

The background image shows a close-up of an electrical panel with various colored wires (blue, brown, yellow, green) connected to terminals. A hand is holding a yellow voltage indicator device, which has a black probe and a red ring. The device's screen displays 'VOLTAGE INDICATOR' and several voltage levels: 120V, 230V, 50V, 400V, and 690V. The device is being used to test a terminal on the panel. In the bottom left, a red 'DO NOT OPERATE' sign is partially visible.

THS

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HEALTH & SAFETY

MAY/JUNE 2026

ELECTRICAL SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE

Martindale Electric highlights how safe isolation and electrical equipment testing support safety compliance.

Read on p14

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COVER STORY

14. ELECTRICAL SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE

Martindale Electric explains the importance of safe isolation and portable appliance testing, outlining how robust procedures and the right test equipment help reduce electrical risks and improve workplace safety compliance.

REGULARS

4. NEWS

Catch up on what's new in the industry and get the latest from the courts.

FEATURES

12. AN UNSUNG GUARDIAN OF BUILDING SAFETY

Firemongery should be treated as a critical part of fire door safety, not just a finishing touch, says Elliott Dawson, National Accounts Manager at UAP.

34. REMOVING THE GUESSWORK

Clair Weston at uvex explains how a new solution is helping workers choose the right chemical protection gloves and reduce the risk of serious injury and long-term health issues.

SAFETY, HEALTH & WELLBEING LIVE LONDON PREVIEW

16. YOUR SAFE SPACE

Safety, Health & Wellbeing Live London returns to Olympia on 1-2 July. We shine a spotlight on the show features and training content.

PLANT MACHINERY & SITE SITE SAFETY

18. THE 50% SURGE

There's an alarming increase in excavation breaches on UK construction sites, but how can we reverse the trend? Oliver Smith, Engineering Director at Groundforce Shorco, shares his views.



22. REIMAGINING WORKING AT HEIGHT

Samuel Butterworth at JLG Power Towers outlines why the future of low-level access depends on challenging plant equipment and site safety habits.

INFECTION CONTROL

24. BALANCING CONTROL WITH COSTS IN HEALTHCARE

Catherine Grinstead at Kimberly-Clark Professional explores how smarter hygiene solutions can help reduce contamination risks across hospitals and clinics.

26. HEALTH ALERT

Rising cases of measles, polio and meningitis are renewing the focus on infectious disease preparedness at home and in the workplace, highlights Dr Katherine O'Reilly.

SLIPS, TRIPS & FALLS

29. SLIPPING UNDER THE RADAR

Watco examines where slip risks really develop and why they're often missed.

32. REAL VALUE ADDED

When is automated fall detection technology most effective and how does it strengthen a lone working risk assessment, asks Peoplesafe



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MPs DEBATE NATIONAL ACCIDENT PREVENTION STRATEGY AFTER RISE IN DEATHS

MPs across the political spectrum are supporting the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA)'s call for the government to introduce a National Accident Prevention Strategy, following a Westminster Hall debate on rising accidental deaths in the UK.

The debate, led by Sir Andrew Mitchell MP, focused on figures from RoSPA's Annual Review of Accidents showing accidental deaths have risen by 8% in a single year, with more than 23,000 people now killed annually in preventable accidents across the UK.

MPs from across the House, including Lee Pitcher, Sarah Olney, Jim Shannon and Greg Smith, highlighted the growing human and economic cost of accidents and pressed the government to adopt a more coordinated approach to prevention.

Alongside being one of the leading causes of preventable death, accidents place increasing pressure on public services. Nearly 900,000 people – the equivalent of the entire population of Devon – are admitted to hospital due to accidents every year, costing the NHS at least £6bn in direct treatment costs. The UK economy loses another £6bn due to lost working days and productivity, while accidents also remove people from the workforce and drive up the benefits bill.

Despite this, responsibility for accident prevention remains spread across multiple government departments and agencies, including transport, product safety and workplace safety, with no overarching national strategy to align efforts or track progress.

The Westminster Hall debate follows growing concern that while prevention strategies exist for issues such as road traffic collisions or workplace injuries, there is no overarching framework to keep people safe across all aspects of their lives.

Rebecca Hickman, chief executive of RoSPA, said: "Accidents are often treated as isolated events, but the data tells a different story. Rising death rates show this is a systemic issue that requires national leadership, clearer accountability and a long-term approach to prevention."

Sir Andrew Mitchell MP said: "The burden extends across the economy. When people are injured, they are often unable to work – sometimes temporarily, sometimes permanently. Families lose income; employers lose skilled workers; productivity falls. The country loses millions of working days each year due to accident-related absence. The combined cost to UK business is now estimated at about £6bn every year.

"Taken together, this represents a hidden but substantial cost to the country – to our health service, economy and public finances. The truth is that we can do better. Indeed, we have done better before. We know what works: safer homes, stronger product standards, effective public awareness campaigns, improved design of public spaces, better data collection, and co-ordinated action across government and local agencies."

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HEALTH AND SAFETY CONFERENCE EXAMINES MARTYN'S LAW AND EMERGING WORKPLACE RISKS

Key developments on Martyn's Law, the growing challenge of workplace stress, and other major health and safety issues were brought into sharp focus at the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) Health and Safety Conference.

The conference brought together leading voices from across the health and safety sector to examine some of the most pressing issues facing professionals today, with delegates receiving timely insight into new and emerging regulatory and workplace risks.

A central feature of the programme was a crucial update on Martyn's Law – the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, delivered one year on from the Act receiving Royal Assent and in the same week as the publication of statutory guidance for venues.

Thomas Yih from the Security Industry Authority (SIA), the regulator responsible for implementing the Act, provided delegates with an overview of what the legislation will mean in practice, and he spoke about the need to 'get the balance right between advice and enforcement' as the Act rolls out.

The conference also featured an important session on The Control of Asbestos Regulations and Guidance, delivered by Annmarie Staunton, Senior Policy Advisor at the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Starting with the startling statistic that around 5,000 people die every year in Great Britain from asbestos-related diseases, making it the leading cause of work-related deaths, Annmarie examined recent recommendations from a Select Committee and

explained the HSE's response, offering clarity on how asbestos regulation may evolve.

Another highlight was a panel discussion addressing the growing issue of work-related stress, often described as a 'silent killer', with Paul Spurrier, Head of Local Authority Team, HSE, Heather Beach, Chair of the Women in Safety Network and Founder of the Healthy Work Company and Ruth Wilkinson, Head of Policy and Regulatory Engagement, IOSH.

