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MARCH 2026

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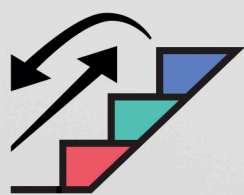
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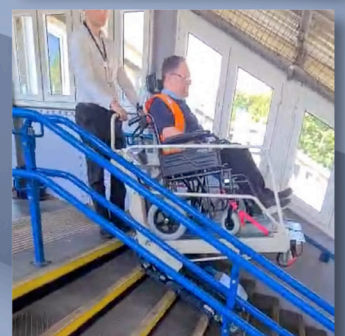
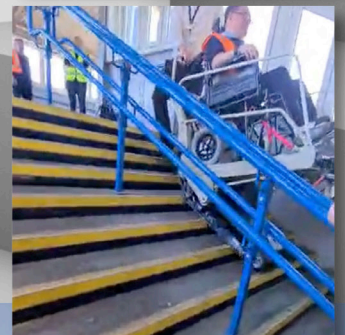
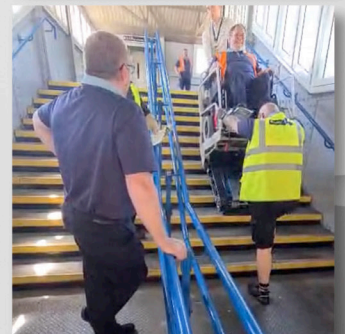
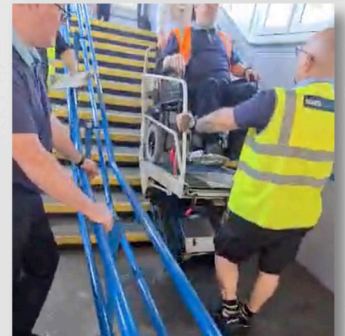
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EDITOR'S VOICE



Sarah Robinson, Editor

Ryan Lloyd, Editor

Hello and welcome to the March 2026 issue of Tomorrow's Health & Safety.

The Health & Safety Event is set to return bigger and better than ever on 28-30 April 2026 at NEC Birmingham, and visitors are now able to register to attend for free. Over the three days, there will be 60+ hours of CPD-accredited content across seven theatres, as well as live demonstrations and workshops, and exclusive networking opportunities. With more than 14,500 visitors and a wide range of exhibitors, it promises to be one of the biggest exhibitions for the health and safety industry this year. Tomorrow's Health & Safety, alongside our sister publication Tomorrow's FM, will have a stand at the show, so please do come and have a chat to us – we're a friendly bunch. You can check out our preview of the event on page 32.

In this issue, we have a spotlight feature on PPE, with phs Besafe's Managing Director Mark Stone looking at how rising environmental expectations, tighter waste targets and stronger corporate responsibility commitments are reshaping the PPE market, and Unigloves' Emma Lovelock highlighting some of the key considerations when it comes to buying latex gloves.

Elsewhere, New Pig and Allegion head up our Fire & Electrical Safety feature. The former sees Pete Zorgenlos, Head of Product Development (UK & Europe) offering expert-led guidance on how to safely manage damaged, defective or end-of-life lithium-ion batteries, and the latter reviews the expanding role of digital information in building safety and how its use is transforming fire door hardware from passive fire protection to an active data source.

Enjoy the issue.

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The new X-plore 8300 particulate PAPR from Dräger.

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EVERSHEDS SUTHERLAND EXPANDS GLOBAL DISPUTES CAPABILITY



Eversheds Sutherland has bolstered its global Litigation & Dispute Management practice with the appointment of Michiel Coenraads as a Partner in the Netherlands, and Teresa Hitchcock in Leeds as a Senior Consultant in the firm's UK Environment, Health and Safety team.

Both joining from DLA Piper, they have significant senior experience across regulatory, environmental, corporate disputes and international arbitration work.

Michiel Coenraads – coming in as Partner in the Netherlands – brings more than 20 years' experience resolving complex cross border

disputes, with a strong sector focus on Energy & Natural Resources and Industrials.

His practice spans international arbitration and corporate litigation, including ESG driven litigation. He has dealt with disputes and managed proceedings in numerous jurisdictions throughout the world including all of the main arbitration rules and under a wide variety of arbitration seats.

Michiel said: "I am delighted to be joining Eversheds Sutherland. The firm's international platform, collaborative culture and strategic focus on cross border disputes provide an ideal environment to further develop my practice."

Teresa – joining Eversheds Sutherland as a Senior Consultant in the Environment, H&S and Claims team – is a highly respected authority in environment, product stewardship, food safety, and health and safety.

Teresa's career spans senior regulatory roles in local government and decades as a lawyer advising major corporates and public bodies.

Her extensive experience includes contaminated land, climate change, regeneration projects, food and product safety, health and safety investigations, food regulatory issues and cross border compliance matters.

Teresa said: "I am really excited to join Eversheds Sutherland's EHS team. The firm's strong reputation in regulatory and disputes work, combined with its international reach, offers a fantastic opportunity to support clients on the full range of environment, product stewardship, food safety, and health and safety issues."

Mark Davenport, Global Co-Head of Litigation and Dispute Management, Eversheds Sutherland, said: "Teresa and Michiel bring outstanding credentials and experience across two strategically important areas of our global disputes practice. Their appointments support our continued commitment to providing integrated, cross border solutions to clients navigating increasingly complex regulatory and contentious landscapes. We are delighted to welcome them both to the team."

www.eversheds-sutherland.com

IMMERSE SAFETY CELEBRATES ITS SECOND YEAR BY MOVING INTO FIRST OFFICE

An award-winning Norfolk health and safety consultancy is celebrating its second anniversary – and moving into its first physical office.



Immerse Safety was set up by Carly Hughes in 2024, who initially ran the business on her own out of a spare bedroom in her home, and has now grown to a team of three.

It has been a hugely successful year for the business, more than tripling its turnover and winning a host of contracts and awards.

Carly said: "It is exciting to celebrate the business' second birthday and to move into our first physical office."

"Since launching in March 2024, the business has been operating from my home, so to now be moving into a physical office space, with my lovely colleagues, is incredible."

The all-female team moved into their new headquarters in the Centre at Beacon Park, Gorleston-on-sea, on Monday, 2 March.

Last year, the business celebrated achieving IOSH accreditation for its Managing Safely course, with two more of its courses achieving accreditation through The CPD Certification Service.

Immerse Safety also scooped a number of awards, including winning Construction & Building Services StartUp of the Year at the UK StartUp Awards and the One to Watch award at the EEEGR Awards.

The business is now venturing into supporting the renewable energy sector with its health and safety, working with some of the supply chain supporting the region's biggest infrastructure projects such as Sizewell C and the Hornsea 3 offshore wind farm.

"It feels great to be a local business supporting local infrastructure," said Carly.

"But our health and safety support has now reached as far as London, the Home Counties, East Midlands and Europe.

"It's great to move into our new home and I'm excited at what we can achieve in the future."

www.immersesafety.co.uk



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OUT MORE**

PETREL SHORTLISTED FOR INVESTMENT AWARD AT WEST MIDLANDS BUSINESS OF THE YEAR 2026

Birmingham-based specialist in hazardous area lighting Petrel has been shortlisted in the Investment category at the West Midlands Business of the Year Awards 2026.

After a rigorous judging process, Petrel's submission was shortlisted down to a group of three, recognising the significant investment that has strengthened business performance, innovation and regional impact of the award nominees.

Founded in the 1930s and operating under the Petrel brand since 1984, Petrel is a British manufacturer of ATEX, UKCA and IECEx-certified lighting solutions for hazardous and industrial environments. The company delivers end-to-end design, engineering, testing and production for safety-critical sectors such as renewables, chemical processing, distilleries, manufacturing and heavy industry.

Commenting on the shortlist, Mark Pemberton, Petrel's Managing Director said: "We're incredibly proud to be recognised alongside such respected organisations and to represent the strength of advanced manufacturing in the West Midlands."

The nomination follows a major period of investment after Petrel became part of Pioneer Safety Group (PSG) in early 2024. Phase one of a multi-stage investment programme has included refurbishment of its Birmingham site, upgrades to IT and supply chain infrastructure, expansion of research and development and testing capability. Investment at Petrel has extended beyond infrastructure and systems to its people, with enhanced benefits, wellbeing initiatives and clear progression opportunities reinforcing its commitment to

being a responsible and supportive employer. These improvements have enhanced productivity, reduced lead times and positioned the business for sustainable growth in both UK and international markets.

Petrel hopes the investment category win will recognise not only the scale of this transformation, but the impact it has had on British manufacturing, innovation in hazardous area lighting and its role as a strong regional employer in the West Midlands.

www.petrel-ex.co.uk



EXPERT COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE FUTURE OF OSH SKILLS

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), in partnership with Speedy Hire, is bringing together experts and industry leaders to strengthen skills critical to occupational safety and health (OSH) in the UK.

The initiative is designed to provide insight and solutions to help OSH professionals tackle a range of challenges threatening workplace safety, including widening skills gaps, the loss of experienced professionals, and mounting pressures on remaining staff. These issues are being further compounded by difficulties attracting and retaining talent combined with demands associated with changing working conditions and technology.

Launched at a prestigious event at the House of Lords by Head Commissioner and RoSPA Vice President Baroness Crawley of Edgbaston, the OSH Skills Commission will consist of five roundtables of experts addressing a key topic for OSH outcomes, all chaired by distinguished leaders in their field.

These discussions and findings will then be compiled into a report containing strategic recommendations for government and industry to support future-proof skills development and workforce resilience

The five topics and commissioners:

- Recruitment of competent people – Claudia Jaksh, CEO, Policy Connect
- Retention of competent people – Rick Bate, President, Institute of Occupational Safety & Health (IOSH)
- Consultation and worker representation – Luke Collins, National Health & Safety Officer, Unite the Union
- Wellbeing, culture & psychological safety – Nick Pahl, CEO, Society of Occupational Medicine (SOM)
- Technology in OSH – Kate Field, Global Head of People and Social Sustainability, British Standards Institute (BSI)

The OSH Skills Commission comes at a pivotal moment, as Skills England

and a new post-16 skills strategy are identifying priority work areas. These developments present a timely opportunity for RoSPA to lead the national conversation and help shape the future of skills development, ensuring professionals are competent and can meet evolving safety needs across sectors.

Speaking at the launch, Baroness Crawley said: "This Commission is born out of difficult circumstances. Our nation faces a growing occupational safety and health skills shortage that is impacting productivity and putting people in danger.

"Our goal is to influence policy through stakeholder engagement and drive informed change to improve skills and competencies in this country, once more positioning the UK as a world leader in health and safety. Together, we have an opportunity to future-proof OSH skills, support national productivity, and build a safe, stronger workforce."

www.rospace.com/safety-campaigns/osh-skills-commission



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BSIF LAUNCHES LATEST IT'S IN YOUR HANDS CAMPAIGN TO TACKLE PREVENTABLE WORK-RELATED SKIN DISEASES

The British Safety Industry Federation (BSIF) has launched an update of its It's in your hands campaign, calling on employers and workers to take practical steps to prevent work-related skin disease.

The campaign highlights the scale of the problem and the fact that most cases are avoidable. Work-related skin disease can lead to pain, discomfort and time away from work and in serious cases, people may be forced to change jobs. It also results in millions of pounds in compensation and costs industry millions more in absence and retraining.

Dermatitis accounts for more than 70% of work-related skin disease cases. Hands are most at risk, although other parts of the body can also be affected.

The updated campaign guide sets out clear advice for employers and employees. It explains how to recognise early signs of dermatitis, including redness, swelling, cracking, itching and blistering of the skin. It also outlines legal duties under COSHH and other health and safety regulations, reminding employers that hazardous substances must be assessed and controlled before work begins.

A central message of the campaign is the need to reduce skin contact with hazardous substances and wet work. The guide promotes the principle of Safe Working Distance, encouraging businesses to avoid skin contact where possible, substitute harmful substances, introduce engineering controls and improve working practices before relying on personal protective equipment.

Where protective gloves and clothing are needed, the campaign stresses that selection must match the task, the substance and the wearer. An "any gloves will do" approach can increase the risk of dermatitis rather than reduce it.

The guidance also covers the importance of skin care recommending suitable pre-work creams, mild skin cleansers and after-work moisturisers to help maintain the skin's natural barrier. Regular skin checks are encouraged

to support early detection and prevent more serious cases developing.

Outdoor workers are reminded of the risk of skin cancer from long-term exposure to the sun. The campaign advises the use of shade, protective clothing and a minimum SPF 30 sunscreen to protect exposed skin.

Commenting on the launch, John Hooker, Chief Executive Officer of the BSIF, said: "It's in your hands builds on the strong foundations laid by the original campaign and the progress made across industry over the past two decades. We have seen encouraging signs that awareness and reporting have improved, but work-related skin disease remains far too common.

