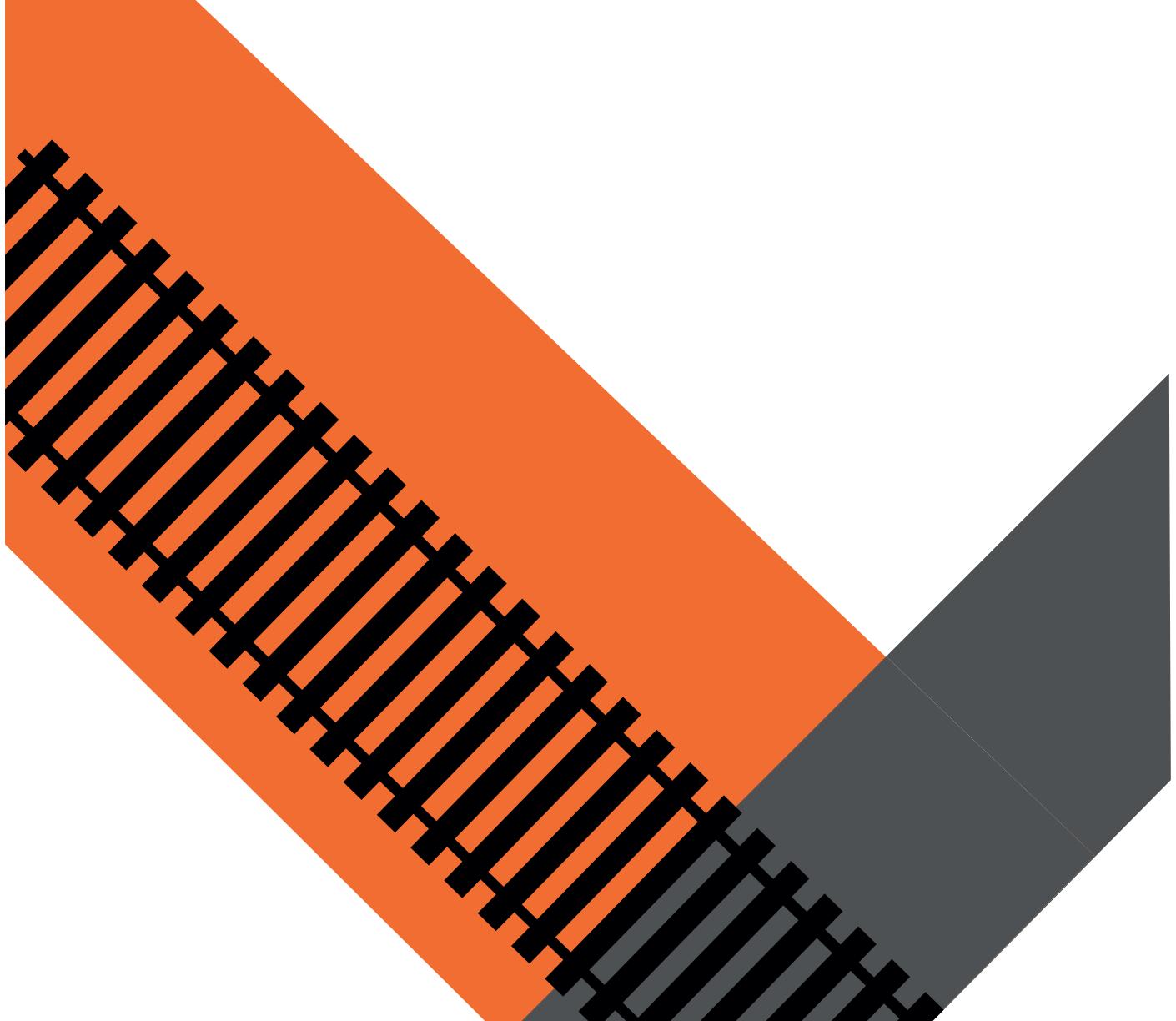


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January 2019

## Health & Safety Bulletin



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## COMPANY AND DIRECTOR SENTENCED AFTER EMPLOYEE FALLS FROM HEIGHT

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An engineering company and its director have been fined after an employee fell from a tower scaffold, sustaining a neck fracture as a result.

Liverpool Magistrates' Court was told that, on 9 January 2017, an employee of Trueline Engineering Services Limited fell from a partially erected tower scaffold whilst carrying out welding work on a silo.

The HSE's investigation found the tower scaffold had not been erected correctly, with no hand or mid-rail in place to prevent falls from height and staff had not been given training in how to properly erect the scaffold. The investigation also found both Trueline Engineering Services Ltd and its director, Paul Smith, failed to ensure the provision and safe use of equipment for work at height and did not report the incident to HSE.