The discussion explored the scale of work-related stress, barriers to effective prevention, and the role of leadership and culture in protecting worker health.

Delegates also heard from Kevin Thomas, Health and Safety Business Partner at Biffa, who shared insights and raised a call to action on the growing issue of rough sleepers seeking shelter in waste containers and the risks and impact on the waste industry.

Adele Masztalerz, CIEH member and Head of Safety Management at the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, who chaired the conference, said: "This year's CIEH Health and Safety Conference delivered a wide ranging and highly informative programme, providing timely updates on the key regulatory and policy developments shaping the work of health and safety professionals. It was also a reminder of the importance of the role of the profession in keeping people safe."

"I would like to thank all of our speakers for their expertise and insight, and everyone who attended for engaging so thoughtfully in the discussions and helping to make the conference such a success."

www.cieh.org/events

VIOLENCE AT WORK 'OUT OF CONTROL' AS MPS WARN WORKERS ARE BEING LEFT UNPROTECTED

A cross-party group of MPs and peers has warned that workplace violence is "out of control" and is demanding urgent government action.

A new report from the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Occupational Safety and Health says abuse, threats and assaults are now a routine part of working life in sectors including transport, retail, prisons and education.

Ian Lavery MP, Chair of the APPG, said: "Workers are being punched, spat at and threatened simply for doing their jobs, and too often nothing happens. This is a crisis, and the government is not doing enough to stop it."

The Group is calling for immediate action to provide legal protection for all public-facing workers, end unsafe lone working practices and review sectoral minimum staffing levels, increase funding for policing and health and safety enforcement, and address overcrowded prisons and underfunded schools as a matter of urgency.

The Group heard evidence from representatives in multiple sectors, including one bus driver who was held at gun point, and a representative of the Prison Officers' Association who spoke of the "moral failure" of a rising number of attacks on prison staff leaving workers

hospitalised on a daily basis. The report also calls for a rethink on the ban on prison officers' right to strike.

The report warns that current approaches are failing workers, leaving them to manage violence themselves instead of preventing it.

The full report can be found [here](#).

<http://www.tuc.org.uk>



SAFETY PASSPORT LAUNCHES TO SET STANDARDS AND VERIFY COMPETENCY WHEN WORKING WITH HYDROGEN

Hydrogen Safe, the hydrogen safety training specialist, has launched the UK's first Hydrogen Safety Passport, a one-day course developed specifically to provide evidence of an individual's competency before working with or around the gas.

The Hydrogen Safety Passport (HSP) course will provide learners with the training they need to be Hydrogen Safe verified, giving them an industry-recognised standard to work safely with hydrogen in practice.

Elizabeth Simon, Director of Partnerships at Hydrogen Safe, said: "As an industry that is currently lacking in regulation, we wanted to launch the Hydrogen Safety Passport course to provide individuals

and employers with an industry-recognised standard that can be used to further show a worker's competence in hydrogen safety.

"Not only is this good practice, but it is reflective of other industries and sectors that rely on formal documents and cards before accessing a site or job role. It is best practice and something that we want to champion."

All those completing the Hydrogen Safety Passport course will be added to a Hydrogen Safe Verification Register (HSVR) for three years, reinforcing best practice, governance and skills advocacy across the industry.

www.hydrogen-safe.org



71% OF UK MANAGERS HAVE NO MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING

More than 6 million UK workers with line management responsibility have no mental health training to support the people they look after, new analysis reveals.

The research, completed by health and safety training provider RRC International, found that one in four employees have management accountability, but 71% of them are not trained to support their colleagues' mental health.

The study analysed data from the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) exploring health and wellbeing at work, as well as the Chartered Management Institute's (CMI) data on the state of UK management and leadership.

It revealed that 8.58 million people have management responsibilities,

yet only 29% are prepared for conversations about mental health with those they have a duty of care for. This means 6.09 million UK managers are currently operating with no idea on the best ways to navigate mental health conversations as they arise.

The research into the disconnect between line managers and mental health training comes as data shows that mental ill health is the leading cause of long-term absence and the second most common cause of short-term absence in the workplace.

Richard Stockley, Managing Director at RRC International, said: "Mental ill health remains one of the leading causes of any type of absence from the workplace. So, it is surprising that significantly less than one third of people in a management role have

the necessary training and skills required to support those who are suffering with their mental health.

"The scale of the issue is clear to see. Line managers have a duty to understand best practice in order to truly help those they have responsibility for to feel safe and supported. Without it, this can lead to enhanced stress, anxiety and a lack of belonging, and for the business poor retention rates, performance and culture.

"For many, disclosing problems can be difficult, but with the right training, line managers can help support and guide their colleagues through the process, making things easier in challenging times."

www.rrc.co.uk



STANNAH LIFTS CALLS FOR RENEWED ACTION TO REDUCE RISING MANUAL HANDLING INJURIES

Stannah Lifts is highlighting the need to enhance workplace safety as the latest data from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) shows that manual handling remains stubbornly high and a primary cause of injury across multiple sectors.

The latest figures from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) show that 17% of workplace injuries result from handling, lifting or carrying activities, underlining the urgent need for practical and effective solutions. In addition, 511,000 workers suffer from work-related musculoskeletal disorders linked to poor manual handling practices. These injuries often lead to long-term pain, disability and reduced productivity, costing employers an estimated £8,500 per case.

These musculoskeletal injuries cause significant pain, long-term disability and lost productivity, often impacting the back, neck, shoulders and limbs through injuries like strains, sprains and spinal damage. The risk increases significantly when heavy goods are transported through corridors and staircases, while slips, trips and falls – already responsible for 30% of workplace injuries – remain a major concern.

While the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 provide guidance on avoiding hazardous manual handling tasks, many businesses continue to face challenges in effectively reducing risks. Stannah Lifts is encouraging organisations to adopt proactive workplace adaptations, including engineered solutions that remove the need for manual handling altogether.

Stannah offers a comprehensive suite of resources designed to support companies in improving workplace safety and reducing injury risks. These include a manual handling guide, a practical risk assessment template, and clear guidance on selecting the right service or goods lift.

Installing a service or goods lift is one of the most effective ways of reducing manual handling risks. Stannah's product range includes dumbwaiters and trolley lifts for light-duty transport of food, documents and small items (typically up to 100kg), mid-range service lifts for loads between 300–500kg, and heavy-duty goods lifts capable of transporting items up to 3000kg between floors. These systems provide reliable, safe and efficient movement of materials across a variety of environments, from hospitality and retail to manufacturing and facilities management.