"Skin health should not be treated as an afterthought or only discussed when something goes wrong. It needs to be part of everyday health and safety management. Simple measures such as proper risk assessment, selecting the right gloves, reducing direct contact with harmful substances and encouraging early reporting can prevent long-term harm.

"This refreshed campaign is a reminder that prevention is practical and achievable. Employers and workers both have a role to play. By making skin protection routine, we can reduce avoidable illness, cut costs for business and protect people's livelihoods."

The updated guide includes sector-specific advice for industries ranging from manufacturing and construction to food service and personal care. It urges organisations of all sizes to share the campaign materials, review their risk assessments and make sure workers have access to suitable washing facilities, protective equipment and skin care products.

BSIF is encouraging businesses across the UK to download and use the refreshed materials and to make prevention of skin disease a routine part of workplace health management.

<https://bsif.co.uk>



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IN THE COURTS



POLICE FORCE FINED AFTER STUDENT OFFICER HIT BY CAR ON CHRISTMAS EVE

A police force has been fined after one of its officers was hit by a passing car while responding to a traffic collision on Christmas Eve.

The 22-year-old was a student officer working for West Mercia Police when the incident happened on 24 December 2023. The officer had been responding to the traffic collision in Bridgnorth, Shropshire. That collision occurred on a single carriageway road that had no street lighting and where the national speed limit for the road was 60 mph.

The officer had been stood on a bend, managing traffic at the scene when he was hit by a passing car. He sustained life-threatening and life-changing injuries.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that West Mercia Police failed to do all that was reasonably practicable to manage the risks arising from or in connection with traffic collisions. The force's risk assessments were not suitable and sufficient and it failed to provide adequate equipment for safely responding to traffic collisions.

There was also a lack of suitable information, instruction and training for its officers. As a result, employees and members of the public were exposed to unnecessary risks.

In June 2021, the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) sent all police forces across the UK a series of recommendation reports which provided relevant advice explaining how to implement road safety recommendations following an officer and staff safety review report.

The Office of Chief Constable West Mercia Police, Headquarters, Hindlip Hall, Hindlip, Worcester, pleaded guilty to breaching Sections 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The force was fined £85,800 and ordered to pay £9,402 in costs at Birmingham Magistrates Court on 20 February 2026.

HSE Inspector Keeley Eves said: "We recognise that police officers inevitably face significant and serious dangers as part of their normal work. The nature of policing is such that even where all reasonably practicable steps have been taken to minimise the risks, there may still be a significant risk to those engaged in such work.

"However, police officers should not be exposed to unnecessary risks while keeping the public safe.

"In this case, West Mercia Police failed to implement all reasonably practicable measures to minimise risks to its employees and members of the public in connection with road traffic collisions.

"Tragically, this resulted in a student police officer sustaining life changing injuries.

"After the incident, the force implemented significant changes, which included revisions to risk assessments, policies, procedures, equipment and training.

"These measures should have been in place prior to the incident."

This HSE prosecution was brought by enforcement lawyer Edward Parton and paralegal officer Lynne Thomas.

RACKING COLLAPSE SEES TWO WORKERS KILLED

Two companies have been fined following an incident which resulted in the deaths of two workers in West Yorkshire.

Lee Horton, 58, and Daron Pickstock, 43, were killed when an industrial racking system collapsed as it was being tested at Castefields Industrial Estate in Bingley on 29 October 2020.

The racking was being tested at a site belonging to Space Productiv Ltd, of which Mr Horton, from Ilkley, was the managing director. Mr Pickstock, who was from Chorley, was self-employed and working for a company called Collins Site Services.

The racking system was being loaded with test weights, some of which weighed up to two tonnes, when the structure began to collapse. The 2 men had been working from a mobile elevating work platform (MEWP) next to the racking structure as it was being loaded.

However, as the structure collapsed, it struck the MEWP, causing it to overturn while both men were inside. Mr

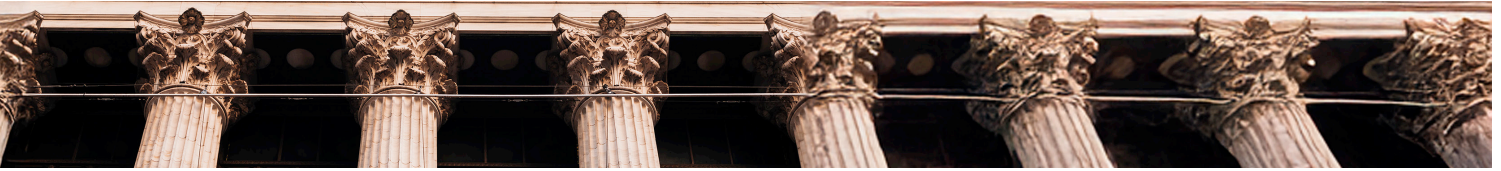
Horton and Mr Pickstock sustained fatal injuries and died shortly afterwards.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that both companies failed to adequately assess the risks arising from the work being undertaken and failed to put in place a safe system of work to ensure the health and safety of those involved.

HSE found that the planned and implemented systems of work were unsafe. Workers were positioned within the collapse zone of the racking during testing, placing them at serious risk should the structure fail.

Space Productiv Ltd pleaded guilty to breaching Sections 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £97,500 and ordered to pay £17,377 in costs at Leeds Crown Court on 11 February 2026.

Collins Site Services Ltd pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £60,000 and ordered to pay £10,292 in costs at Leeds Crown Court on 11 February 2026.



CHEMICAL COMPANY PROSECUTED AFTER AGENCY WORKER SUFFERS CHEMICAL BURNS

A manufacturer of household cleaning products in Nottingham has been fined after an agency worker suffered burns to her face, eye, neck and arm when she was doused in a corrosive sink and drain unblocker.

Marzanna Sokolowska was working for Flowchem UK Ltd at its manufacturing site in Nottingham on 2 November 2023 when she was doused with a significant quantity of corrosive liquid after accidentally opening the wrong valve on a 1,000-litre container.

Ms Sokolowska was working in a team decanting sink and drain un-blocker liquid from bulk containers at shoulder height into smaller containers for sale.

Ms Sokolowska accidentally opened the outlet valve on an adjacent container to the one fitted with a decanting hose, which had no end cap fitted. The liquid sprayed out under considerable force splashing her in the face and upper body.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the system of work employed by Flowchem exposed their employees and agency workers to health and safety risks in the event of leaks or losses of containment.

Training arrangements, including the provision of adequate information to workers with limited understanding of English was inadequate. Whilst some personal protective equipment (PPE) was provided by the company, it was routinely not worn, and there was inadequate supervision or monitoring to ensure the use of PPE.

Whilst eye-wash bottles were provided, the first aid arrangements available did not take account of the potential scale of any exposure, including the lack of a shower for example.

CARE HOME CHARGED AFTER RESIDENT CHOKED TO DEATH ON MEAL

A Selkirk care company has been fined after a resident choked to death on food that had not been prepared in accordance with his dietary requirements.

Selkirk Sheriff Court heard that on 25 May 2023, Thomas Telford, known as Barry, aged 86, choked during lunch at Riverside Healthcare Centre, Bridge Street, Selkirk. Mr Telford had been a resident at the home since 9 May 2023, having been admitted directly from Kelso Community Hospital. He had a complex medical and a well-documented history of dysphagia – difficulty swallowing – that had been identified as far back as November 2019.

Mr Telford had been assessed as requiring a Level 5 (minced and moist) diet under the International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative (IDDSI), meaning all food should be minced into small moist pieces no greater than 15mm in length and 4mm wide. His care plan also required that he be supervised at mealtimes due to his tendency to overfill his mouth and eat quickly, and he had been identified as being at high risk of choking.

At lunchtime on 25 May 2023, Mr Telford was served a meal of beef, mashed potato and cabbage. The beef served to him had not been prepared in accordance with his Level 5 dietary requirements. A carer supervising the dining room noticed his lips turning blue and immediately raised the alarm. Backslaps and abdominal thrusts were administered, and an ambulance was called. He was pronounced dead at Borders General Hospital at 2pm.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Riverside Care Limited had failed to ensure a sufficiently robust system of work for the preparation and serving of texture-modified meals. Whilst the home operated a broadly suitable system of serving either normal or modified meals, and staff had received training

on dysphagia and the IDDSI framework, that system had failed on the day in question. As a result, Mr Telford was served food that was not safe for him to consume.

Employers providing care to individuals with swallowing difficulties must ensure that systems for preparing and serving texture-modified diets are sufficiently robust to guarantee that only appropriate food is served to those who require it, at every mealtime without exception.

HSE provides extensive guidance intended to help those providing and managing care homes – to give them a better understanding of the real risks and how to manage them effectively.

On Tuesday 3 March 2026, Riverside Care Limited, of Bridge Street, Selkirk, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £16,000 at Selkirk Sheriff Court.



ENSURING DIGNITY, SAFETY AND EQUALITY

Wheelchair users do not have to be transferred out of their wheelchairs during an evacuation; there are devices that take the user and their wheelchair. Here, Evaccess emphasises the importance of inclusive evacuation.



Imagine living day to day in a custom, specialised wheelchair which has not only cost the price of a car, but enables you to manoeuvre the world freely and independently. Now imagine that you must leave it behind in a fire evacuation, knowing that there are evacuation chairs available which can carry your custom wheelchair.

INTRODUCTION TO EVACCESS

For over 20 years Evaccess have provided evacuation devices that enable a person to remain in their wheelchair. Many forward-thinking organisations, such as schools, universities, arenas, stadiums, public buildings and venues, have made the decision to preserve the dignity of wheelchair users and implement powered evacuation chairs into their evacuation plan.

However, despite legal obligations and ethical responsibilities, many buildings still fail to provide a safe and effective means of evacuation for those who need assistance.

At Evaccess, we specialise in assisted evacuation devices (AEDs) that provide dignified, safe, and effective evacuation solutions. We understand the risks of using the wrong equipment and the dangers of poorly planned evacuation routes.

We offer expert guidance on:

- Choosing the right evacuation equipment.
- The importance of Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs).

- How to train your team to confidently handle emergency evacuations.

EVACUATION IN WHEELCHAIRS: SOLUTIONS

Would an evacuation plan be allowed if reaching a safer area meant that someone would have to lose a limb? No? Then why, when there are options available, are evacuation plans passed which involve the transfer of a wheelchair user?

Evaccess has provided six powered options for wheelchair evacuation for over 20 years, making the company the forerunner for fully inclusive evacuation services.

Feedback from multiple questionnaires has listed manual handling, speed and price as the primary concerns for companies buying evacuation chairs.

Evaccess offers solutions to all of these concerns. Evaccess chairs require simple operation by one trained individual. The speed is fine-tuned to provide a safe, level passage on a stairway, yet not fast enough to incite the loss of control. Additionally, this concern should be dispelled with the knowledge that the powered chairs will remain level and motionless without a button being constantly held down.

Despite there being multiple pricing options, can you really put a price on an individual's dignity and future accessibility?

LEGALITIES AND MORAL OBLIGATIONS

"Do not refuse entry to a wheelchair user because you could not evacuate them."

- **Fire Reform Equality Act.**

"Ensure that all people ... can leave the building safely in the event of a fire."

- **Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005**

"Schools and colleges are obliged to anticipate and put in place 'reasonable adjustments' to avoid disabled students being treated less favourably."

- **Equality Act 2010**

An extremely low number of organisations and companies offer an evacuation plan where a wheelchair user can be evacuated in their own chair. This is a problem as, without an appropriate evacuation route, wheelchair users enter buildings with the risk of losing their life.

The CEO of Sociability posted on LinkedIn in reflection of World Wheelchair Day, listing reasons why their wheelchair is a 'tool for freedom' rather than something they are restricted by. They describe how the wheelchair enables them to work as CEO, to travel, to speak publicly and to navigate their life fully. Reflecting on this, losing a wheelchair in an evacuation would put the person back to square one, restricting their life once again.

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT EVACUATION EQUIPMENT

Selecting the right evacuation chair or stair climber is not as simple as buying any available product and placing it by the stairs.

A well-planned evacuation strategy must consider who will use the equipment, where it will be used, and who will operate it.

At Evaccess, we take a four-step approach to ensure that businesses choose the right evacuation solutions:



STEP 1: CONSULTATION & SITE SURVEY

Before selecting evacuation equipment, we conduct a comprehensive assessment of your premises. This includes:

- Evaluating your staircases and escape routes.
- Identifying who will operate the evacuation device.
- Determining whether the intended users can self-transfer.
- Testing different models to find the best fit for your needs.

We also bring equipment for live demonstrations so that your team can see first-hand how it performs in an emergency scenario.

Learn more about our **evacuation products**.

STEP 2: PERSONAL EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLANS (PEEPS)

A Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP) is not just a document – it's a life-saving plan. It must be:

- Legally compliant and tailored to the individual.
- Tested and practiced ensuring a smooth evacuation.
- Agreed upon by all relevant parties, including the individual affected.

Many businesses assume that the Fire Service will handle evacuations – this is not the case. It is your responsibility to have the right AEDs on-site and ready for immediate use.