Trueline Engineering Services Limited of King Street Trading Estate, Middlewich, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and Regulation 4(1) of the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013. The company was fined £3,500 and ordered to pay costs of £2,500.

Paul Smith of George Gallimore Drive, Haslington, Crewe pleaded guilty to breaching Section 37 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, in relation to the company's failing of Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and Regulation 4(1) of the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013. Paul Smith received a conditional discharge and was ordered to pay costs of £2,500.

HSE inspector Jane Carroll said after the hearing: "This case highlights the importance of following industry guidance to ensure scaffolding is erected correctly and in a safe manner so that workers using it are not placed at risk.

"Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards."

HSE  
January 2019

## PUB FIRM FINED £100K FOR SAFETY BREACHES

Stonegate Pub Company Ltd, the fourth largest managed pub company in the UK, has been prosecuted for health and safety breaches at the Slug and Lettuce in Colchester. The company has been fined £100,000, with costs of £3,792.28 and a £170 victim surcharge.

Chelmsford Magistrates Court heard how an employee, who was preparing to unload a drinks delivery on 18 October 2017, broke several fingers when an open but unsecured internal cellar hatch door fell back onto the employee's hand.

An accident report filed after the incident led to an incident investigation by Colchester Borough Council's Health and Safety Officer. The visiting officer found that gas struts originally installed to enable the safe opening and closure of the hatch door had been removed on 1 July 2016. Neither these nor an alternative method to prevent the doors from falling back once opened had been replaced.

The investigation also found that the company did not have suitable and sufficient risk assessments in place regarding the safe delivery of goods at the premises. In addition, the cellar hatch was not adequately guarded when open to prevent people from falling down the 2.38m cellar shaft.

Since the council's involvement with the case, Stonegate Pub Company Ltd have worked alongside the council to ensure that all health and safety risk assessments are in place and are followed. Councillor Tina Bourne, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities, said: "Our role is to protect everyone in the workplace by ensuring that premises are maintained in good working order. Risk assessments must be fit for purpose and safe systems of work adhered to."

"We are very satisfied with the outcome of this case and I would urge all workplaces across the borough to ensure that their employees are protected from harm by following the appropriate health and safety guidelines."

Colchester Borough Council  
January 2019



## SCAFFOLDING FIRM FINED AFTER SERIOUS FALL

A scaffolding company from Poole in Dorset has been sentenced after a worker sustained serious, life changing injuries after falling five metres through a skylight whilst at work. Poole Magistrates' Court was told that on 10 April 2017, 49-year-old Paul Norris, was working for Solar Scaffold Services Limited to erect the scaffolding. Solar Scaffold Services Limited were contracted to erect an access tower and guard rails around the roof of industrial units in Christchurch during April 2017.

After completing work on the access tower, Mr Norris went to assist colleagues with the guard rails, gaining access to these via the roof. He fell through a skylight approximately five metres to the floor below and suffered numerous serious fractures to his pelvis, wrists, ribs, elbow and arm. Mr Norris remained in hospital for three weeks undergoing a number of operations and still requires ongoing physiotherapy. As a result, he has now been registered disabled, has had to move to an adapted flat and cannot return to work. His wife has been forced to give up work in order to care for him.

Investigating, the HSE found that Solar Scaffold Services Limited, as an employer, failed in their duty to ensure the work at height was properly planned, supervised and carried out safely. Insufficient measures were taken to prevent a fall through the fragile roof whilst the building was being worked on.

Solar Scaffold Services Limited of Church Road, Poole pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4(1) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005. They have been fined £10,000 and ordered to pay costs of £3,666.80.

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Caroline Penwill said: "Falls from height remain one of the most common causes of work related fatalities and injuries in this country and the risks associated with working at height are well known."

"Mr Norris's injuries were life changing for both him and his family. He could have easily been killed. This serious incident could have been avoided if the work had been properly planned to reduce risk."



## CHILD SUFFERED SERIOUS INJURY IN ATV INCIDENT

A Devon farming partnership has been sentenced after a young boy suffered a serious leg injury while travelling in an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) on farmland.

On 7 May 2017, a 9-year-old boy was travelling as a passenger in the ATV, which was being driven by a 13-year-old. The vehicle overturned trapping the young boy's leg between the ground and the roll over protection bars. The child suffered a serious break in his lower leg and sustained an open wound which required a skin graft to be taken from his back to heal. The young boy spent a couple of weeks in hospital and required weeks of physiotherapy.