For hospitality venues in particular, dumbwaiters offer a practical and hygienic solution for moving hot food,

tableware and supplies, reducing strain on staff and ensuring safer service operations. Beyond safety, these lift systems improve operational efficiency, enabling staff to focus on value-adding tasks and enhancing overall productivity and job satisfaction.

"When businesses choose a Stannah lift solution they are addressing one of the most significant workplace hazards: manual handling injuries," said Graham Mears, General Manager at Stannah Lifts.

"Our solutions eliminate many of the physical strains associated with lifting, carrying and moving heavy items between floors. This dramatically reduces the risk of musculoskeletal disorders, which continue to impact an unacceptably high number of workers every year."

Graham added: "The immediate impact on employee safety creates a positive effect that ripples throughout a company, boosting workplace culture, lifting morale and reducing financial exposure to claims. As staff shortages and safety expectations continue to rise, businesses that invest position themselves as responsible employers who prioritise the wellbeing of their people."

The long-term health, wellbeing and financial advantages of installing a Stannah lift solution are clear. Businesses typically report a workers' compensation claims, lower absenteeism due to injury and enhanced employee retention.

Stannah's manual handling guide offers practical advice on identifying hazards, adopting safer lifting techniques and implementing improvements that significantly reduce risks.

The Stannah Lift selection guide helps businesses explore the different types of service and goods lifts, choose the solution that best meets their needs, and access supporting tools such as a risk assessment template and a ready-made business case to support investment decisions.

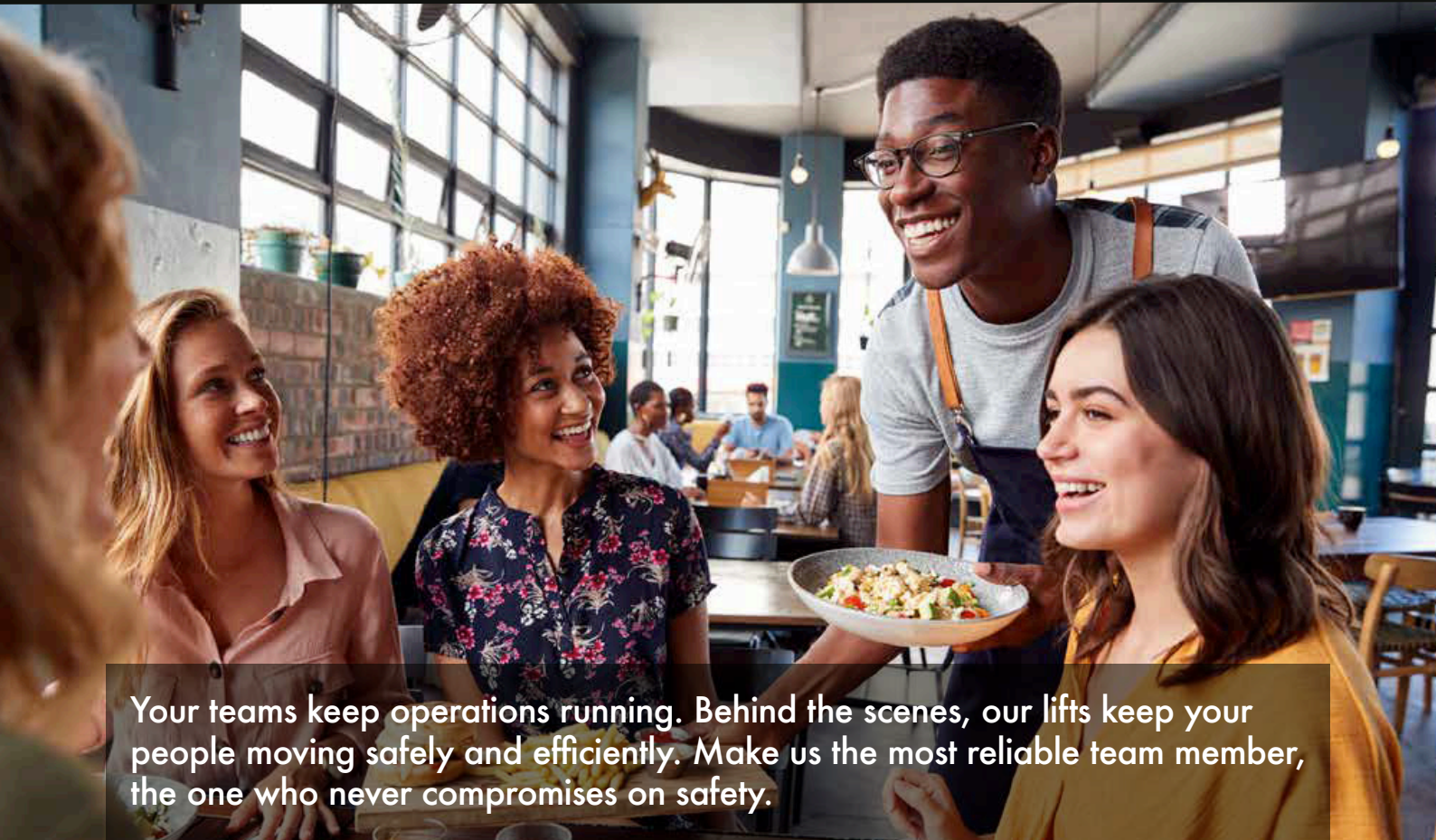
To help organisations reduce manual handling injuries, Stannah is offering free access to its full suite of safety resources.

Download the Manual Handling Guide, risk assessment template and lift selection tools **here**.

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IN THE COURTS



CARDIFF UNIVERSITY PROSECUTED AFTER TWO EMPLOYEES DEVELOP OCCUPATIONAL ASTHMA

Cardiff University has been fined £280,000 after two employees developed occupational asthma because of exposure to animal allergens in the workplace.

Britain's workplace regulator, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), found that between 2008 to 2025, the university failed in its duty to identify and implement suitable controls to prevent employees' exposure to animal allergens. Both employees affected have been left with lifelong conditions as a result, and one was unable to continue in their employment.

In a statement, one of the affected employees said: "I was diagnosed with occupational asthma and occupational rhinitis, and my lung function has been permanently decreased by 33%.

"As a result, my breathing has been terrible, and I struggle walking any distance. Going upstairs is really difficult. I have to take steroid inhaler, a nasal spray and a bronchodilator throughout the day as I need it.

"I become breathless when having long conversations and I am unable to walk and talk at the same time anymore."

HSE's investigation found that Cardiff University had failed to put in place adequate measures to protect workers from exposure to animal allergens, despite relevant legislation being in place since 1989 under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations

(COSHH), and specific guidance relating to laboratory animal workers being available since 2011.