If you need expert advice, contact us

Find out more about our **PEEPs training**.

STEP 3: TRAINING – COMPETENCE SAVES LIVES

Buying the best evacuation equipment is pointless if your staff don't know how to use it properly. Training is critical to ensuring that, in an emergency, your team can:

- Confidently operate evacuation devices.
- Safely evacuate disabled and vulnerable individuals.
- Respond quickly and effectively under pressure.

At Evaccess, we offer:

- **Operator training** – Hands-on sessions to build confidence and competence.
- **Train-the-Trainer programs** – Empowering internal teams to train others.
- **Annual refresher courses** – Keeping staff ready and prepared.

Explore our **training options**.

STEP 4: SERVICING & ONGOING SUPPORT

AEDs need regular servicing to remain operational. A faulty evacuation chair during an emergency can have catastrophic consequences. That's why we provide:

- Annual servicing to ensure your equipment is in top condition.
- Regular testing and inspections to catch potential issues early.
- Support for all makes and models of evacuation chairs and stair climbers.

<https://evaccess.uk>

INTERPRETING THE EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT

There is a new legal obligation for health and safety, explains Peoplesafe. It requires structured risk management, proportional controls and documented evidence of action.

The Employment Rights Act introduces strengthened protections for workers, placing clearer responsibility on employers to prevent harassment from customers, service users and members of the public. While this may initially appear to sit within HR policy, it is fundamentally a health and safety issue – requiring structured risk management, proportionate controls and documented evidence of action.

For health and safety professionals, this marks a shift from reactive response to proactive prevention. The emphasis is no longer solely on responding appropriately after an incident has occurred, but on demonstrating that ‘all reasonable steps’ have been taken to prevent harm before it happens.

RECOGNISING THIRD-PARTY HARASSMENT AS A WORKPLACE HAZARD

Third-party harassment – abuse, intimidation or threatening behaviour from customers, clients, patients or the public – must now be treated as a foreseeable workplace risk. For many public-facing and lone workers, exposure to hostility is not hypothetical; it is an operational reality.

Under the Act, this risk should be managed in the same way as any other occupational hazard: identified, assessed and controlled. Written policies alone are unlikely to be sufficient. H&S professionals should be reviewing whether existing risk assessments reflect real-world behavioural risks, particularly for lone workers or those operating without direct supervision.

Increasingly, organisations are strengthening their approach through integrated personal safety systems such as Peoplesafe’s lone worker monitoring and incident escalation services, which provide visibility of behavioural patterns, hotspot data and real-time reporting. This type of intelligence-led insight enables H&S teams to evidence that risks have been actively assessed and managed.

THE EXPECTATION OF PROACTIVE CONTROL MEASURES

A key implication of the Act is that action must be demonstrably preventative. Health and safety leaders should be asking: Are current controls adequate? Are they consistently applied? Can we evidence that they are working?

Proactive measures may include visible signage stating abuse will not be tolerated, structured training on managing difficult interactions, and clear escalation pathways when employees feel unsafe.

Technology is becoming a central part of the control hierarchy for managing harassment and abuse risks. When implemented successfully, it enhances protection, supports early intervention, and strengthens accountability.

Solutions such as Peoplesafe’s SOS alarms, welfare check-ins and 24/7 Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC) monitoring



provide employees with immediate access to assistance. These systems do not replace traditional risk controls – they strengthen them by adding a layer of real-time response and reassurance.

For H&S professionals, the value lies not only in response capability but in the demonstrable control measure it represents within the hierarchy of risk management.

EVIDENCE, DOCUMENTATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Documentation is central to compliance. In the event of a tribunal, investigation or regulatory review, organisations must be able to evidence the steps taken to prevent harassment and protect workers.

Health and safety teams should ensure that:

- Risk assessments are current and regularly reviewed.
- Training attendance is recorded.
- Incidents and near-misses are logged consistently.
- Follow-up actions are completed and documented.

Without an auditable trail, even robust arrangements can appear insufficient. This is another area where integrated systems such as Peoplesafe’s incident reporting platform can support compliance. Time-stamped records of alerts, communications and escalation decisions create a defensible evidence base, helping organisations demonstrate that reasonable and proportionate steps were taken.

TRANSLATING LEGAL DUTY INTO PRACTICAL PROTECTION

The Employment Rights Act reinforces that third-party harassment is not simply an HR matter but a workplace safety hazard requiring structured control. For H&S professionals, the challenge is translating legal obligation into practical, defensible protection strategies.

By combining robust risk assessments, documented preventative measures and integrated personal safety technology such as Peoplesafe, organisations can move beyond policy statements and demonstrate a genuine, proactive commitment to employee protection.

In an environment of increasing accountability, that ability to evidence action may prove just as important as the action itself.

<https://peoplesafe.co.uk>



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THE TECHNOLOGY BRIDGING THE GAP

Ideagen discusses how real-time monitoring solves noise protection challenges.

Organisations managing high-noise workplaces face a complex challenge: despite investing in hearing protection for their workers, PPE-based approaches aren't delivering the protection they expect. The UK Health and Safety Executive's September 2025 inspection campaign revealed why – 95% of workplaces lacked systems to verify workers could hear critical safety signals, 80% hadn't provided comprehensive training on wearing techniques, and 75% of employees were missing essential knowledge about equipment maintenance.

As one of the HSE's Principal Specialist Inspectors, observed: "This isn't about blame – it's about recognising a key challenge." Personal protective equipment sits at the bottom of the hierarchy of controls precisely because it requires constant attention. Unlike engineering controls that work automatically, hearing protection demands ongoing information, instruction, training and supervision to remain effective.

But real-time monitoring technology is changing that equation, enabling an advanced approach that traditional methods never could.

WHY TRADITIONAL METHODS CAN'T KEEP UP

For decades, organisations have relied on periodic assessments that function as snapshots – useful for a specific moment, but inadequate for monitoring dynamic work environments. Noise exposure varies dramatically from person to person, even when doing identical jobs. Operator competency, PPE fit, ear anatomy and exposure patterns all affect how each individual experiences noise. Traditional assessments estimate exposure based on ambient noise calculations, missing these unique, evolving conditions entirely.

“95% OF WORKPLACES LACKED SYSTEMS TO VERIFY WORKERS COULD HEAR CRITICAL SAFETY SIGNALS.”

THE REAL-TIME REVOLUTION: TECHNOLOGY THAT CHANGES THE EQUATION

Real-time noise monitoring represents a fundamental shift in protecting workers from noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL). Technology now provides the continuous oversight that hearing protection application requires – automatically, intelligently and without traditional administrative burdens.

Modern monitoring technology directly addresses each HSE-identified gap:

Closing the 80% training gap – Real-time systems alert workers immediately when action levels are exceeded, providing coaching in the moment and driving behavioural change where it matters most.



Solving the 95% verification problem – Pairing certified monitoring devices with wearable safety technology like the Ideagen R-Link watch, automatically captures personal exposure data, documenting high-risk exposures and tracking high-risk workers without additional administrative burden.

Addressing the 75% knowledge gap – Cloud platforms continuously refresh exposure reports by worker, team or location, while supervisors gain live visibility to identify

hotspots, verify controls and intervene before exposures become hazardous.

The most significant advancement is measuring worker exposure from inside the ear rather than estimating from ambient noise. In-ear monitoring reveals the actual dose each worker receives, accounting for individual factors traditional assessments miss – PPE wear, work patterns, proximity to noise sources and ear anatomy. This shift from estimation to precision enables truly effective risk management.

Leading noise monitoring brands – Casella, Larson Davis, Pambry and NoiseSmart – have created a connected ecosystem centred on the Ideagen R-Link watch. Organisations can choose the monitoring solution that best fits their workforce – traditional dosimeters or innovative in-ear monitors – while benefiting from integrated real-time feedback, automated tracking and comprehensive analytics.

“THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT IS MEASURING WORKER EXPOSURE FROM INSIDE THE EAR RATHER THAN ESTIMATING FROM AMBIENT NOISE.”

The Ideagen R-Link watch delivers advanced occupational health monitoring beyond noise alone. The eco-system supports monitoring of hand-arm vibration and dust exposure, giving organisations a complete picture of multiple workplace hazards through a single integrated platform. Workers wear the Ideagen R-Link watch, supervisors access one dashboard, and health and safety managers analyse trends across all exposure types – providing the real-time insight needed for effective risk management in industries where workers face multiple simultaneous exposures.

THE PATH FORWARD

Real-time monitoring benefits extend beyond addressing HSE gaps. Measuring data that matters enables easier identification of problem areas, operator issues and workplace trends, supporting confident decisions that mitigate problems before they begin.

The stakes are high. Once hearing damage occurs, it cannot be reversed. NIHL is entirely preventable, yet the HSE estimates more than two million UK workers are exposed to unacceptable levels of noise at work. Extensive research also links NIHL to cognitive decline and neurodegenerative diseases including dementia.

Organisations needn't transform entire noise management programs overnight. Start by investing in wearable safety technology that pairs with multiple monitoring sources to unlock automated exposure tracking and real-time worker feedback. Establish baseline noise levels, identify hotspots, then focus monitoring where impact is greatest: high-noise zones or workers with low PPE adoption.

The question isn't whether you can afford to upgrade your approach – it's whether you can afford not to. Real-time noise monitoring is making good on the promise that Noise-Induced Hearing Loss is entirely preventable, not just in theory but in practice.

To find out more, visit **Ideagen Wearable Safety**.



SAFE HANDS

Emma Lovelock of hand protection specialist Unigloves highlights some of the key considerations when it comes to buying latex gloves.

Latex gloves have been around for over 100 years and remain popular PPE choices today across many industrial sectors, due to their versatility, strength, elasticity, and flexibility.

But in a market that is flooded with cheap disposable latex gloves, it can be tempting to try to reduce PPE costs by purchasing on price alone.

However, this strategy can create a false economy. Cheaper products tear more easily, leading to higher replacement costs over time. Lower-cost manufacturing processes may also raise the risk of irritation and sensitisation in wearers, including latex allergies.

WHAT IS LATEX?

Natural rubber latex (NRL) is derived from a milk-like sap found in the rubber trees, *Hevea Brasiliensis*, of Africa and South-East Asia. The sap is a mixture of water, sugar, and proteins. During the manufacturing process, this natural rubber latex is mixed with accelerators, undergoing a series of chemical processes to increase flexibility, for example.

Despite concerns around latex allergies, latex gloves remain a popular choice given their levels of comfort, hygiene, flexibility and dexterity. This makes them particularly popular in roles where touch sensitivity is important. They also offer a high degree of protection against a range of chemicals, caustic agents, detergents, and biohazards such as bacteria and other pathogens.

WHAT MAKES CHEAP LATEX GLOVES CHEAPER?

Several factors play into the cost of latex gloves. These include raw materials, manufacturing processes, and quality control. So, knowing what goes into the manufacturing of latex gloves is important to consider.

Raw materials: The raw materials used in disposable gloves, especially in cheap latex gloves, can cause sensitivity and allergies in some wearers; leading to skin conditions and even more serious reactions such as respiratory issues and anaphylaxis.

Chemical accelerators: Another factor to consider is chemical accelerators used in the manufacturing process of disposable gloves. It is recommended to choose gloves which are accelerator free, phthalate free, and/or treated to reduce latex protein levels. Phthalates are inexpensive chemical additives used to make gloves more flexible and durable whilst chemical accelerators are used to stabilise latex.

Manufacturing processes: Along with cheaper raw materials, most inexpensive disposable gloves are produced using cheap phthalates and/or chemical accelerators and aren't subject to advanced treatment processes which help to reduce the likelihood of Type I and Type IV sensitivities.

Powder free and low-protein gloves, while more expensive to manufacture, reduce the likelihood of Type I sensitisation, latex allergy, in wearers as well as reducing the likelihood of particulate contamination in the workplace.

Quality control and testing standards: Make sure you select gloves that have been certified against internationally recognised standards including:



- **EN ISO 374 (Chemical & Micro-organism Protection):** divided into:

Type A: Breakthrough time >30 min against ≥ 6 chemicals.

Type B: Breakthrough time >30 min against ≥ 3 chemicals.

Type C: Breakthrough time >10 min against ≥ 1 chemicals.

- **EN 374-2 (Penetration):** Ensuring a liquid-proof barrier against water and microorganisms.
- **EN 16523-1 (Permeation):** Measures how long a chemical takes to pass through the glove material.
- **EN 374-4 (Degradation):** Measures deterioration of the glove material, for example swelling or brittle, when exposed to chemicals.
- **EN 374-5 (Micro-organisms):** Tests resistance to bacteria or fungi. If it passes virus tests, it is marked with the word 'VIRUS'.
- **EN 388 (Mechanical Risks):** Tests resistance to abrasion, blade cut, tear, and puncture.

Some manufacturers, gloves do not meet these standards – often reflected in the price point. Always consult the manufacturer's product guide to ensure that the appropriate quality standards have been met.

