

Summer is
here
remember
your sun
cream!

July 2014

Health and Safety News

6th Edition

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6 things to look at around your business over this next quarter:

1. Have I done my Fire Risk Assessment and recorded it .
2. Do I have an Emergency Plan and is it displayed? (some times a site plan helps with this)
3. Do my staff work in a confined space and do they know what one is?
4. What was the last Tool Box Talk my staff had and was it relevant?
5. Did we discuss H&S and any issues or accidents at our last board meeting and was it minuted?
6. Are all machines properly guarded? Have they been taken off and not put back on?

Summer Edition

"We've had an accident!"

As a Health and Safety Consultant working within the recycling industry there are 4 words that I dread hearing more than any other and they are "We've had an accident". I know those words normally are the pre cursor of something serious due to the nature of this industry; somebody has been seriously hurt and my client now needs some help and support in unpicking and investigating what has gone wrong.

So this quarter you can imagine my dismay when I have had three such conversations over a single week when normally I might get one a year if I am being particularly unlucky!

I thought it might be useful to share with you some of the key points from one of these unfortunate events even though these are not directly linked to organics recycling they all could have been very easily and potentially all of them could be going unseen within your businesses too. Trust me we work with very small recycling companies and multi nationals and these simple mistakes are going on everywhere.

An audit is only as good as what you see on the day. It is critical that your site managers/foremen understand their responsibilities and feel able to act on them.



"One of my drivers has been trapped against a wall when a loading shovel hit the roll on/off bin he was walking alongside"

A lorry driver had exchanged a roll on/off bin alongside a wall and had noticed during the exchange that some material had fallen out of the bin so he decided that he would walk between the bin and the wall to clear up the material and throw it into the bin. To his mind he was being diligent and helpful and keeping the site tidy.

Meanwhile the loading shovel driver had gone for his break and left the shovel parked in the yard. A customer arrived and wanted to tip their waste where the shovel was parked so the yard hand decided that he too would be helpful and hopped into the loading shovel to move it as he had driven it a couple of times before.

The yard hand reversed out of the building slowly and carefully and turned full left hand lock through a narrow gap between two buildings. He then slowly entered the bin storage yard and whilst looking over his right shoulder the back left hand side of the loading shovels counter-weight struck the bin.

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The yard hand heard nothing as he pushed the bin backwards about 3 feet until the driver screamed out when he was trapped between the bin and the wall.



INITIAL FINDINGS

- The loading shovel was not isolated as the keys had not been removed
- The on-site staff had decided that they would give familiarisation training in-house on the loading shovel to give the yard hand some experience, this had not been formally agreed with the Directors or Managers within the business as all staff should undergo external competence assessment for all equipment that they operate.
- The LGV driver had entered a confined space and had not told anyone that he was there
- The SSW and RA's all needed re-communicating to staff
- Improved induction training so that all staff are made aware of company policies and procedures.
- Tool Box Talk on Confined Space Working

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The Organics Recycling Group of the Renewable Energy Association; quarterly health & safety monitoring survey Quarter 1: 2014.

ORG are delighted to report this last survey resulted in the highest number of responses to date. We encourage all ORG members to participate in future surveys to enable ORG H&S group to focus its support where most required. We received 23 returns, 13 (56%) of these reported no accidents or incidents on site in the survey period. The remaining 9 (39%) returns reported showed a total of 26 accidents and incidents, of which two injuries were reportable under RIDDOR. In addition to the accidents and injuries there was one dangerous occurrence (as defined by RIDDOR) reported. The total number of employees covered was 2799; the incidence rate for RIDDOR reportable accidents was 71.45 per 100,000. The results from this survey are shown in tables 1 & 2 below. There were no reportable diseases.

The results show that the highest accident numbers involved visitors & contractors with 9 (39%) reported occurrences. The highest causal factors identified were vehicle & plant related injuries also with 9 (39%) reported accidents.

These results compare favourably with the previous survey (quarter 4: 2013) which showed a total of 40 accidents occurring with a total number of employees covered of 923. If the standard incidence rate calculation is applied to all accidents reported in this and the previous survey, this shows incidence rates of 4,333.69 per 100,000 for Q4 of 2013 and 928.90 per 100,000 for Q1 2014.

