



In Touch

EHS Newsletter April 2019

WE PROVIDE A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT SERVICES TO ASSIST OUR CLIENTS THAT INCLUDE:

- EHS Risk Assessments
- Occupational Hygiene Surveys
- Ergonomics Surveys
- EHS Management
- System development and implementation
- Environmental Monitoring
- Identification of EHS Legal Requirements and Compliance Audits
- Construction EHS Services
- Construction H&S Files
- Internal Auditor Training
- General EHS Training



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OH0049



DoL Approved Inspection Authority (OH0049-CI-09)

Newsletter compiled by Lee Rands

CONSTRUCTION HEALTH RISKS

Each year an increasing number of working days are lost due to work-related illness, compared to injuries. The statistics reveal that construction workers have a high risk of developing diseases from a number of health issues.

Cancer

The Construction Industry has the highest percentage of occupational cancer amongst the industrial sectors, accounting for over 40% of occupational cancer registrations and deaths. The most significant causes of these cancers are Asbestos (70%) and Silica (17%).



Physical Health Risks

Skilled construction and building trades have the highest occurrence of back injuries and upper limb disorders - manual handling being the most commonly reported cause. Construction also has one of highest rates of ill health caused by noise and vibration.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/healthrisks/key-points.htm>

Hazardous Chemicals

Dusts, chemicals and potentially harmful mixtures are common in construction work. When emitted into the air, they cause breathing problems and lung diseases. Some construction-related occupations have high rates of dermatitis from skin exposure to hazardous substances.



Farewell to Ryan

The Safetech family were sad to bid farewell to Ryan Brewerton, our Training Manager, at the end of March 2019. Ryan and his family are immigrating to the UK and we wish Ryan, Kirsten and the children all the best in this new and exciting chapter of their lives.

eLearning

Launching 2019

COMING SOON

Exciting news from Safetech is that we will be launching a new **On Line Learning Platform** this year. Educating and empowering our clients is part of our passion and we aim to make your learning path more flexible, affordable and accessible.



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FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

A combustible substance is one that catches fire and burns easily; a flammable substance is one that continues to burn even after the ignition source is removed.

Flammable liquids burn with intensity, which accounts for the rapid heat build-up and the speed at which the fire spreads. It is therefore imperative that employees realize that it is not the liquid itself that burns, but the vapours, which are invisible and normally heavier than air. The vapours settle close to the ground and are moved by air flow. Always consult the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) to determine the flammability of a particular liquid.



It is important when storing or working with these flammable liquids that you are not close to ignition sources such as open flames, electrical switches, open motors, static electricity, friction and mechanical sparks, smoking, heat guns, cutting and welding or radiant heat.

THE COST OF STORM WATER POLLUTION



In South Africa, if there is a possibility that your company could pollute local rivers, wetlands and lakes through contaminated storm water discharge from your site, you will need to implement control measures to prevent this, in terms of the requirements of the National Water Act. The Act contains limits called "General Limits" and "Special Limits", depending on where the storm water discharges from your premises. To determine if you meet the limits, you will need to conduct storm water testing. The results from your storm water monitoring will assist you in determining the effectiveness of your control measures and overall storm water management programme.

 **Contact Safetech for a quote to assist you with storm water monitoring**



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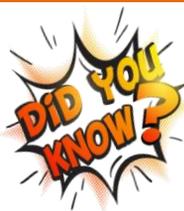


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Refer to www.sanas.co.za
for Schedule of Accreditation



What does a Health and Safety Representative do?

In South Africa, Health and Safety Representatives are required to be designated in terms of the Occupational Health and Safety Act in workplaces where the employer employs **more than 20 employees**. They may be responsible for, amongst other things:

- Assisting the Health and Safety Officer
- Attending Health and Safety Committee meetings
- Identifying hazards and risks in the workplace
- Listening to and investigating OHS-related complaints from employees
- Assisting with the investigation of accidents that occur in the workplace
- Making OHS-related suggestions to senior management and/or the Health and Safety Officer



The role of Safety Representative is not always a full-time job. This means that Safety Representatives sometimes take on the above-mentioned responsibilities in addition to their regular full-time jobs. The experience gained by working as a Safety Representative may, however, count in one's favour if one is aiming to work toward a full-time career in the occupational health and safety industry.

While Safety Representatives are also required to undergo relevant training to assist them in carrying out their responsibilities, they do not necessarily need to study toward formal OHS qualifications.

<https://www.onbridgeacademy.edu.za/courses/occupational-health-safety/difference-between-safety-officer-and-safety-representative/>