LATEX GLOVE TREATMENTS

Leading manufacturers, including Unigloves, use several treatments and proprietary processes during manufacturing. These include:

Chlorination: Reducing tackiness in gloves, improving the ease of donning and removal. Used as an alternative to powdering gloves, this process can help to reduce the likelihood of particulate contamination and Type I and IV sensitivities, including latex allergies, in wearers. Extra washing during chlorination can also reduce the level of soluble latex proteins in latex gloves.

Leaching: Removes or 'denatures' natural water-soluble proteins and removes adverse materials such as processed chemical residues. Water or wet gel leaching helps to wash out excess additives from previous stages, such as coagulant, and during this stage, the chemical and protein content of gloves is also reduced.

CONCLUSION

Buying latex gloves based on price alone is often a false economy, as cheaper, lower-quality options frequently result in higher overall costs, increased waste, and significant safety risks.

Working with leading manufacturers will help reduce risk and ensure you are selecting the right gloves for the job to help keep working hands safe.

<https://uk.unigloves.com>



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CIRCULAR WORKWEAR IS THE FUTURE

phs Besafe's Managing Director Mark Stone looks at how rising environmental expectations, tighter waste targets and stronger corporate responsibility commitments are reshaping the PPE market.



Sustainability is increasingly shaping how PPE is produced, used and disposed of in the UK, driven by environmental concerns and corporate responsibility.

There has been a notable and encouraging shift towards greener materials and processes in the PPE market. The EU's revised Waste Framework Directive, which came into force at the end of last year, is pushing the textile sector towards a circular economy.

Its aim is to reduce textile waste, improve reuse and recycling rates, encourage better design for durability and circularity, and ultimately cut environmental impacts tied to textile production and disposal.

Although, legally, this does not apply to the UK market yet, it has set a precedent to work towards, and we are seeing attitudes and procurements evolving as a result.

“PROFESSIONALLY LAUNDERED PPE LASTS LONGER, PERFORMS MORE CONSISTENTLY AND REQUIRES FEWER REPLACEMENTS.”

It's a shift phs Besafe has long been advocating for. Sustainability and innovation is the foundation of our business. Our aim is simple: keep workwear in use for as long as possible and minimise waste.

Our workwear is designed for optimum durability, protection and functionality for maximum safety, less waste and lower long-term costs.

Our in-house laundry and drying processes are unique to the industry, offering a low energy, high quality service using eco-friendly technologies and products. These are designed to prolong the life of garments and protect their safety features.

For our customers, this translates into PPE that performs better, lasts longer and delivers lower lifetime costs – not just environmental benefits.

Of course, the market itself will not make an overnight change, but we are seeing positive improvements. For many organisations, sustainable PPE is now part of wider ESG strategies and net-zero commitments. Choosing suppliers that can demonstrate circular practices, measurable carbon reductions and responsible waste management is becoming the norm.

UK organisations increasingly require PPE suppliers to provide carbon emissions and sustainability data as part of procurement decisions, making sustainability a key factor alongside safety and cost.

At the start of the cycle, more manufacturers are moving away from virgin fabrics. They are switching to eco-friendly and recycled materials to cut the environmental footprint of production.

Businesses are beginning to prioritise high-quality, durable garments that can withstand regular use, meaning less waste and lower long-term costs.

However, there is one part of the cycle that is still often overlooked. Laundry and maintenance play a critical role in sustainability in the PPE market. High-quality, professionally laundered PPE lasts longer, performs more consistently and requires fewer replacements.

Through phs Besafe's managed laundry services, garments are cleaned and decontaminated safely in an environmentally friendly process that prolongs garment life and protects safety features. Items are inspected for damage, repaired or replaced when necessary, and returned to circulation via recycling schemes rather than being discarded.

For our customers, this approach extends product life, reduces procurement volumes and ensures compliance with safety standards – all while cutting waste. It also supports a more efficient, closed-loop system that considers the whole life of a garment.

The future of PPE in the UK is not just about protection – it's about protection with purpose. By designing out waste, extending garment life and embracing reuse and recycling, the industry can deliver both safety and sustainability.

With our focus on specialist workwear, managed laundry and circular processes, phs Besafe is helping businesses make that transition – proving that the most effective PPE solutions don't just safeguard workers, they safeguard the environment too.

phs Besafe offers a fully tracked and tailored workwear supply and laundry service for a wide range of industries including rail, fire, aggregate, manufacturing and transport markets.

Garments include safety wear, high visibility and flame-resistant garments and foul weather gear.

phs Besafe also offers a convenient locker-based collection and return laundry service, ensuring staff always have the PPE they need, clean and safe and ready to wear.

www.phsbesafe.co.uk

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EN388



2110A

EN ISO 374-1
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DESIGNED TO PROTECT

ProGARM's women-led product development team provide valuable insight into why arc flash PPE needs to work for women.

As a team of women working in garment product development, we spend a lot of time thinking about how protective clothing actually behaves in the real world. How it fits, how it moves, how it manages heat and how different layers work together. All of these things really matter, especially in arc flash environments where the consequences of failure are serious.

For a long time, the industry has worked from a fairly narrow set of assumptions about who the wearer is. It's a well-recognised issue that arc flash PPE hasn't always been designed with women in mind. When garments are designed around male body shapes, women are often left adapting, having to wear oversized clothing, compromising on fit, or layering everyday garments underneath PPE that was never designed to offer arc flash protection in the first place.

From a technical point of view, that creates some very serious risks. Something as simple as height can place the chest and neck closer to the arc flash blast zone. Poor fitting PPE can leave gaps or interfere with how protective layers are meant to perform together. Clothing that's too loose or too tight can restrict movement, reducing ability and increasing the risk of contact and non-arc-rated underlayers, including everyday bras, can melt or conduct heat during an incident, significantly worsening injuries.

These are well-understood risks, and understanding them is fundamental to designing arc flash PPE that genuinely protects women.

That's why involving women in the design and development of arc flash PPE is so important. When women are part of the process, different questions get asked. Those questions directly influence pattern cutting, fabric selection and garment construction and ultimately, how well the PPE does its job, taking into account the differences between male and female requirements.

“POOR FITTING PPE CAN LEAVE GAPS OR INTERFERE WITH HOW PROTECTIVE LAYERS ARE MEANT TO PERFORM TOGETHER.”

At ProGARM, these conversations have shaped the development of our new Gen 2 arc flash range. Our role in that process has been focused on refining fit and performance using feedback from women working in arc flash environments and ensuring the options are made available for everyone. Gen 2 builds on earlier designs, improving comfort, mobility and wearability while still meeting the protection levels required for



hazardous electrical work. The goal has never been to create something 'different' just for the sake of it, but to create PPE that works properly for the people wearing it.

You feel the impact of that approach almost immediately. When PPE fits properly, movement improves and distractions disappear, but there's something else that changes too: confidence. When women trust their PPE, they're more likely to wear it as intended, layer it correctly and focus fully on the task in front of them. From a technical perspective, that trust is just as important as the materials and standards behind the garment.

Industry voices like Katy Robinson, who has been instrumental in highlighting issues around inclusivity in PPE and construction through her PPE and Release The Bogs campaigns, have played a big role in moving this conversation forward. As a strong advocate for women's PPE, Katy has consistently drawn attention to the risks women face when wearing ill-fitting PPE or not having access to the right protection.

Reflecting on ProGARM's women's range, Katy said: "I genuinely appreciate the thought and expertise that's gone into protecting women working in arc flash environments. The risks of wearing non-rated PPE or everyday clothing aren't talked about nearly enough, and there are so many women on the tools every day who don't realise how exposed they are. What you're doing is making a real difference."

For us at ProGARM, that really underlines why education and design have to go hand in hand. Many women don't realise how exposed they are, not because they're careless, but because the industry hasn't always made

space for them in safety conversations. Closing that gap means designing PPE that reflects real bodies, real working conditions and real lives.

That same thinking has pushed innovation beyond traditional garments. Our purpose-designed arc-rated bras address an area that's been historically overlooked in arc flash protection, while our arc-rated hijabs ensure women who wear religious head coverings aren't excluded from compliant PPE. From a garment technology point of view, these solutions are about removing risk, not adding complexity.

We're not trying to create a separate category of PPE for women, we're trying to raise the standard of arc flash protection overall. PPE that fits properly is more likely to perform as intended, and PPE that reflects the diversity of today's workforce is simply better.

“WHEN WOMEN TRUST THEIR PPE, THEY'RE MORE LIKELY TO WEAR IT AS INTENDED.”

The workforce is evolving, and protective clothing has to evolve with it. Women are a vital part of high-risk, high-skill industries, and they deserve arc flash PPE designed with the same care, rigour and technical expertise as any other garment. As women in this sector, that responsibility sits at the heart of what we do and it's something we take seriously at ProGARM.

www.progarm.com



GET **AHEAD** WITH HEIGHT

Adam Evans, ABUS UK Managing Director UK and Ireland, investigates how planning, equipment and safe working practices can reduce risk and support compliance when working at height.



Falls from height remain one of the leading causes of serious workplace injuries and fatalities, affecting sectors ranging from construction and maintenance to agriculture and commercial property management.

A recent BBC report highlighted a worker who fell approximately 13 feet from a roof while working alone, sustaining serious injuries. The business owner was given a suspended prison sentence, as the investigation revealed the task had not been properly planned, the risks were not adequately controlled, and no measures were in place to prevent a fall or reduce its impact.

The case was described as “tragic but avoidable incident,” one which illustrates the importance of thorough planning, appropriate equipment, and comprehensive training in managing the risks associated with working at height.

Ultimately, “had suitable control measures been implemented, this incident would not have occurred,” said the Health and Safety Executive Lead Inspector.

PLANNING AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Analysis of incidents highlights the value of considering ways to reduce exposure to risk then tasks involve work at height.

Reports have highlighted situations in which tasks might have been completed with less direct exposure, such as using equipment or platforms that allow work to be carried out from a safer position.

Comprehensive risk assessments occurring prior to any works programme considers of site conditions, weather, fragile surfaces, and interactions with other workers

or equipment, while also reflecting the duration and complexity of the task. These factors inform decisions about equipment selection, supervision and contingency measures to manage hazards effectively.

The selection of personal protective equipment (PPE) is a critical part of planning. Harnesses, lanyards, and anchor points must be compatible, meet current standards, and be regularly inspected. Alongside the importance of comfort to ensure each worker accepts and understands the requirements to adopt such protective measures.

The effectiveness of these systems also depends on their technical specification and on their capability to integrate with other safety measures and the work environment.

Historical incident reviews frequently demonstrate how reliance on a single device or on assumptions about worker experience can increase the likelihood of injury. Embedding protective systems within broader safety procedures, combined with consistent checks and maintenance, strengthens their reliability in day-to-day operations.

Training and competence are closely linked with planning and equipment. Workers benefit from a combination of technical instruction and practical exercises that reinforce knowledge, develop situational awareness, and support confident use of protective systems.

Familiarity with emergency procedures, including rescue plans, enables workers to respond effectively if a fall occurs. Routine refreshers and supervision help maintain these skills and ensure that safe practices are reinforced as part of everyday work, reducing the risk of lapses that could lead to incidents.



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EMBEDDING SAFER PRACTICES

Observations of workplaces following robust safety procedures indicate that measures such as stabilising ladders, monitoring work on fragile surfaces, and encouraging team awareness contribute to safer outcomes.

Supervisors play a key role in modelling and reinforcing these behaviours, ensuring adherence to procedures is maintained across all levels of the workforce.

Rescue planning is an essential component of work at height, where confidence in timely assistance, clear identification of responsible personnel, and practical exercises to test procedures help prepare teams for emergency situations. Embedding these practices in induction programmes and regular training sessions ensures workers understand how to respond if an incident occurs.

“OBSERVATIONS OF WORKPLACES FOLLOWING ROBUST SAFETY PROCEDURES INDICATE THAT MEASURES SUCH AS STABILISING LADDERS, MONITORING WORK ON FRAGILE SURFACES, AND ENCOURAGING TEAM AWARENESS CONTRIBUTE TO SAFER OUTCOMES.”

Practical examples highlight the benefits of integrated planning and procedures. Maintenance on commercial rooftops can be carried out safely when potential exposure is mitigated through temporary platforms or edge protection, coupled with supervision and equipment inspection.

Even tasks that appear minor carry risk if environmental conditions, ladder stability, or worker preparedness are not considered. Interventions as straightforward as stabilising equipment or using basic fall protection consistently reduce the likelihood of injury. Repeated application of these measures cultivates safe habits that become routine rather than exceptional.

A culture that prioritises safety supports compliance and reduces the probability of incidents. Workers who observe consistent application of procedures are more likely to adopt safe behaviours themselves, reinforcing a shared responsibility for wellbeing.

Compliance with legislation such as the Work at Height Regulations 2005 is achieved most effectively through the consistent application of principles rather than by treating regulation as a series of checkboxes.

SUPPORTING SAFER ENVIRONMENTS

Practical guidance, robust planning and competent training are essential to reducing risk, but implementing these principles relies on reliable systems and equipment.