Table 1 Reported Accidents & Incidents Reported Against Activities

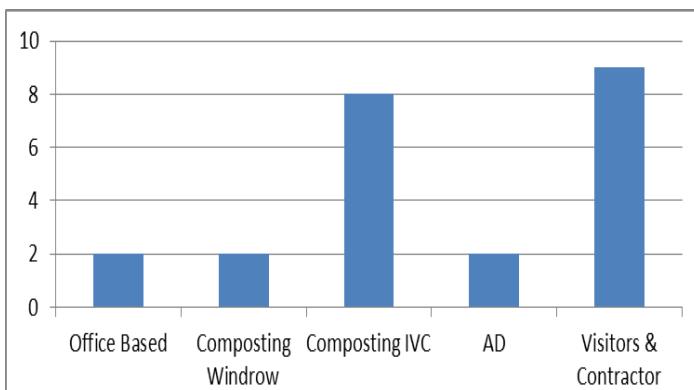
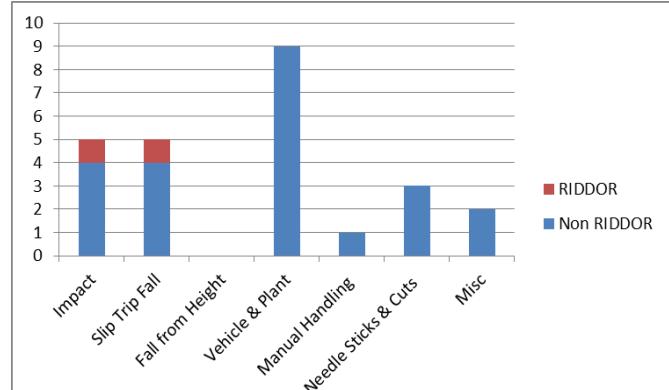


Table 2: Number of Reported Occurrences Attributed to Causal Factors



“We've had an accident!”

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You may be thinking, why did the lorry driver not hear anything and get out of the area? He was used to working in industrial surroundings and could not be sure where the reversing alarm was coming from, he was working in a small yard and thought that he was safe. As is often the case with these accidents, a whole host of things come together at once and cause a serious accident.

This is why Near Miss reporting is so important as this possibly would have been investigated prior to the accident, the driver would have not been hurt and the company would have not spent hours, worrying about the extent of the staff member's injuries, rehabilitation and the huge costs in time and money carrying out a thorough investigation to a serious accident with the additional disciplinary time that has also occurred as a result, not to mention potential insurance premium increases next year.

RIDDOR can be like buses



None for ages and then three come along at once!

Susan spreads the word about the SME working group

Susan Relf, newly appointed chair of the ORG Health and Safety Working Committee is pleased to announce that the SME working group set up as a result of the WISH conference in February 2013 is going from strength to strength.

The group has been looking at what support is already available and how this may be better signposted to ensure that it is accessible. It also looked at what additional tools might be useful to support training and knowledge building.

The group is also currently working on developing a 'landing page' with the assistance of EU Skills, which is being designed as a 'one-stop-shop' for SME's in the sector. The page will include links to tried and tested training, chat forums to share good practice and links to funding to assist training provision.

Over the past year the group has also been developing an initiative with Safety Groups UK (SGUK), which is the coordinating body for a network of voluntary occupational health and safety groups located throughout the UK.

The group is also liaising with a number of the larger waste companies that are willing to share their own corporate safety material. Support from the big players that already recognise the need to encourage their smaller contractors to follow good practice is well known within the industry and is greatly appreciated.

Healthier and safer workplaces must remain the way we do business across all sectors, across all teams no worker's health and safety is less important no matter what the size of the enterprise.

For more information on the working groups or anything else within this Newsletter please contact Gordon Thompson by e:mail : Gordon@r-e-a.net

Susan Relf
Download and digest



Susan is compliance director at Agrivert Limited and is a chartered member of IOSH. As chair of the WISH support for SMEs working group and chair of the Organics Recycling Group's health and safety group, Susan steers the drive for healthier and safer workplaces across the waste sector.



FIRE CONTROL GUIDANCE CONSULTATION

For the astute ones among you, you will notice that I covered fire in the January edition of this publication. However, since then the ESA (Environmental Services Association), the HSE (Health and Safety Executive) and the CFOA (Chief Fire Officers Association) have been looking at ways of reducing fire risk at waste management sites.

This has also been endorsed by the EA and WISH

A link can be found at http://www.esauk.org/esa_policies/people_health_and_safety/DRAFT_FIRE_CONTROL_GUIDANCE_consultation_draft_27_June_2014.pdf

The deadline for comments on this consultation is Friday 25th July 2014

This guidance applies to sites where there is more than 50m³ of solid combustible waste material stored at any one time.

The guidance looks at a number of areas from whole site considerations when carrying out your fire risk assessment. These include:

- Protection of human life
- Location and neighbouring sites/business/environment
- General ignition sources and precautions
- Housekeeping and dusts
- Heavy mobile plant
- Hot works
- **Water supplies**
- Firewater
- Fire detection, alarm and suppression systems
- Non-waste facilities on site
- Fire appliance access



Date for the Diary

**European Biogas
Association
Conference**

30th Sept-2nd Oct

Netherlands

Water Supplies

Fire Fighting a 300m³ stack of combustible material will normally require a water supply of at least 2,000 litres/minute for a minimum of 3 hours. This is a total of 360,000 litres of water.

Not only do you have to ask, do you have that amount of water. You also have to ask how you will stop it from contaminating your lagoons, drains and local water courses otherwise you will also have a pollution incident to deal with as well!

This Newsletter has been written for the REA by the Business Health Partnership and approved for you by the ORG.



Check out this quarter's Tool Box Talks at the Members section on the ORG website.

**Confined
Space Working**