Occupational asthma is a recognised work-related disease that can have serious and permanent consequences. Employers working with animals or other biological agents must assess and control the risks of exposure to allergens and ensure appropriate protective measures are in place.

Cardiff University pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The university was fined £280,000 and ordered to pay £11,745 in costs at Cardiff Magistrates' Court on 30 April 2026.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Janet Hensey said: "This was a case of Cardiff University failing to properly deal with very real risks to employees working with animals and not putting suitable controls in place to prevent exposure.

"The fact this went on for 15 years is truly concerning. Occupational asthma is a recognised work-related disease with potentially disabling consequences.

"HSE will not hesitate to take action against organisations, which do not do all that they can to keep people safe."

This prosecution was brought by HSE enforcement lawyer Daniel Poole and paralegal officer Helen Jacob.

COMPANY CHARGED FOR NOT HAVING COMPULSORY INSURANCE FOR ITS WORKERS

Britain's workplace regulator is reminding all company owners of their legal responsibility to hold Employers' Liability Compulsory Insurance (ELCI).

The message comes from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) following its prosecution of Mill House Metals, a scrap metal merchant based in Widnes, Cheshire.

The company was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £2,000 towards costs after pleading guilty to breaching the Employers' Liability Compulsory Insurance Act 1969. By law, employers are required to insure against liability for injury or disease to their employees arising out of their employment – it is compulsory insurance.

Liverpool Magistrates Court heard that following an incident at its Hale Road site, the HSE found that there had been no valid certificate of insurance between 18 April 2025 and 30 September 2025. As Mill House Metals Ltd were unable to produce a valid ELCI certificate, this meant that their staff had no means of pursuing a civil claim against the business had they been injured at work or contracted a work-related illness or disease.

Most employers are required by law to provide ELCI cover to ensure successful civil claims can be met. Further

guidance can be found on the HSE website at Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 – HSE.

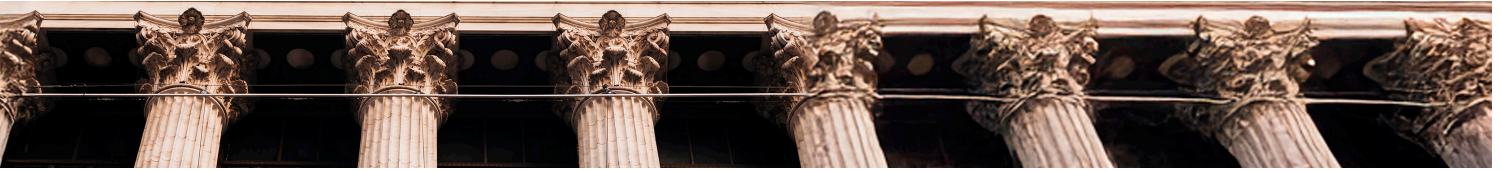
Mill House Metals Ltd, of Hale Road, Widnes, Cheshire, pleaded guilty to breaching the Employers' Liability Compulsory Insurance Act 1969. The company was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £2,000 in costs at Liverpool Magistrates Court on 15 April 2026.

HSE principal inspector Emily Osborne said: "Had Mill House Metal's employees suffered a work-related injury or illness that warranted a claim for damages, they would have been denied a chance to claim the compensation as recompense for any pain and suffering they had endured.

"That is the purpose of ELCI. It is not a trivial optional extra, it is a compulsory requirement that is designed solely to protect employees.

"The law expects employers to take all reasonably practicable steps to prevent their workforce from being injured or becoming ill, but if incidents do occur then Employers' Liability Compulsory Insurance cover is vital."

This HSE prosecution was brought by enforcement lawyer Gemma Zakrzewski.



WORKER SERIOUSLY INJURED WHILE CLEANING MACHINERY SEES COMPANY HEAVILY FINED

A manufacturing company has been fined £340,000 after an employee was seriously injured while cleaning machinery at its site in Swindon.

The 42-year-old man had been working a night shift for Tyco Electronics UK Limited at its premises on Faraday Road on 7 March 2023. He had been tasked with cleaning a machine used to manufacture pellets made from a mixture of raw materials. During the cleaning process, the worker manually raised the hydraulic ram inside the machine and opened the door. He then used his left hand to reach into the open space to clean the machine.

However, as he withdrew his arm, the door fell at the front of the machine and activated the hydraulic ram, trapping his limb. He managed to pull his arm free, tearing nerves and tendons, before shouting for help.

He required three operations to reattach his fingers and spent 10 days in hospital. He attended Southmead Hospital twice weekly for dressing changes and physiotherapy. He continues to experience loss of sensation and movement in his fingers, although he has regained some movement in his thumb.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Tyco Electronics UK Limited failed to put suitable and sufficient measures in place to prevent employees from being put at risk while cleaning the machine.

The investigation also identified that employees had not been provided with sufficient information and instruction

on how to use and clean the machine safely. Training was found to be inadequate, and employees were not suitably supervised.

HSE guidance on safe use of work equipment highlights the importance of following safe isolation and lock-off procedures before carrying out any maintenance or cleaning work on machinery. Employers must ensure that equipment is properly isolated from all power sources and that systems are regularly monitored and reviewed to prevent inadvertent start-up.

Tyco Electronics UK Limited, of Company Secretariat, Faraday Road, Swindon, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £340,000 and ordered to pay costs of £5,145 at Bristol Magistrates' Court on 17 April 2026.

After the hearing, HSE Inspector Emma Preston said: "Machinery accidents during maintenance and cleaning are all too common, often with serious consequences.

"Workers should ensure that machinery is properly isolated from all sources of power so that it cannot restart during the task.

"Incidents like this can and should be prevented by following robust lock-off procedures."

This prosecution was brought by HSE enforcement lawyer Neenu Bains and supported by paralegal officer Hannah Snelling.

ROOFER FELL THROUGH UNGUARDED LOFT HATCH

A Hampshire-based company has been fined after a roofer suffered life-changing injuries when he fell through an unprotected loft hatch while carrying out work on a domestic property in Wimbledon.

Mark Smith had been working for Willow Services (Southern) Limited on 13 May 2024, where he was re-roofing the house. The 41-year-old had been stripping out internal insulation within the roof space, when he stepped onto an unguarded loft hatch which had not been identified or protected.

He fell approximately 11 feet to the floor below, landing on his back. He had fractured his L1 vertebra and his hip and has been unable to return to work since. His employment was later terminated by the company.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the company had failed to suitably plan the work at height. The company did not ensure adequate measures were in place to prevent falls and had failed to provide competent supervision of the work.