Organisations approaching work at height with structured safety measures can protect workers while maintaining operational efficiency. Systems that integrate harnesses, lanyards, anchor points, and collective protection measures, combined with clear procedures and regular inspections, provide a strong foundation for safe work at height.

Collaboration with experienced suppliers and training providers can support organisations in selecting suitable equipment and embedding safe practices. Equipment

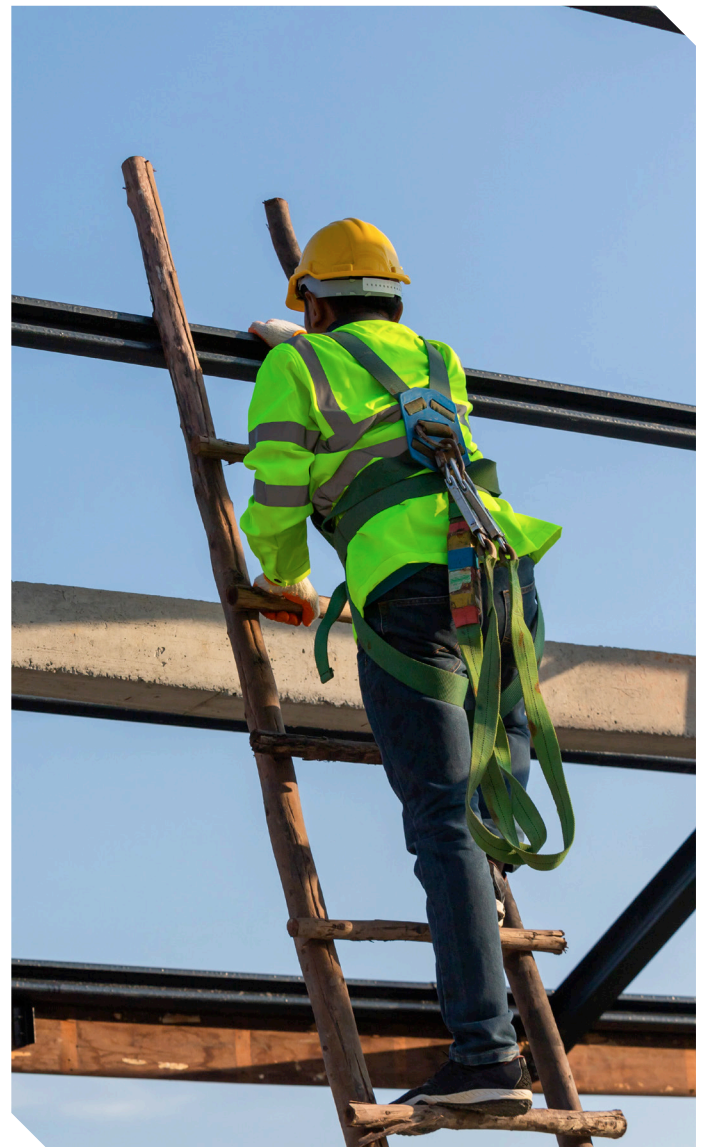
designed for reliability and compatibility ensures that protective measures function effectively in everyday use. Training that combines technical knowledge with practical exercises reinforces safe habits and supports confident responses to hazards.

ABUS UK supports the precision and reliability that define security engineering in the development of protective equipment. It is for this reason industrial and climbing helmets are built to meet the relevant European standards while addressing the day-to-day realities of construction, maintenance, and utility work. Design decisions focus on comfort, durability, and ease of integration with other PPE systems, helping teams carry out work at height safely and confidently.

Approaching work at height with thorough planning, appropriate equipment, robust training, and embedded safe practices can significantly reduce both the likelihood and consequences of falls.

While the measures themselves are straightforward, their consistent application has a profound impact on worker safety and regulatory compliance. Integrating these principles into daily operations fosters a culture in which safety is a priority, helping organisations maintain workplaces where teams can operate with confidence and reduced risk.

www.abus.com/uk





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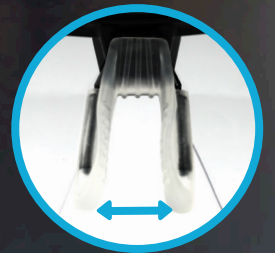
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ENHANCED PROTECTION WITHOUT ADDED WEIGHT

Ahead of its launch at Techtextil 2026 in Frankfurt, from 21-24 April, Textilcolor introduces pyroshell, an innovative technology for flame-retardant textiles, which doubles reaction time and ensures high wearing comfort.

Flame-retardant textiles have long faced the same dilemma: the higher the level of protection, the greater the compromise in comfort, weight and breathability. This is especially important for workwear and protective clothing worn for long hours, where comfort is crucial to wearer acceptance and satisfaction. At Techtextil 2026 in Frankfurt, Swiss company Textilcolor AG will unveil pyroshell, an innovative flame-retardant technology designed to tackle this challenge. Protection is provided by a graphite-based functional layer integrated into the textile structure, which doubles the reaction time before burns occur while significantly enhancing comfort. The material does not release any toxic fumes and offers textile manufacturers entirely new opportunities to design and produce protective and functional garments. It is also durable enough to withstand up to 50 industrial washes.

"With pyroshell, we are presenting a flame-retardant technology at Techtextil for the first time that combines safety with comfort," said Detlef Fischer, CEO of Textilcolor AG. "It provides protection in critical situations without compromising comfort in everyday wear."

THIN EXPANDABLE GRAPHITE LAYER DELIVERS HIGH FLAME PROTECTION

The demands on modern protective textiles are continuously increasing. In addition to regulatory requirements, ergonomics, breathability and low weight

play a central role. Traditional flame-retardant solutions often rely on inherently flame-resistant specialty fibres or additional chemical treatments, which can make garments heavy, stiff and uncomfortable. Modern solutions such as pyroshell provide high levels of protection without compromising comfort, making them suitable for a wide range of applications – from police, security and special forces to energy companies and industrial workers in high-risk environments such as oil, gas or high-voltage networks. Conventional flame-protection garments often have two major drawbacks: they can release harmful fumes when exposed to heat and are typically heavy, stiff or uncomfortable in everyday use. This creates a trade-off between maximum flame protection and wearability. Pyroshell was developed to address this challenge, offering reliable safety while maintaining comfort.

PYROSHELL DOUBLES THE REACTION TIME BEFORE BURNS OCCUR

Pyroshell consists of a flexible expandable graphite layer combined with a thin, non-melting and non-combustible carrier layer, which serves as a stable protective base. This component is integrated as a separate layer between textile fabrics without restricting comfort or freedom of movement. A key differentiator is that it can be applied to a wide variety of fabrics, including polyamide, polyester, Cordura-like materials, and stretch textiles. The technology

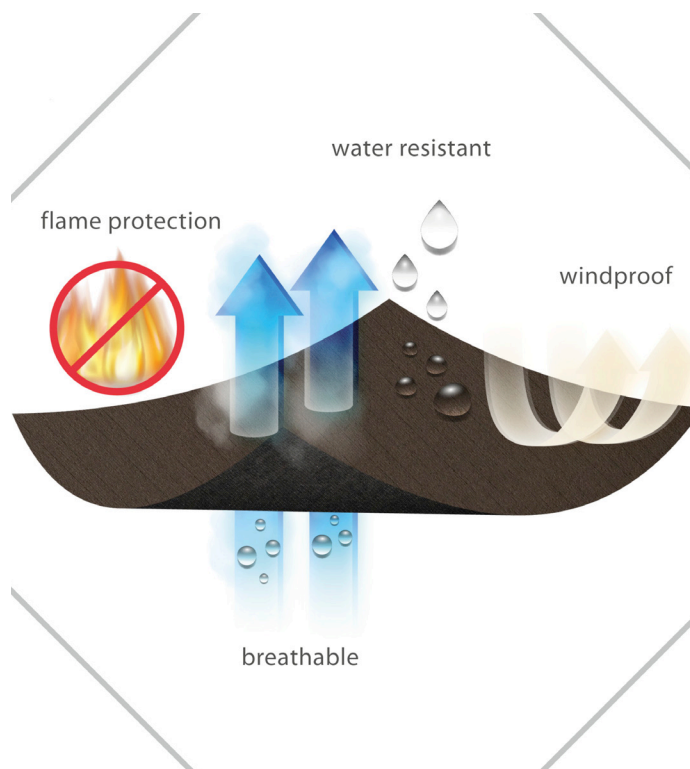
allows for a lower overall weight while providing greater design flexibility.

In everyday use, the intermediate pyroshell layer remains dormant, giving garments the feel of standard workwear or outdoor clothing. It responds only when exposed to heat or flames exceeding 180°C, and if the outer textile layer is damaged, it activates to provide protective performance. The embedded expandable graphite rapidly swells to 40 to 60 times its original volume, forming a stable protective barrier that effectively shields the wearer from heat and flames. It prevents further burning and stops molten material from dripping onto the skin. Tests have shown that pyroshell doubles the reaction time before burns occur compared with conventional materials, offering a significant safety advantage for the wearer. As a reactive safety solution, the protection is virtually invisible in everyday wear, yet permanently present and activates precisely when needed. It remains reliable even after 50 industrial washes.

MAXIMUM PROTECTION WITHOUT COMPROMISING COMFORT OR FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

A key advantage of pyroshell is its combination of high protective performance and comfort. The material contains no halogen- or phosphorus-based chemicals, ensuring that no toxic fumes are released in the event of fire. At the same time, the fabric remains lightweight, flexible and breathable, a crucial factor for comfort and acceptance during daily use. Depending on the fabric construction or material combination of the end product, pyroshell meets European standards for protective clothing against heat, flames and thermal hazards, as well as requirements for limited flame spread. The material is also suitable for protection against electric arcs, making it ideal for applications in high-voltage environments. Additional protective properties, such as electrostatic dissipation or chemical splash resistance, can also be integrated. pyroshell can be tailored to different applications and combined with other functional technologies. Manufacturers benefit from design flexibility and the ability to develop protective solutions based on common synthetic fabrics.

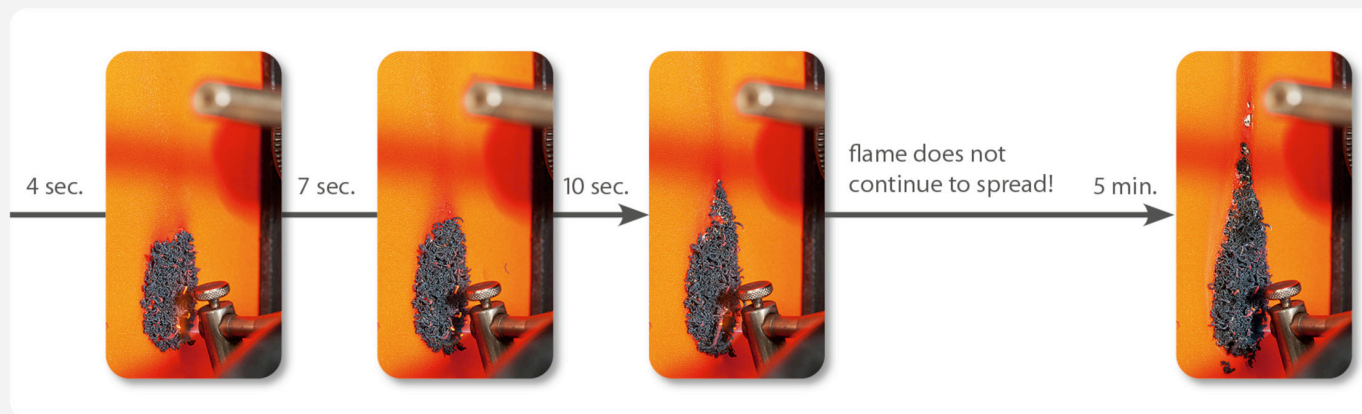
Under the motto Specialty Chemicals Designed for You, we will be presenting pyroshell to a broad professional



audience for the first time at Techtextil in Frankfurt. This expands our product range with a forward-looking solution for integrated flame protection and opens up new application areas in protective and functional clothing," said Fischer. Pyroshell complements the other brand technologies on display at the trade fair stand: coolcolors reduces heat build-up in textiles under sunlight, improving thermal comfort and UV protection. Dry³ ensures rapid drying and effective moisture management. enerG uses a titanium-mineral matrix to selectively reflect the body's far-infrared energy, and RepelPro provides an eco-friendly, PFC-free water and dirt repellency for weather-resistant textiles.

www.textilcolor.ch/en/

pyroshell™-test: limited flame spread in accordance with EN ISO 15025:A



This test measures the limited flame spread on vertically oriented textile fabrics when exposed to a defined flame for 10 seconds. The pyroshell™ flame protection fabric passes the 10-second test and the flame does not continue to spread even after an additional 5 minutes of exposure.



THE HEALTH AND SAFETY EVENT RETURNS

Bringing together the UK's community of OSH professionals, the Health & Safety Event opens its doors at the NEC, Birmingham next month. Here's what to expect.