The HSE's investigation found the most likely cause of the overturn was the inexperience and age of the driver who was 13 at the time and had no formal training. The HSE point out that the vehicle was a powerful adult-sized machine provided for farm work and should not have been used or travelled in by the children. The manufacturer's instructions and signage on the machine made it absolutely clear it was not suitable for use by under-16's and that children should not be carried as passengers, but this was ignored.

E C Haste of Shebbear, Beaworthy, Devon pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and was fined £28,333 and with costs of £5,254.00.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Emma O'Hara said: "Farms are first and foremost a workplace and children should be kept safe. Most farming incidents could have been avoided if simple precautions had been taken, and such precautions have long been known and are widely published by HSE and our industry partners.

"Children should not be carried as passengers on ATVs. No child under 13 should use an ATV for work and children over 13 should only use appropriate sized lower power ATVs after formal training. There is clear guidance about use of ATVs in the HSE publication 'Safe use of all-terrain vehicles in agriculture and forestry' which can be downloaded for free from the HSE website.

"Farmers should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards, especially where children are involved."

HSE  
January 2019

## COUNCIL IN COURT AFTER WORKER'S HEAD TRAPPED

Darlington Borough Council has been sentenced after a self-employed labourer was injured when a pack of roof trusses fell on him.

Newton Aycliffe Magistrates' Court was told how, on 5 October 2017, a self-employed labourer was working for two self-employed bricklayers sub-contracted to Darlington Borough Council. He was walking past the front of the building plot at Allington Way, Darlington, when a pack of roof trusses fell on him, trapping him by the head and arm.

Investigating, the HSE found there was an overall failure to adequately monitor work activities at the site at Allington Way, Darlington.

Contributing factors to the incident included:

- Inadequate arrangements for the storage of roof trusses
- Failure to manage the amount of materials on site
- Failure to plan for parking of vehicles on site
- Poor housekeeping on site.

Darlington Borough Council of Town Hall, Darlington pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 13(1) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 and was fined £28,000 with £1,648.45 in costs.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Andrea Robbins said: "It is vital that work activities on construction sites are properly planned, managed and monitored to

prevent issues like this developing on site – the failures found here ultimately led to the roof trusses falling onto the labourer, causing serious injuries. This could have been prevented."

HSE  
January 2019

## SUICIDE PREVENTION

### SUICIDE PREVENTION: FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

This report sets out what has been done to reduce deaths by suicide in England during 2017 and 2018.

This is the fourth progress report of the suicide prevention strategy for England details what has been done to reduce deaths by suicide since the third progress report, published in January 2017.

Alongside this, the government has published the first ‘Suicide prevention: cross-government Workplan’, which sets out the actions being taken up to 2020 to carry out the suicide prevention strategy for England (see below).

The report notes the substantial five-year funding plan for the NHS which will see investment increase by an additional £20.5 billion. The ten-year Long-term Plan for the NHS has set out how this funding boost will be used across the system to respond to the many challenges and demands placed upon it and to ensure it continues to meet the needs of local communities everywhere. It includes additional investment for mental health, renews the NHS’s commitment to reducing suicides over the next decade and sets out important measures to improve crisis care services.

The report highlights what needs to be done moving forward, including:

- Working in partnership with local government to embed their local suicide prevention plans in every community.
- Delivering our ambition for zero suicide in mental health inpatients and improving safety across mental health wards and extending this to whole community approaches.
- Addressing the highest risk groups including middle-aged men and other vulnerable groups such as people with autism and learning disabilities, and people who have experienced trauma by sexual assault and abuse.

This is the first cross-government suicide prevention Workplan led by the new Suicide Prevention Minister Jackie Doyle-Price.

It sets out the actions being taken up to 2020 to carry out the suicide prevention strategy for England.

These actions will be taken by:

- national and local government
- the NHS
- other stakeholders, including the voluntary sector.

In 2016, the Health Select Committee (HSC) conducted an inquiry into suicide prevention, with the final report published in March 2017. The HSC report was welcomed by the Government, and it published its response to the committee in July 2017. The HSC made a number of important recommendations for Government.

One of the key recommendations from the Committee was the need for improvements to the implementation and governance of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy, with the need for a “clear implementation strategy, with strong national leadership, clear accountability, and regular and transparent external scrutiny”.

To address this recommendation, the Government’s response to the HSC committed to the implementation of a Cross-Government Workplan to support delivery of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy. This is the first Cross-Government Suicide Prevention Workplan, which commits every area of Government to taking action on suicide and sets out clear deliverables and timescales to monitor progress against our key commitments.

Department of Health and Social Care  
January 2019

Name of person delivering briefing Health & Safety News & Bulletin, January 2019

Name	Date	Signature

Persons attending Briefing:

Name	Date	Sentinel Number	Signature

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