The investigation also identified that those overseeing the work did not have the necessary training or experience to safely manage construction-related activities.

HSE guidance provides practical advice on planning, organising and carrying out roof work safely. It highlights the need to properly assess risks from working at height, identify fragile surfaces, provide suitable access equipment, and ensure falls are prevented wherever possible.

The guidance also stresses the importance of competence and supervision and applies to construction, maintenance, repair, cleaning and demolition activities. Following this guidance can help reduce the risk of fatal and serious injuries when working on roofs.

Willow Services (Southern) Ltd, of Westbrooke Close, Waterlooville, Hampshire, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4(1) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005. The company was fined £20,000 and ordered to pay £5,607 in costs at Westminster Magistrates' Court on 30 April 2026.

AN UNSUNG **GUARDIAN** OF BUILDING SAFETY

Elliott Dawson, National Accounts Manager at UAP, explains why firemongery is more than a finishing touch. With scrutiny and regulations tightening, he argues that specification, installation and maintenance need to be treated as seriously as the doors themselves because firemongery is frontline safety.

Firemongery rarely makes the headlines. Hinges, closers, latches and seals quietly do their work while the industry debates cladding, alarms and evacuation strategy. When a fire happens, it is often these small components that determine whether a building performs as designed by buying time, containing smoke and keeping escape routes clear.

Firemongery is the link between a tested fire door and real-world use. People do not use a fire door, they use a handle, a latch or a closer. If these components are mis-specified, poorly installed or allowed to drift out of adjustment, even the strongest door cannot do its job. Failures are rarely dramatic, but they build up over time. A closer may be disconnected for convenience, a latch replaced with something smoother but incompatible, a hinge may loosen and a seal can be painted over. Each decision may seem minor, yet together they erode the door's ability to resist fire and smoke and often only become apparent when it is too late.

THINKING ABOUT THE DOOR AS A SYSTEM

A fire door is more than a slab of wood or metal. Its frame, glazing, seals, signage and hardware all need to match the test evidence, but hardware is where this thinking often falls apart. Handles wear, closers are adjusted, cylinders are replaced and components are swapped. Without clear discipline, a doorset can appear correct but no longer reflect what was tested.

The challenge for 2026 and beyond is making system integrity practical by designing out ambiguity at the specification stage, setting clear installation standards and keeping maintenance routines simple enough to actually happen without compromising safety.

SPECIFICATION AND INSTALLATION MATTERS

Good firemongery starts at specification. Hardware must be proven for the intended fire rating and door configuration, and equivalent appearance or cost is not enough. Specifiers need to understand the door's certification route, the evidence supporting the hardware and whether it is suited to the expected usage and maintenance requirements. The cost of specifying correctly is small compared with the expense of remediation, disruption and reputational damage when failures are discovered.



Even the right products can fail if installed poorly. Misaligned keeps, under-fixed hinges, incorrect intumescent packs and missing components all affect performance in everyday use and in a fire. Competence must go beyond a certificate. Installers need to understand why every detail matters, and firemongery should be treated as a critical trade discipline that is measured, checked, signed off and auditable.

MAINTENANCE WINS OR LOSES SAFETY

Buildings evolve, users change and doors get knocked about. Inspection and maintenance are not just admin, they are part of the fire strategy. Facilities teams need clear routines, access to the right parts and the confidence to challenge quick fixes that bypass test evidence. Firemongery should be treated like any life safety asset – monitored, documented and repaired properly.

RECOGNITION IS OVERDUE

Firemongery is not about ticking boxes. It ensures the fire doors we rely on every day actually work when it matters. The industry has made real progress in raising awareness of fire doors, and now it is time to raise the bar on the components that make them function. Hinges, latches, closers and seals are the unsung guardians of building safety, and they deserve recognition. With the insight and experience UAP brings to the sector, the industry has the guidance it needs to get this right, and it is time we start treating these components like they matter.

<https://uaplimited.com>



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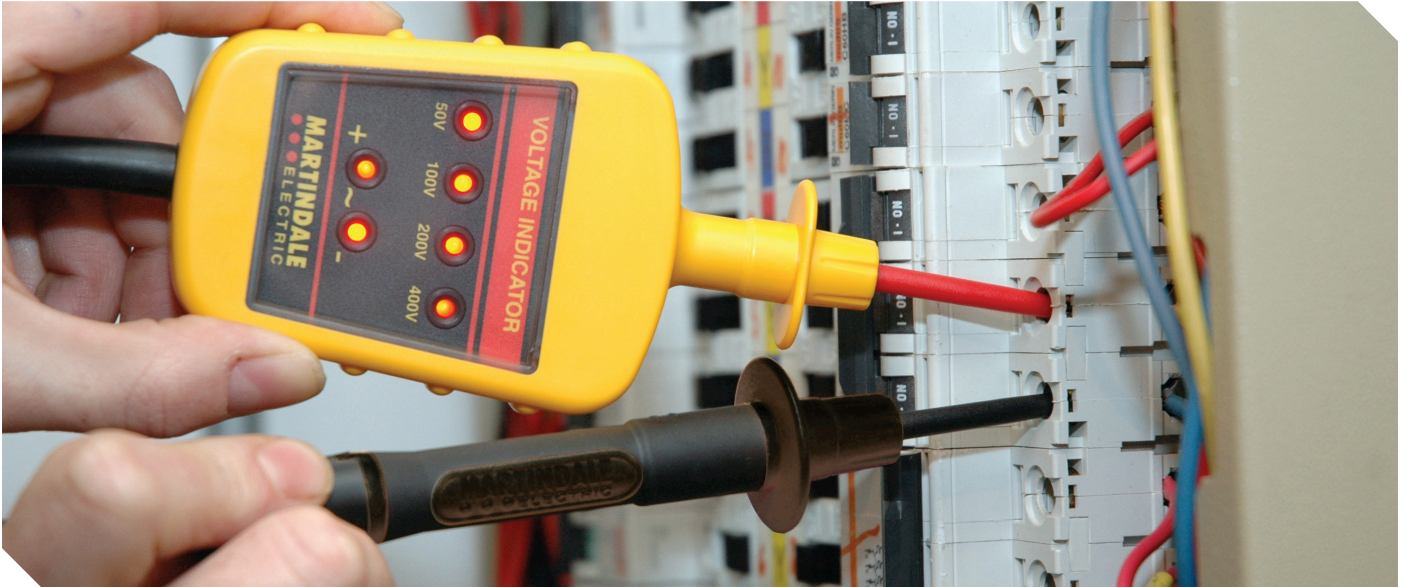


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ELECTRICAL SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE

Martindale Electric explains the importance of safe isolation and electrical equipment testing, outlining how robust procedures and the right test equipment help reduce electrical risks and improve workplace safety compliance.