The Health & Safety Event will return bigger and better than ever on 28-30 April 2026 at the NEC Birmingham. This large-scale event will reunite 14,500+ health and safety professionals, featuring a wide range of exhibitors, valuable networking opportunities, and CPD-accredited content across seven theatres.

The latest innovative products and services across the industry will be showcased, with 400+ exhibitors providing visitors the chance to find out what's new on the market and source new suppliers. Exhibitors will include Draeger, Cromwell, IOSH, JSP, Uvex, UKATA and many more.

Over the course of three days, attendees will have access to 60+ hours of free CPD-accredited content across multiple theatres, alongside live demonstrations, interactive workshops, and exclusive networking opportunities.

CPD ACCREDITED CONTENT

The Keynote Theatre (supported by IOSH) is the main stage at The Health & Safety Event, and will welcome key industry speakers, who will be providing the latest

news and updates as well as regulations, guidance, and training within the health and safety industry.

Our Knowledge Exchange Theatre will feature a series of sessions covering the challenges faced by health and safety professionals and practitioners. Hear from industry experts who are making a difference in the workplace and safety culture.

Visit the Practical Safety Theatre (sponsored by Cromwell), to hear from the experts on how to create a safe and compliant working environment. Gain the practical tools and knowledge to protect you and your employees from danger, whilst helping to look after the future of your business or organisation.

A popular theatre is The Driver Safety Theatre (in partnership with Driving for Better Business). Hear from leading experts share a series of presentations and panel discussions covering legislation updates, driver fatigue, distraction, staff culture, vehicle safety and much more.

The Lone Worker Theatre, in partnership with Lone Worker Safety Live will be bringing bite-size interactive sessions, experts, and those with practical experience to share their knowledge on best practice to manage the



key issues of wellbeing, safety, and security for lone and remote workers.

Don't miss the HSE Executive Theatre, where we will feature sessions focused on regulation, guidance and enforcement priorities within health and safety. You'll hear expert insight on current challenges, emerging risks and what good compliance looks like in practice.

Finally, new for 2026, the NEBOSH Theatre will be a dedicated space offering bite-sized learning sessions from industry experts on health and safety.

INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

In partnership with British Safety Industry Federation and their Registered Safety Supplier Scheme, this dedicated trail will help visitors navigate around the show to meet BSIF members who have signed a binding contract to offer safety equipment and services that meets the appropriate standards, fully complies with the PPE regulations, and are appropriately marked.

The event is continually backed by the leading associations in the sector including the British Safety Industry Federation, NEBOSH and UK Asbestos Training Association and more.

CO-LOCATED EVENTS

The Health and Safety Event 2026 will be co-located with The Security Event, The Fire Safety Event, The Workplace Event, and the National Cyber Security Show. Access all shows with just one pass.

www.healthandsafetyevent.com



SEMMCO

Stand: 3/G1

Semmco Life Protection Systems (LPS) will be attending the Health and Safety Event, Birmingham NEC, 28-30 April 2026 (Stand 3/G1).

The working landscape across all industry sectors is constantly evolving, with new risks emerging from procedural changes in prisons to the use of new materials and technologies in manufacturing processes to the developments in cleaner energy and electric powered transport. In all relevant working environments, escape breathing apparatus is not just a regulatory requirement but a critical element in preventing serious injury and fatalities. Semmco LPS designs and manufactures short duration breathing apparatus for escape and working rescue to protect those working in confined spaces and extreme environments.

An example of how working environments can change can be seen in the prison system where prison cell fire incidents have grown in recent years. For example, in 2023 2,287 fires in prison cells were recorded with 80% of these being attributed to vape pens; at the time a relatively new phenomenon. Whilst the UK Government is committed to a programme of investment and improvement across the prison estate that includes identifying and mitigating new risks, these have increased for both prisoners and prison officers. Semmco LPS is working with HM Prison and Probation Service to provide its HEAD RPE/CSRE (Cell Snatch Rescue Equipment) escape breathing sets to prisons across England and Wales, supported by a comprehensive programme of user training and a fully managed refurb and maintenance programme as part of the contract. With the Semmco LPS sets in place, prison officers can respond quickly and safely to incidents.

Another example of new technology presenting new challenges is the shipping and marine sector. In the worldwide response to environmental concerns, there has been a massive increase in the market for Electric Cars (EVs). Millions of these vehicles are transported from manufacturing locations to customers worldwide onboard ships. With an increased awareness of the dangers of battery fires on EV shipments, the Semmco LPS EEBD set meets all the requirements of SOLAS and

the Marine Equipment Directive. A simple, self-contained, 15-minute-duration oxygen breathing apparatus, the Semmco LPS EEBD is lightweight and easily deployed, with no fit testing required. Once donned, the wearer can immediately breathe freely in a contaminated or oxygen deficient environment and make a safe and quick escape.

In freight rail transport, the risks are highest in the moving of hazardous goods and materials. Whilst the UK rail network is mostly used for passenger transportation, freight rail is expanding across Europe as businesses seek a competitive edge to meet sustainability targets. When we look to the USA, its rail services are predominantly for commercial use, transporting goods across the country, including hazardous materials. Recent legislation changes in the USA have mandated that EEBDs be available to employees working in the cabs of freight trains transporting hazardous material "that would pose an inhalation hazard in the event of release during an accident." Semmco LPS provides its EEBD that fully meets the provisions of the new rule, keeping railway workers safe in the event of an incident.

The HEAD and EEBD products from Semmco LPS are designed with user safety and operational efficiency at their core. Both HEAD and EEBD devices are engineered for intuitive donning, enabling workers to secure essential respiratory protection in seconds, even under pressure. Using potassium superoxide (KO₂) both designs are head worn, short duration escape sets. The products provide a constant supply of oxygen for the duration required to escape hazardous environments, crucial for sectors where immediate evacuation routes may be compromised.

To support business growth in these new sectors and meet customer demand, Semmco LPS recently opened a new manufacturing facility in Woking, Surrey to scale up its production capacity with dedicated production pods and a newly created service and refurbishment area for the HEAD product.

<https://semmcolps.com>



JLG POWER TOWERS

Stand: 3/F60 & 3/E66

At the Health & Safety Event, discover approaches designed to reduce exposure to work at height and promote consistent working practices with JLG Power Towers.

At stand 3/F60 and 3/E66, visitors can learn more about practical approaches and modern low-level access equipment designed to assist organisations in meeting their work at height policies and procedures.

NEW MATERIAL HANDLING ACCESSORIES FOR FIT OUT TASKS

Visitors will be among the first to view new and innovative material handling accessories for the Power Tower and Power Tower Duo models, platforms which can reach up to 5.0m working height. The new board and pipe carrier accessories have been developed to encourage more guided handling and positioning of plasterboard, pipework, and similar materials at height.

A new anti-climb guard option can complement the new accessories. This cage-like structure can be added to the Power Tower Duo platform with the board carrier option. It adds an extra solution for helping to manage safe systems of work as it's designed to discourage unauthorised access to the platform and to support the containment of items or tools.

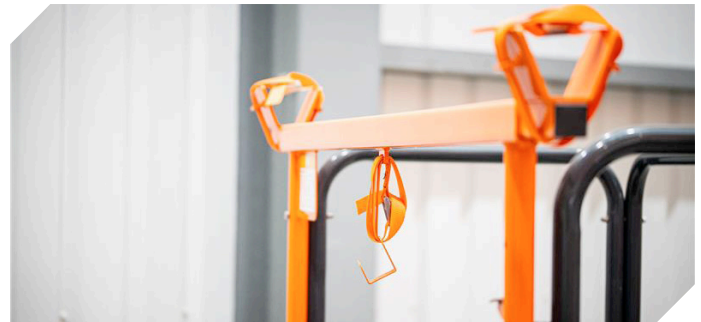
Equipment fitted with the new accessory can still pass through most standard doorways, due to the board tray's foldaway design. Ideal for maintenance and construction fit-out tasks, the new accessories support organisations in promoting repeatable ways of working that can help to minimise physical strain and promote task consistency.

LOW LEVEL ACCESS SOLUTIONS FOR CONFINED AND RESTRICTED AREAS

JLG Power Towers will also highlight its compact solutions for confined space working. The Nano 30CS and Power Tower CS are push around low-level access platforms designed to support stable working at height in tight or awkward areas. With working heights up to 4.95m for the Nano 30CS and 5.0m for the Power Tower CS, a lightweight design, slim footprint, and 360-degree manoeuvrability, they are easy to position and is designed to allow operatives to work comfortably through ceiling tiles as small as 60 x 60cm.

Featuring fully guarded, robust non-slip platforms, self-locking front wheels and simple push-button elevation, they are designed to provide a reliable, controlled solution that helps reduce risk and is designed to discourage teams from using improvised and, in some cases, unsafe methods when working above ceiling height

<https://powertowers.com>



PHS BESAFE

Stand: 3/Q64

phs Besafe is a UK-based supplier of specialist PPE workwear and laundry solutions, ensuring the safety and comfort of thousands of people across the UK. It is also a leader in sustainability and innovation.

Its workwear is designed for optimum durability, protection and functionality for maximum safety, less waste and lower long-term costs.

Its in-house laundry and drying processes are unique to the industry, offering a low-energy, high-quality service using the very latest eco-friendly technologies and products. This approach ensures workwear lasts as long as possible and retains its key safety features.

Its innovative and responsible approach, and unrivalled expertise and performance, has made phs Besafe the partner of choice for many key sectors, including transport, manufacturing, aggregate, fire and rail.

phs Besafe keeps people at the heart of its products and services, taking care of everything for its customers to ensure the health and wellbeing of their staff. It measures for and supplies specialist workwear and ensures it is laundered and repaired safely and disposed of responsibly at the end of their life.

Employees are carefully measured for their workwear to ensure the best fit and maximum comfort, and their garments – including high visibility, flame gear, foul weather wear and limited chemical splash garments – always meet the strictest UK safety standards.

The Besafe team works closely with its customers to ensure every person has the right equipment for their jobs and feels comfortable and safe at all times. They offer a comprehensive barcode tracking system and locker services for additional peace of mind.

In order to prolong the life of the garments and to maintain their unique safety features, phs Besafe uses its award-winning, innovative drying process, DrySafe, which uses infrared sensors to halve traditional drying times, saving energy and protecting the garments.

www.phsbesafe.co.uk





WHEN **DISASTERS** DRIVE CHANGE

Evac+Chair explains why inclusive evacuation can no longer be an afterthought.

In the UK, major advances in public safety have often followed tragedy. From terrorist attacks to catastrophic fires, large-scale incidents have exposed weaknesses in systems designed to protect people inside buildings. Although these events have prompted regulatory reform and higher safety expectations, turning lessons into lasting improvements has been slow. The question remains: has emergency planning evolved enough to ensure everyone can evacuate safely?

TRAGEDY AS A CATALYST FOR REFORM

In May 2017, a terrorist attack at Manchester Arena after an Ariana Grande concert killed 22 people and injured hundreds, exposing weaknesses in how public venues assess and manage risk.

The UK's terrorism threat level has remained 'substantial' for years, meaning an attack is likely. Since 2017, 43 late-stage plots have been disrupted and around 15 attacks carried out. Counter Terrorism Policing also makes hundreds of arrests each year, highlighting the ongoing threat to public spaces.

After the Manchester Arena attack, campaigning by Figen Murray OBE, mother of victim Martyn Hett, led to Martyn's Law – the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 – receiving Royal Assent in April 2025.

The legislation requires those responsible for publicly accessible premises to assess terrorism risk and implement proportionate protective measures. Venues are tiered by capacity, embedding risk assessment and planning into operations, with compliance required by April 2027.

That same year, the Grenfell Tower fire exposed systemic failures in building safety and evacuation strategies. The tragedy claimed 72 lives, including 15 residents with mobility impairments, when the 'stay put' policy proved catastrophic.

The lesson was clear: evacuation strategies fail when a single safeguard breaks down.

Nearly a decade on, concerns around high-rise evacuation persist. The Fire Safety (Residential Evacuation Plans) (England) Regulations 2025, effective 6 April 2026, require responsible persons to identify residents who may struggle to self-evacuate and offer a Person-Centred Fire Risk Assessment (PCFRA).

Other sectors have faced similar scrutiny. A 2017 fire at Newgrange Care Home in Hertfordshire caused two deaths and led to major fines, exposing failures in compartmentation and evacuation planning.



Life is priceless. Choose the best.

Evac+Chair Trusted when every second matters

For over 40 years, Evac+Chair® has been trusted worldwide for evacuation solutions where quality is never compromised. Proudly designed and manufactured in the UK, our products set the benchmark for safe, reliable evacuation – supporting anyone who may need assistance due to permanent, temporary or invisible impairments.

Safety isn't just about an Evac+Chair on the wall. It's about expert training, regular maintenance and ongoing support – so you know it's ready when it matters most.

