensed asbestos contractor with appropriate safety controls in place.

LEGAL BREACHES	FINE	COURT COSTS
Regulation 11(1) and Regulation 16 of The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012	12 month Community Order with 200 hours of unpaid work	£3582.13

Brothers fined for failing to protect public from cattle

Two brothers have been sentenced for failing to protect members of the public from their cattle.

HSE prosecuted the pair following the death of former teacher David Clark, who was killed by a herd of cows while crossing the right of way.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the farmers failed to offer and display signs of an alternative route to a public right of way in their field in the Coalsgarth Valley, North Yorkshire.

LEGAL BREACHES	FINE	COURT COSTS
Section 3(2) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.	£2979	£3000



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Briefing Date:		Briefers Signature:	
Sentinel Coordinator:		Sentinel Coordinator Signature:	

By signing below, I confirm that I have received and understood the briefing material contained within this bulletin.

[illegible]