Reports show that injuries from electrical accidents in the workplace are still prevalent, with true figures likely higher than statistics show due to under-reporting. Safe isolation procedures and portable appliance testing are two fundamental processes which significantly enhance safety around electricity, for both electrical workers and others in the workplace.

Safe isolation is necessary to ensure that workers on site are not exposed to danger when working on or near live electrical systems. There have been incidents where failure to use safe isolation procedures has resulted in injury. Portable appliance testing (PAT) is the term widely used to describe the examination of electrical appliances and equipment to ensure that they are safe to use.

SAFE ISOLATION

Overview

Safe isolation is a vital task which needs to be performed whenever working on an electrical installation. It ensures both the safety of those working on the installation and other tradespeople or members of the public who might be on the premises. It is important that the person who performs the isolation is trained, qualified, and up to date on the procedures necessary to perform this task. Appropriate equipment is also essential, both testing kit and electrical supply lock-off devices.

Process

The safe isolation process is a structured approach designed to confirm electrical systems are safely de-energised before maintenance or installation work takes place. It is important to ensure permission for work is in place with all relevant parties informed. The

first stage involves identifying the correct breaker or switch associated with the circuit to be worked on. Once identified, the circuit must be locked off correctly, tagged appropriately, and verified dead before any work can proceed.

Once isolated and locked off, the proving dead procedure begins. This involves testing a suitable, compliant voltage indicator against a matched proving unit (giving a safe voltage output) to confirm the instrument is functioning correctly. The next stage is the voltage test itself, where the proved voltage indicator is used to check for dangerous voltage levels on the circuit to be worked on, whether single-phase or three-phase. After testing the circuit, the voltage indicator must then be proved on the proving unit again before any work starts. This final step confirms that the tester has remained functional throughout the process and that no damage or faults have developed during use.

Test equipment requirement

Having the correct test equipment available is fundamental. There are many devices that indicate or measure voltages. Specific Voltage Indicators (VI) are the best solution for use during the isolation procedure. They must comply with the legal safety standards BS EN61243-3 and BS EN61010-1. Dedicated products such as the **Martindale VI13800 voltage indicator** are specifically designed to meet these requirements

Using a dedicated proving unit matched to the voltage indicator is strongly recommended. This ensures all LEDs and ranges on the instrument are functioning correctly. In addition, proving units provide a safer and more convenient live source than using the mains supply directly.

PORTABLE APPLIANCE TESTING (PAT/EET)

PAT or EET ?

The latest IET Code of Practice for In-Service Inspection and Testing of Electrical Equipment recommends the term Electrical Equipment Testing (EET) rather than PAT. The change was due to the word 'portable,' which could be assumed to refer that only small, movable appliances would require testing, whereas the scope is much wider.

Overview

According to the Health and Safety Executive, a significant number of all reportable electrical accidents involve portable appliances. It is clear that a large number of incidents and injuries could be prevented with proper electrical checks, inspections and safety tests.

In accordance with the Electricity at Work Regulations, any electrical equipment that has the potential to cause injury must be maintained in a safe condition. Although the regulations are clear in their intent, they do not specify what needs to be done, by whom, or how frequently. Nevertheless, the objective is to drive compliance and reduce the number of accidents in the workplace – specifically electricity-related accidents and cases where employees are put at risk due to the failure to properly comply with the Electricity at Work Regulations.

Process

Although many electrical safety defects can be identified by a **formal visual inspection**, some types can only be found by carrying out testing. It is important to note, however, that even where testing is a necessary element of the diagnostic process, a visual examination may prove critical in detecting safety defects that cannot be identified solely by testing.

A simple training programme and **checklist** can help to guide an initial user check, but a more formal visual inspection and testing regime carried out by a competent person may be required, depending on the type of equipment and its operating environment.

When it comes to determining how often an item of electrical equipment should be tested, there are no hard and fast rules. For example, a power tool used on a construction site should be examined more frequently than a lamp in a hotel bedroom. Guidelines suggest regular testing, which is generally interpreted as a requirement for annual testing. Circumstances and conditions of use will often vary; however, the frequency of inspection and testing will depend upon the type of equipment being used and the operating environment.

The subject of Portable Appliance Testing can be really tricky for employers to navigate. Although the requirements surrounding PAT/EET are not stipulated; in order to guarantee wider legal compliance, it is important for employers to prove that their workforce operates within a safe environment, so regular testing of portable appliances is absolutely vital.

TEST EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENT

Martindale have invested in developing and manufacturing products and support services to help ensure that it is as straightforward as possible to stay safe and compliant. When it comes to testing appliances, the **Martindale HPAT Series of portable appliance testers**, including the new HPAT425 with automated testing, enable both contractors and competent in-house personnel to quickly and safely verify the electrical safety of a wide range of appliances.

<https://martindale-electric.co.uk>



YOUR **SAFE** SPACE

Safety, Health & Wellbeing Live London returns to Olympia on 1–2 July, featuring more than 125 exhibitors, six training zones and 40 hours of CPD-accredited content, it's not to be missed.



The world of work is evolving at pace and with it, the expectations placed on health and safety professionals. From climate pressures and changing workforce dynamics to digital transformation and new legislation, today's safety leaders are no longer just managing compliance they are navigating complexity, influencing strategy, and driving organisational resilience.

At this pivotal moment, Safety, Health & Wellbeing Live (SHW Live) London 2026 provides a timely and practical platform to support that shift.

Designed for those responsible for safety, risk and wellbeing, the event delivers two days of hands-on learning, expert insight and real-world application equipping you with the tools, knowledge and connections needed to perform at a higher level.

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- Gain practical strategies to manage both physical and psychosocial risks in complex environments.
- Learn from real case studies and operational leaders, not just theory.
- Understand how to demonstrate the value of safety at board level.
- Stay ahead of regulatory change and emerging risks.
- Earn 40+ hours of free CPD-accredited content.
- Discover new solutions and innovations from leading suppliers.
- Connect with peers facing the same challenges across industries.

More than just a conference, SHW Live London is where the profession comes together to learn, share and move forward with clarity, confidence and practical insight.

WORLD CLASS CONFERENCE THEATRES

HSE Spotlight Seminars – Meet HSE Inspectors, gain practical guidance, join spotlight seminars and experience cross-industry collaboration driving safer workplaces.