- + CE-marked Class I medical device
- + Dedicated nationwide team of expert assessors, trainers and service technicians
- + Manufactured under ISO 9001 and ISO 13485 quality management systems
- + UK-based customer support and aftersales

VISIT US AT
STAND **3/N70**



28-30 April 2026 NEC, Birmingham
healthandsafetyevent.com



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EVAC+CHAIR®
Emergency Evacuation For Everyone

Expectations are shifting. When wheelchair user Lucas Vezza-O'Brien was unable to evacuate during a school fire and told to wait in a refuge area, it sparked the #NoStudentLeftBehind campaign and parliamentary debate on school preparedness. Too often, evacuation plans prioritise the majority over a diverse population.

FROM REACTIVE RESPONSE TO ANTICIPATORY RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility is increasingly focused on planning and anticipation rather than response, but effective anticipation requires understanding who may be at risk during an evacuation and what support they need.

In 2024, around 16.8 million people in the UK were living with a disability, nearly a quarter of the population, including more than 5.5 million in employment. With around 80% of disabilities invisible and more people working beyond retirement age, organisations must plan for a more diverse workforce.

These figures challenge assumptions about who may need assistance in an emergency. Mobility impairment extends beyond permanent wheelchair users to include people recovering from surgery, late-stage pregnancy, fluctuating conditions, or cognitive and mental health challenges.

As workplaces, residential and public spaces become more inclusive, emergency planning must reflect the same consideration.

ACCESSIBILITY IS ONLY HALF THE STORY

Access to buildings has improved, with ramps, lifts and accessible facilities now widely expected. Yet far less attention has been given to whether everyone can evacuate safely. In most multi-storey buildings, staircases remain the main escape route, leaving those with mobility impairments reliant on assistance when lifts cannot be used.

The Grenfell Inquiry highlighted the risks of relying on a single evacuation strategy. The 'stay put' approach works only when fire safety systems perform as intended; when they fail, evacuation becomes urgent and complex, especially for those unable to leave independently.

EMBEDDING INCLUSIVE PREPAREDNESS

Legislation sets the framework, but preparedness depends on implementation. Effective evacuation planning requires aligned equipment, training and maintenance.

Evacuation equipment should suit the building layout and occupants' mobility needs. In public and multi-storey premises, this often requires adaptable solutions for different evacuation scenarios.

Manufacturers specialising in evacuation solutions are increasingly designing equipment to support a wider range of mobility needs, supported by training and servicing to ensure readiness. With more than 40 years of experience, Evac+Chair manufactures its evacuation chairs in the UK and emphasises that inclusive evacuation is about more than simply installing equipment.

However, equipment alone cannot guarantee safety. In high-pressure situations, staff must be trained and confident in the safe deployment and operation of Evac+Chairs, while supporting individuals who may already be vulnerable or distressed.



Maintenance is critical. As Class I medical devices, Evac+Chairs require annual inspection and servicing under PUWER. Failure to maintain equipment introduces avoidable risk and potential compliance failures. Effective evacuation relies on three elements: suitable equipment, trained personnel and regular servicing.

LEARNING BEFORE THE NEXT CRISIS

Each major disaster that has driven reform is preceded by identifiable vulnerabilities. The intent of Martyn's Law and RPEEPs marks important but legislation alone cannot eliminate risk.

Responsible persons must anticipate three individual needs and ensure evacuation process practical, tested and inclusive.

Inclusive evacuation is no longer a niche issue; it is to responsible risk management and modern safety governance.

Preparedness is measured by outcomes, not documentation. When an emergency occurs equipment must function, equipment must perform and people must act with confidence. When the alarm sounds, no one should be left behind.

www.evacchair.co.uk



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ACHIEVING THE BALANCE

The experts at Evaccess take the stress out of specifying a solution to your access and evacuation needs; keeping costs low while ensuring the safety, comfort and dignity of those who require the equipment.

Steps are a barrier, but the steps below will help you to navigate the means of escape for people with disabilities.

Purchasing an assisted evacuation device (AED) is not as simple as just choosing a piece of equipment and leaving it by the stairs. There are several steps in the process, which cannot be overlooked.

We will get to know your budget, your building, your team, and your potential users to provide a tailor-made and personalised service from your first site survey, to delivery, training, and servicing. We understand that, often, the people who are making the decisions don't have the time to sift through every make and model to find which will work best so we will provide you with an in-depth report of what our recommendation will be, why other models won't work and why the recommendation is viable.

STEP 1: CONSULTANCY AND SITE SURVEY

We will assess your current situation including your existing AEDs, who will be operating the kit, potential users, stair type and any specifics that would prevent certain models from being effective or allowed, such as in the case of having spiral stairs, outside steps or in listed buildings for example.

From this, we will be able to shortlist the pieces of equipment that would be most suitable for you. This is generally evacuation chairs and stair climbers, as they are more suitable for people with various disabilities, with single-person operation and reduced manual handling for the operator.

Check that the unit is definitely one-person operation in practice if that is why you are purchasing that model, and if battery operated, are you happy with lead acid or lithium?

We bring equipment to demonstrate and to test over the proposed escape route so that all persons can view it in action and ask any questions they may have.

STEP 2: PERSONAL EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLANS (PEEPS)

It is essential that people have a robust personal evacuation plan (PEEP) that has been talked through with, and agreed, by all parties. This must be tested and enable the person to safely exit the building without thinking that the Fire Service will get the person out. The correct AED needs to be provided to enable the person to evacuate.

STEP 3: TRAINING

When a product has been purchased, it is important for your operators to participate in an in-depth training session that will allow them to be competent and confident to evacuate somebody. They need to be physically able to operate the equipment. We offer two types of training package: Train the Trainer, and Operator Training. We talk you through what they entail and advise you which will be the most cost effective for



your needs. Training must be renewed annually and is always at a time that you decide is convenient; we will work around you and the nature of your team.

STEP 4: SERVICING

Our experienced engineers can service all makes and models of evacuation chairs and stair climbers.

All the equipment we sell is made to last and ensure that all parts are in perfect working order. We advise all our customers to use their equipment on a regular basis to check that they are running correctly in between the annual service (PUWER). There could be a battery fault, a build-up of dust or some external damage.

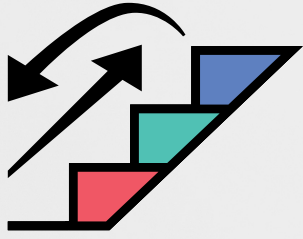
OUR MAIN PRIORITY

Throughout your time with Evaccess, we will always be on hand to offer support and advice for anything you might be concerned or unsure about.

We are fully committed to ensuring that the person being evacuated has a safe, dignified, and comfortable evacuation from a building or venue. We therefore represent multiple brands to give our customers an unbiased, customer-centred service that will suit all parties.

Call us for advice and information on: 0121 444 3690.

<https://evaccess.uk>



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Low cost access and evacuation solutions

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We give **expert advice** on the best personal evacuation equipment to keep **costs low** and **people safe**.

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TAKING CHARGE

With the UK facing a mounting stockpile of used EV batteries, the risks of unsafe storage are rising. Pete Zorgenlos, Head of Product Development (UK & Europe) at New Pig, offers his practical, expert-led guidance on how to safely manage damaged, defective or end-of-life lithium-ion batteries

The UK has been an early mover on EV adoption, with aggressive, legally binding climate targets, pioneering early incentive schemes and grants, and a rapidly expanding charging network all pushing it towards a greener future.

But beneath the surface, a challenge is building – tens of thousands of used EV and energy storage batteries are piling up in the UK, with around 23,500 end-of-life batteries sitting in storage rather than being reused or recycled, according to an FT article.

For health and safety managers, recyclers, waste contractors and regulators, the challenge is clear: damaged or poorly stored batteries pose a real and growing fire and environmental risk.

Yet as battery chemistries evolve and energy densities increase, traditional approaches to storage, handling and disposal are no longer sufficient.

NAVIGATING A SHIFTING REGULATORY LANDSCAPE

The regulatory environment in the UK is tightening in response to these growing volumes. With the Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Bill and the 2025 updates to the Hazardous Waste Regulations, the 'best practice' of yesterday is quickly becoming the legal minimum of today.

In the UK, Li-ion batteries are classified as controlled hazardous waste, and the Environment Agency now demands rigorous tracking and separate collection. When these assets move from storage to transport, the requirements become even more stringent.

This shift places the burden of proof on the health and safety manager to ensure that every unit leaving the site is not only packaged in UN-approved containers but also chemically stabilised for the journey.

EXPERT PROTOCOLS FOR SAFE MANAGEMENT

Understanding the inherent hazards of Li-ion chemistry is essential for effective risk mitigation. Unlike traditional lead-acid batteries, Li-ion cells contain a flammable electrolyte that can fuel its own fire without the need for external oxygen. Mechanical damage, manufacturing defects, or even minor electrical faults can trigger an exothermic reaction known as thermal runaway.

In a high-density storage environment, this poses a unique threat: the 'domino effect', where the heat from one failing cell compromises its neighbours. This process is remarkably rapid, reaching temperatures between 700C and 1000C in seconds, often accompanied by the release of toxic hydrofluoric acid vapours.

Effective management begins with early detection. Strategic handling should focus on identifying the 'warning signs' of failure – such as swelling, hissing, or discolouration – before an incident occurs. Expert guidance suggests that suspect batteries should be immediately isolated.

For safe storage while awaiting proper disposal, the battery should be placed in a container filled with cushioning material that is non-combustible, electrically non-conductive, and absorbent.

This 'triple-threat' of protection, using specialist non-combustible binders, ensures that if a cell does breach, the impact is contained. Under no circumstances should damaged batteries be placed in regular trash or recycling containers, as this introduces an unacceptable fire risk to the wider waste stream.

Where high-risk or significantly compromised units are identified, further measures may be required, including placing the battery within a specially designed, fire-rated storage case to provide an additional layer of thermal protection.

The physical environment of the storage facility also plays a critical role in battery longevity and safety. Maintaining a stable temperature profile – ideally between 4C and 27C – prevents the chemical degradation that leads to internal short circuits.

In the UK's increasingly volatile weather patterns, climate-controlled storage is no longer a luxury for large-scale stockpiles, it is a fundamental requirement for maintaining the 'second-life' value of the battery while ensuring site safety.



PROACTIVE ELECTROLYTE LEAK MANAGEMENT

A critical, yet often overlooked, aspect of battery safety is the management of minor leaks during the manufacturing and storage phases.

In instances of minor cell compromise, specialist absorbent mats can be deployed to catch drips and leaks. It is essential that these are composed of chemical-resistant materials specifically designed to absorb lithium-ion battery electrolytes without degrading or triggering a secondary reaction.

Modern industrial solutions offer a technical advantage in these environments. These mats are engineered using a high-absorbency, fine-fibre construction that wicks liquid quickly through an exclusive dimple pattern, ensuring a faster clean-up and a safer floor surface.

Because these mats are specially treated to remain structurally sound even when saturated – lasting up to twice as long as standard alternatives – they provide a reliable line of defence. Whether utilised in roll form to cover large areas or as lightweight pads for smaller tasks, having these materials on hand allows facilities to manage hazardous spills without leaving behind residue or compromised fibres.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE: CLEANING UP ELECTROLYTE SPILLS

While electrolyte leaks from a damaged battery pack are relatively infrequent, they present immediate hazards to both personnel and the environment.

In the event of a spill, a disciplined response procedure is vital. The spill must be contained by a trained operative if safe to do so and the area ventilated and evacuated for

large spills. It is also critical to keep appropriate firefighting measures, such as specialist battery fire suppressants or fire blankets, within immediate reach during the clean-up.

The leaking battery should be carefully placed in a container of chemically inert cushioning material. To address the spilled fluid itself, only inert, non-cellulose absorbents should be used, as cellulose-based materials can react unfavourably with certain battery chemistries.

Once the area is clear, all used absorbents and contaminated PPE must be secured in a sealed bag. Proper disposal is not merely a housekeeping task but a regulatory one; you must contact your environmental or shipping officer to arrange for hazardous waste collection, as neither the batteries nor the spent absorbents can be disposed of in standard waste or recycling streams.

BEYOND COMPLIANCE

As we move toward a circular economy, the ability to safely handle, store, and document the lifecycle of lithium-ion assets will separate the industry leaders from those exposed to significant liability.

Ultimately, safe storage is about more than just avoiding a fire; it is about protecting the financial and environmental value of the UK's energy transition.

By embedding these expert-led protocols into organisational culture, we ensure that the lithium-ion legacy remains a cornerstone of the UK's net-zero future, rather than a hidden risk.

www.newpig.co.uk



DATA DRIVEN FIRE DOOR SAFETY

Sue Corrick of Allegion UK reviews the expanding role of digital information in building safety and how its use is transforming fire door hardware from passive fire protection to an active data source.



Data drives informed decisions, and in the built environment, the role of information is growing. Where fire safety is paramount to building design, the adoption of digital practice – combined with modern legislation – proceeds to have a greater impact on standards and is reshaping the landscape as we know it.

