

Health & Safety Schools Newsletter

From: Doug Brady - Health & Safety Advisor

To: All schools

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Corporate Services

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HEALTH & SAFETY LAW POSTER



Although the new poster has been available for a few years [buildings](#) have been allowed to display the old version until April 2014. After that date the revised version must be used.

The revised version is available from various sources but one of the cheapest options is probably from HSE Books. The price is £13.20 which includes VAT and no charge for postage. As the VAT (£2.20) is refundable the total cost will be £11.

Details are: Product code
ISBN: 9780717663392

If you want to go ahead and order the A2 poster version then use this link.

[Law poster](#)

RIDDOR



A new information sheet gives guidance on how the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) apply to schools. Most incidents that happen in schools or on school trips do not need to be reported. Only in limited circumstances will an incident need notifying to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) under RIDDOR. The information sheet gives practical guidance to schools about what they need to report and how to.

The link can be found at:

[RIDDOR Schools](#)

LADDER EXCHANGE



Now extended to 31st December 2013!

It's estimated that over two million ladders are in daily use in the UK, and with falls from height still one of the main causes of death and injury in the workplace, it's vital that these ladders and stepladders are regularly inspected and safe to use.

The annual Ladder Exchange, now run and managed by the Ladder Association, is your opportunity to exchange any dodgy, bent and broken ladders for safe, brand new ones.

Simply take your old ladders to a participating partner near you and swap them at a discount. You get a new ladder at a concessionary price and everyone stays safe.

[Ladders](#)

When it comes to working at height, just as important as getting the right equipment is knowing how to use it. Working at height training can be arranged through the Learning and Development team.

[Learning and Development](#)

CLEARING SNOW



Don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured. Remember, people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves. Don't believe the myths - it's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries if you have cleared the path carefully.

If parents volunteer to carry out snow clearance then the school has a duty of care towards them. Legally this means taking all reasonable steps to reduce the likelihood of them being injured. You will need to carry out a risk assessment on the snow clearing activities, taking into account anyone who may be affected by the work. Make sure all involved are given a copy of the assessment.

Pay extra attention to clearing snow and ice from steps and steep pathways - you might need to use more salt on these areas. Use salt or sand - not water. If you use water to melt the snow, it may refreeze and turn to black ice. Black ice increases the risk of injuries as it is invisible and very slippery.

When you're shoveling snow, take care where you put it so it doesn't block people's paths or drains. Make sure you make a path down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on. Then shovel the snow from the centre of the path to the sides

CONTRACTORS



HSE has produced some new guidance on using contractors. INDG368 'Use of contractors: a joint responsibility' provides general health and safety advice on:

- how to specify a safe contract
- select a suitable contractor and
- have arrangements in place to monitor and review the contract

The guidance can be downloaded from:

[Contractors](#)

CHRISTMAS MYTHS

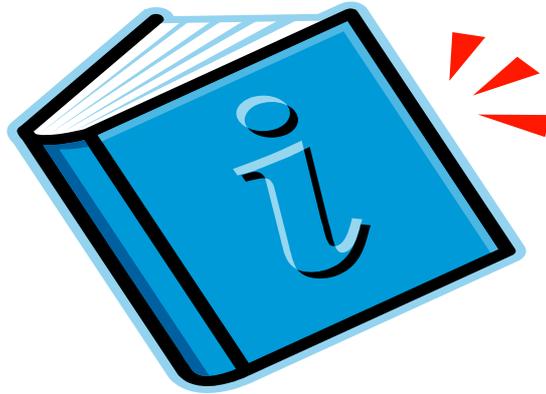


Christmas is a special time of year. Even so, it doesn't stop health and safety being - wrongly - cited as a reason for preventing pretty harmless activities from going ahead. Not only does this needlessly ruin the festive spirit but it also trivializes the true purpose of health and safety: protecting people from real risks at, or connected with, work.

To see The Twelve Myths of Christmas

[Twelve myths](#)

SCHOOLS HEALTH & SAFETY



Information and documentation relating to a variety of Health & Safety topics can be found on the School Management page:

- Health & Safety Advisers Contact details
- Corporate Health & Safety Manual
- Schools Health & Safety Manual
- School Health & Safety Newsletters

The Paper copies of the Manuals are out of date and no longer need to be retained.

All information is available electronically using the following link:

[Schools Health and Safety](#)