NEBOSH Live one-day Conference – Join NEBOSH at Safety, Health & Wellbeing Live on 2 July 2026 for a dedicated programme of expert-led sessions designed exclusively for occupational safety and health professionals. Speakers are senior Health & Safety Practitioners from the likes of: Sainsburys, Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One team, Cardiff Metropolitan University, and MeiraGTx.

PPE Forum – New for 2026, the PPE Forum at SHW Live London is a dedicated space for debate, discussion, and the exchange of ideas shaping the future of personal protective equipment. Bringing together industry experts, innovators, and thought leaders, the forum explores the evolving role of PPE in modern workplace safety.

Fire Safety Live/Golden Thread Theatre – A dedicated programme exploring lifecycle accountability in fire safety – from engineering intent to governance, evidence and change control across the life of a building.

VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

BSI Academy – Join the BSI this July at Safety, Health & Wellbeing Live for this free opportunity to learn from expert tutor Andrew Winter as he delivers a comprehensive session on an Introduction to ISO 45001. Whether you're new to planning, implementing, maintaining, supervising, or auditing an ISO 45001 system, this course is perfect for organisations of any size or industry.

New for 2026, Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Zone is a dedicated space for exploring one of the fastest-growing fire risks in UK workplaces and public spaces.

The Zone, delivered in partnership with fire safety specialists Safelincs, cuts through the uncertainty with live product demonstrations, an expert advice clinic, and a community Insights Hub where you can share experiences and learn from others facing the same challenges.

Safety at Height Demonstrations – Gain invaluable insights from industry leaders, witness live demonstrations, and

explore the latest innovations in height safety. Learn practical steps to enhance workplace safety and prevent falls from the likes of NASC and IRATA.

LEADING THE FUTURE OF SAFETY

Keynote speakers include:

- Richard Bate, IOSH President.
- Dee Arp, Chief Quality Officer, NEBOSH.
- Kevin Barr, Health and Safety – Procedures and Systems Manager, Lloyds Banking Group.
- Chris Newson, Environment, Health and Safety Manager, MAKE UK.
- Crystal Danbury, Director of Group Safety, Insurance and Occupational Wellbeing, Sainsbury's.
- Stuart Hughes, Head of Health and Safety, Mercedes AMG Petronas Formula One Team.
- Becky Ray, CEO, Culture Kick.
- Richard Brookes, Group Head of Health and Safety, South Staffordshire Plc.
- Nick Bell, Honorary Principal Lecturer, Cardiff Metropolitan University.

More trailblazing speakers can be found [here](#).

TURNING INSIGHT INTO IMPACT

SHWL London 2026 is more than a conference – it is a collective moment for a profession redefining its purpose.

The risks are changing.
The tools are changing.
The expectations of safety leaders are changing.

This event is where the industry comes together to meet that change-confidently, collaboratively and with ambition.

PARTNERS

Safety, Health & Wellbeing Live is delighted to be working with leading industry associations and partners, including HSE, IOSH, NEBOSH, the British Safety Council, BSI, IIRSM, IOM, NASC, IPAF, BOHS, UKATA, Safety Management, HSE People and Tomorrow's Health & Safety.

CONFIRMED EXHIBITORS

Meet more than 125 specialist exhibitors – From RRC International, Bureau Veritas to Portwest and Evac+Chair, visitors will be exploring the latest solutions and suppliers driving innovation across safety, health and wellbeing.

The full exhibitor list can be found [here](#).

A PLATFORM FOR PROGRESS

Ultimately, SHWL London 2026 isn't just about information – it's about transformation. It's where the profession comes together to share experiences, challenge assumptions, and shape the next generation of health, safety, and wellbeing practice.

The risks are changing. The tools are changing. The expectations of safety leaders are changing.

Safety, Health & Wellbeing Live London 2026 is where the industry meets that change head-on-confidently, collaboratively, and with purpose.

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www.safetyhealthwellbeing.live



THE 50% SURGE

There's an alarming increase in excavation breaches on UK construction sites, but how can we reverse the trend? Oliver Smith, Engineering Director at Groundforce Shorco, shares his views.

Last year delivered a sobering wake-up call to the UK ground engineering and construction sector. According to the latest data from the Building Safety Group (BSG), excavation breaches on construction sites surged by a staggering 50% between the first and second quarters of the year.

Based on over 7,000 independent site inspections, the findings suggest that despite our industry's sophisticated understanding of soil mechanics and the proliferation of advanced shoring solutions, the gap between design intent and site reality is widening.

Excavation remains one of the most hazardous phases of any build, with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) attributing approximately 15% of all construction-related fatalities to collapses. However, this recent spike demands more than a cursory review of safety processes; it requires a deep dive into the technical and systemic pressures currently facing geotechnical contractors.

THE PHYSICS OF FAILURE

While it is tempting to attribute the spike in breaches to a seasonal increase in workload or shifting groundwater levels, the reality is more nuanced. Groundwater levels are typically highest in late winter, but the transition into

summer leaves ground conditions highly variable – with residual saturation, softening, and changing drainage behaviour creating uncertainty in how the ground will perform.

However, the primary driver is rarely environmental alone. It is systemic. As an industry, we are building on increasingly constrained, 'marginal' brownfield sites with incomplete data and tighter timelines.

Procurement routes often push specialist input later into the process, meaning temporary works solutions are frequently developed around fixed constraints rather than influencing them early. The issue is not the capability of the proprietary shoring systems – which are generally robust and designed to provide warning through deformation before failure – but how consistently they are applied and controlled under programme pressure.

THE DISCONNECT: DESIGN ASSUMPTIONS VS SITE REALITY

In ground engineering, the point of failure is rarely found in the structural design of the equipment itself. Instead, it occurs at the interface between design assumptions and site execution.

A temporary works design is only valid if the excavation depth, geometry, soil parameters, groundwater, surcharge loads, and installation sequence match what was assumed in the office. Ground Investigation (GI) data is effectively a snapshot of conditions at a particular point in time; in many cases, one or more of these parameters changes on-site without a formal engineering review. Once that happens, the excavation may no longer behave in line with the design intent, even if the support system appears to be in place.

The robustness of modern proprietary systems can ironically create a false sense of security. Because these systems are designed with inherent factors of safety and



often show visible deformation before structural failure, site teams may perceive them as ‘forgiving’ of deviations.

This is a dangerous misconception. Most excavation incidents don’t happen because the equipment suddenly fails, but because the excavation has already moved beyond the conditions it was designed for, and that change hasn’t been recognised or controlled.