Before the tragic events of the Grenfell Tower fire, the fire door safety sector accepted a conventional approach, reliant on physical testing, manual record keeping and reactive maintenance procedures. Though, as regulations tighten and the demand for accountability and transparency heightens through updated proposals such as the Construction Products Reform Green Paper, data is now positioning itself at the heart of how modern systems are tested, monitored and maintained.

Above all, the industry must remain focused on improving the structure, quality and usability of digital handover information, in compliance with Regulation 38 and 'Golden Thread' requirements. The use of standardised, accessible asset data can further elevate fire safety standards and safe building operation, supporting professionals throughout the supply chain as they navigate hardware specification, installation and maintenance.

And so, as many move towards a more transparent, traceable and digitally integrated model, how does something as mechanical as a fire door closer contribute to a progressively data-reliant environment?

STRENGTHENING CERTIFICATION

Testing has always existed as the foundation of fire door safety standards. Yet, the 'Green Paper' proposals

are perhaps set to reform the testing and certification environment, with critical gaps being identified in the construction product regulatory framework. Fire doors and their hardware components endure comprehensive fire resistance tests, durability cycle assessments and sustainability evaluations as a way of generating detailed evidence of a system's capabilities, but much of this data is often considered inconsistent, missing or unverified.

Historically, this information has been stored in a disconnected system of paperwork, but it is now clearer than ever that testing data should be collected, saved and accessed in a different way to ensure safety claims are credible and independently verifiable. Following almost a decade of pivotal regulatory updates, the increased governing pressure placed on building design is changing the management of construction products, and with that, third-party testing and unified, structured data files are becoming more valuable. This movement is strengthened by legislation such as the Building Safety Act, which has placed a renewed focus on competency whilst highlighting the importance of traceable, accessible product information.

This shift is altering the way fire door certification and record holding is approached, where:

- Test evidence must clearly demonstrate classifications, limitations and compatibility between components such as door closers, hinges and leaf assemblies.
- Assessment reports must be transparent, retrievable and linked directly to a manufacturer's products.
- Digital record keeping is becoming essential for duty-holders, who are being held responsible for products remaining reliable and suitable throughout a project's lifecycle.

Testing data contributes to a single source of truth, made accessible through The Golden Thread of Information – a legal requirement under the Building Safety Act. The 'Golden Thread' has been transformative in documenting verified data and acts as an intuitive framework for how product information can be created, maintained and made accessible. Access to this digital vault of information has become central to compliance by promoting transparency and reducing risk, with the government now proposing a centralised library for all construction products to further expand regulatory coverage and support greater decision-making.

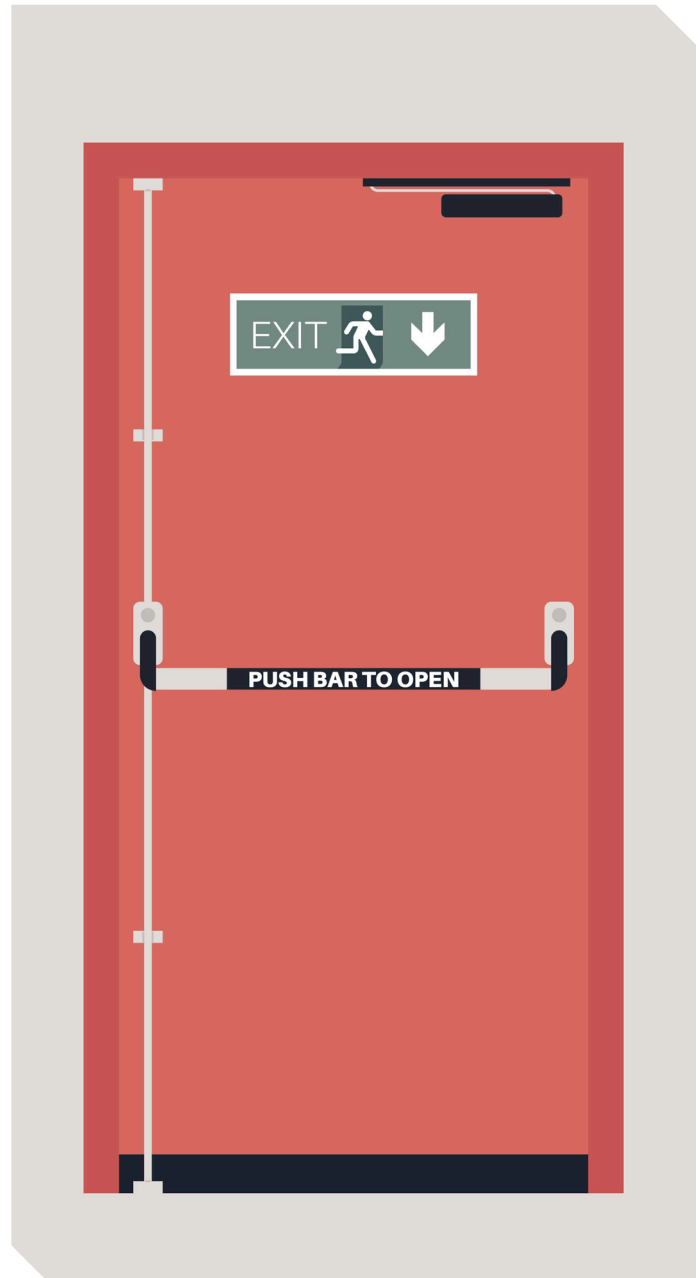
DATA MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

Whilst it's clear how testing and certification can impact product specification, perhaps less understood are the other ways in which data is helping to build a more accurate picture of the built environment and its fire safety systems. Inspection data from the Fire Door Inspection Scheme (FDIS), for example, tells us that care and maintenance issues are present in 54% of fire door inspections, reflecting the need for ongoing care post hardware specification and installation.

In truth, data is redefining the role of mechanical fire door hardware components in real time too. Take fire door closers, which are a key component of fire doors, and as such, are an important data contributor when it comes to fire door safety. Forward-thinking manufacturers are also exploring how data can better support fire safety practice and hardware, such as door closers, can now incorporate stores of data right from the box, with video installation guides made available to installers through QR codes and safety critical data accessible via the 'Golden Thread'. This modern approach to fire safety management is helping to eliminate guesswork and should be widely viewed as an opportunity to simplify processes for all involved.

Fire door safety will always remain a technical discipline, but in an age where information can be accessed instantly from our fingertips, even a mechanical fire door closer has a digital voice. By combining robust hardware and practical expertise with reliable, accessible data, the industry is paving its way to a safer, more accountable built environment.

www.allegion.co.uk





A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

Responsibility for employee mental wellbeing is a shared between both the individual and the organisation, says Debra Clark, Head of Wellbeing at Everywhen.



WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AT WORK?

For many years, workplace mental health was viewed as a personal matter. If it did not affect performance, it was often considered beyond the employer's remit. Today, that mindset has shifted. Businesses increasingly recognise that employee mental health directly influences productivity, attendance, engagement and overall organisational performance.

Yet a question remains: where does the employer's responsibility end, especially when an employee is not looking after their wellbeing outside of work? In reality, responsibility is shared. Individuals must take ownership of their wellbeing, but employers have significant influence over the working environment, culture and support available.

CREATING PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY

One of the strongest organisational drivers of good mental health is psychological safety – the feeling that employees can speak openly, ask questions and admit mistakes without fear of ridicule or negative consequences. When psychological safety is present, people feel confident trying new approaches, sharing ideas and learning from experiences. In a psychologically safe workplace, employees struggling with their mental health are far more likely to speak up early trusting the response will be supportive.

COMMUNICATING CHANGE CLEARLY

If there is one constant in business, it is change. Yet poorly communicated change is a major cause of anxiety. When information is unclear or absent, employees tend to fill the gaps with their own assumptions – often negative ones. While some information will always be confidential, employers should share what they can, as early as they can. Transparent communication builds trust, reduces uncertainty and prevents unnecessary stress.

MANAGING WORKLOAD TO REDUCE BURNOUT RISK

Workload pressures are consistently cited as one of the most significant workplace stressors. Feeling overloaded can push employees towards burnout.

Ways employers can counter this include:

- Focusing on output, not hours.
- Leaders should model healthy boundaries and avoid glorifying long hours. Occasional peaks in workload are inevitable, but they should be recognised as temporary, not the norm.
- Acknowledging effort and contribution.
- Recognition—whether public praise, a structured reward scheme or a simple thank you—helps employees feel valued and seen.
- A supportive manager who actively reviews workload,

prioritises effectively and encourages breaks can make a significant difference to an employee's mental health.

OFFERING THE RIGHT SUPPORT AT THE RIGHT TIME

As mental health continues to be a leading concern for organisations, structured support is essential and typically spans four areas:

1. Prevention

Awareness campaigns, wellbeing webinars, and access to information about healthy coping strategies help prevent issues from arising.

2. Intervention

Employees may need immediate support during difficult moments. Employee Assistance Programmes (EAPs) and early intervention services – often embedded within group income protection policies – provide confidential help when it is needed.

3. Protection

For longer-term or more severe mental health issues, structured clinical or therapeutic support may be required. Private medical insurance, specialist counselling services, vocational rehabilitation and dedicated mental health policies all play a role in supporting recovery.

4. Reset and return to work

After an episode of poor mental health, employees need compassionate reintegration. Phased returns, adjusted duties and ongoing check ins help them rebuild confidence and sustain recovery.

Support must be clearly communicated. Employees need to know what is available, how it can help and how to access it, including outside usual working hours. A central intranet, wellbeing portal or digital hub can be invaluable.

A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

While employees must take personal responsibility for their mental wellbeing, employers hold substantial influence over the culture, environment and pressures that shape daily work life. By fostering psychological safety, communicating clearly, managing workload and offering accessible support, organisations can create conditions where people can genuinely thrive. A collaborative approach, where both employee and employer play their part, remains the most effective path to sustainable mental health at work.

www.everywhen.co.uk

KASK HELMETS: HEAT AND UV SAFETY FOR OUTDOOR WORK

In hot environments and under high UV exposure, adding sun protection to helmets is essential to help reduce heat stress and protect outdoor workers from harmful ultraviolet rays. Heat stress can cause fatigue, dehydration, and reduced concentration, increasing the risk of workplace accidents, while prolonged UV exposure can lead to serious and cumulative skin damage. KASK helmets are designed to enhance comfort through advanced ventilation channels, multiple air intakes, and breathable inner padding. To further improve protection in sunny conditions, KASK helmets can be equipped with the Sun Shield and Neck Shade, which provide effective UVA and UVB protection with UPF 50+.

The KASK Sun Shield features a 360-degree brim that protects the neck, face, and ears from direct sunlight. It easily attaches to helmet lamp clips, is compatible with all KASK helmets and includes a black undersurface to reduce sun reflection. The KASK Neck Shade offers ergonomic, adjustable protection for the neck and ears, promoting breathability and freedom of movement. It is compatible with the Zenith, Primero, and Superplasma helmet series.

By integrating sun protection accessories into helmet systems, KASK helps improve safety, comfort, and long-term wellbeing for outdoor workers throughout the summer months.

www.kask-safety.com



OPENREACH ROLLS OUT NEW SAFETY APP TO HELP PROTECT EMPLOYEES

Openreach is launching a new personal safety app for all of its 27,000 employees, following a surge in abuse and assaults which have become the leading cause of injury among its workforce.

Created by Peoplesafe, the app will help protect Openreach's engineers and office-based staff in the event of safety incidents when they're working alone, at height or just on their commute to and from home.

Recent incidents involving Openreach engineers have included being spat at, pushed down stairs, threatened with dogs and knives, punched and kicked and even barricaded into homes and vans.

Since April last year, there's been around 700 incidents of either physical or verbal assaults and threats, including incidents where staff members have needed time away from work to recover. The company has also seen an ongoing increase in racially motivated incidents.

Adam Elsworth, Safety Director at Openreach, said: "Nothing's more important than the safety of our people and making sure everyone gets home each day safe and well. That's why we're constantly looking at ways to protect our people as they go about their work, whether that's through training, PPE, specialist kit like climbing harnesses or new technologies.

"The Peoplesafe app gives our people an added layer of safety while on the job and particularly for many of our

colleagues that work alone for long periods of the day. It also helps us to address an area we have less control: attacks by members of the public."

Naz Dossa, CEO at Peoplesafe, said: "Protecting Openreach's engineers has never been more critical as public aggression towards frontline workers continues to rise across all sectors. Partnering with Openreach reflects our shared commitment to setting new standards in employee safety and demonstrates how safety can be operationalised at scale – embedding protection into everyday operations while giving leaders clear, efficient oversight of risk across a vast workforce. Together, we've created an integrated solution built around our technology platform that connects to seamlessly Openreach's systems and enables them to protect their people at scale."

"This isn't just about technology – it's about giving Openreach employees the confidence that they are never alone, even in the most challenging situations and at a time when safety incidents are rising. I'd like to personally applaud the Openreach safety teams on leading the way in how they protect their people, underlining their culture of care across the organisation."

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