

Health & Safety – The Facts!

Causes of serious injury at work include:

- 45%** Slips, Trips & Falls
- 25%** Fall from a Height
- 10%** Struck by a Moving Object
- 8%** Lifting & Carrying



Workplace Accident Injury and Illness statistics 2007/08

Ill health

- **2.1 million** workers were suffering from an **illness** they believed was caused or made worse by their current or past work.

Injuries

- **229 workers were killed at work**, (12 of these in the Eastern region.)
 - HSE Regional Director Heather Bryant, said **many of the deaths could have been prevented by simple and sensible precautions**
- **136,771** other **injuries** to employees were reported

Working days lost

- **34 million days** were lost overall (1.4 days per worker),
 - **28 million** due to work-related **ill health**
 - **6 million** due to **workplace injury**

Enforcement

- 1028 offences were prosecuted by HSE.
- 354 offences were prosecuted by local authorities.

Corporate Manslaughter & Corporate Homicide Act 2007

From 6 April 2008, The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act clarifies the criminal liabilities of companies or organisations where a **'gross failure' in the management of health and safety results in a fatality**.

- In the financial year 2006/7, **241** workers were fatally injured in the UK
- Of the main industrial sectors, **agriculture** and **construction** have the highest rates of fatal injury. Together these two sectors account for **46%** of fatal injuries to workers.

Proposed Penalties under the Corporate Manslaughter Act

- Under the Corporate Manslaughter Act courts may impose an **unlimited fine**, a publicity order and/or a remedial order.
- Firms found guilty of the new offence of corporate manslaughter can be fined as much as **10% of their annual turnover** (based on an average taken over three years.)

The cost of Corporate Manslaughter

- In 2005, Transco was fined **£15 million** for safety breaches that led to the deaths of four members of a family in a gas explosion. To date, this is the largest fine ever imposed under health and safety legislation; but it represented less than 1% of the firm's annual turnover. A fine based on 10% of its annual turnover would have cost the firm £150 million.