REVERSING THE TREND

To reverse this trend, the industry must move away from treating shoring installation as a routine activity and return to viewing it as a critical engineering stage. Failures are frequently linked to specific deviations: incorrect spacing, incomplete installation, or allowing excavation to progress too far ahead of the support.

We do not necessarily need constant redesigns, but we do need a more realistic definition of the design envelope. Suppliers often design to a narrow brief to remain competitive. It is the responsibility of the contractor and the Temporary Works Coordinator (TWC) to define a realistic envelope at the outset, including credible worst-case conditions – such as groundwater at ground level or maximum possible surcharges – rather than a single best-case snapshot.

If I could mandate only one change across UK sites, it would be a rigorous requirement to verify that site conditions match design assumptions before the first bucket hits the ground. Excavations should not proceed on the basis of a drawing alone. There must be a clear ‘hold point’ where a competent person confirms that the geometry, soil, and loading are consistent with the engineer’s intent.

THE COST OF DEVIATION

We must leverage technology to bridge the skills gap. Digital monitoring, such as proprietary load-monitoring

sensors on hydraulic struts, provides real-time data that human observation might miss. Beyond visual checks, engineers must look for indicators that the excavation is no longer behaving as assumed. This includes subtle ground movement, softening of the formation, or changes in load distribution such as poor seating of components.

Consider an urban basement excavation where the design assumed a specific surcharge from nearby plant machinery. On-site, due to space constraints, a heavier crane was positioned closer to the excavation edge than planned. Because the ‘design envelope’ hadn’t accounted for this deviation, the shoring system began to show subtle signs of distress, including tension cracking and unexpected water ingress.

In this instance, early recognition of these indicators allowed for a dynamic review and the installation of additional lateral support. Had the site team relied on the perceived ‘robustness’ of the equipment without questioning the change in parameters, the 50% breach statistic would likely have claimed another project.

A SAFER FUTURE

Reversing the rise in excavation breaches requires more than incremental equipment upgrades; it demands a fundamental shift in site culture and a commitment to deeper collaboration between contractors and specialist suppliers.

While proprietary systems are a formidable line of defence, they are not a substitute for rigorous engineering oversight. By narrowing the gap between the design office and the trench, and ensuring the TWC is empowered to halt works when reality drifts from design, we can ensure that a ‘zero-failure’ site culture becomes an industry standard, rather than a moving target.

www.vpgroundforce.com/gb/



CLEARING THE AIR ON DUST CONTROL



Exposure, emissions and efficiency all influence dust collection performance. Ignoring any one of them can compromise safety and operational effectiveness, says Nicolas Van der Veken, Product Manager at Donaldson.

EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF DUST IN PRODUCTION

Maintaining effective dust control can help support optimal working conditions, and compliance with dust emissions standards and regulations, while mitigating the risks associated with combustible dust and helping to safeguard workers.

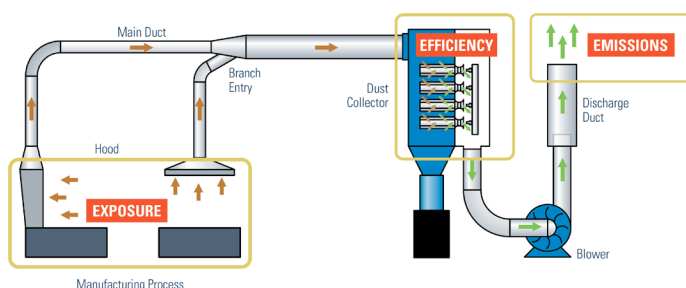
The accepted industry norm is often to focus on filter efficiency for effective dust control, while two other key factors – exposure and emissions – are commonly overlooked. Failing to take these two elements into consideration alongside efficiency can mean that dust control performance is not being fully optimised.

Exposure to nuisance dust creates discomfort and annoyance. Fugitive dust is where particles become airborne from elements of an industrial process that are not enclosed or controlled appropriately. This includes any location in a facility where dust escapes freely into the air, rather than being captured by a dust collection system. Exposure considerations include the properties of the materials being produced or used in a facility, as well as the locations where exposure to those materials occurs.

A qualified industrial hygienist can thoroughly audit a facility to evaluate overall air quality and determine average or peak concentrations of airborne contaminants. They will review various job functions, assess working conditions and take detailed air samples to provide recommendations for how to address air quality and contaminants effectively.

Hooding can be an effective means of reducing exposure to dust and should be designed effectively and properly located near the source of dust generation. An audit can identify the facility's dust sources to verify if ventilation hooding currently in use is appropriate. This is often when new dust generation points and the need to add controls, such as additional hood locations, are identified.

Once exposure areas have been addressed, the next step is to review appropriate dust collection technology. A dust collector should deliver consistent and predictable performance that effectively removes contaminants, while maintaining a consistent air volume at a predictable energy cost.



When assessing the appropriate dust collector, it is also important to carefully analyse the type of filter and the filter efficiency. A filter in a regenerative dust collector is often pulse-cleaned under heavy loads. It must handle new dust entering the collector, in addition to all the dust accumulated on the filter over time. Evaluating a dust collector in terms of what it achieves at its stable set point, and using exposure and emissions testing will give a better indication of the ventilation system's performance.

Outlet emissions are what ultimately passes through the dust collector. It is therefore important to know the quality of the filtered air being emitted back into the building or exhausting outside. This requires systematic testing to monitor air quality. For some facilities, industry-relevant regulations mandate continuous emissions monitoring. Other local and international standards may also apply, dictating the need for a variety of test methods to determine emissions or exposure limits.

Once ventilation needs and emissions limits are understood, a qualified and experienced industrial ventilation designer can help propose a suitable dust collection system design. They will identify what the dust load demands may produce in terms of energy and cleaning consumption, and how to achieve emissions goals in both a cost- and energy-efficient way.

Whenever changes are made to a facility or process, it is also important to remember that any resulting modifications to the dust collection system can throw the system out of balance in terms of air volume throughout the system. An industrial ventilation designer can advise on necessary modifications so that the remodelled system performs as designed.

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REIMAGINING WORKING AT HEIGHT

Samuel Butterworth, Business Development Manager UK & Ireland - LLA at JLG Power Towers, explains why the future of low-level access starts with challenging plant equipment and site safety habits.



Across construction, facilities management, maintenance, and fit-out projects, working at height with plant equipment, particularly at low levels, is a routine part of daily operations. For decades, organisations have relied on a mix of access methods, including ladders, podiums, scaffold, and platforms, each chosen according to the task at hand. However, as site safety culture evolves and a larger emphasis is placed on worker wellbeing, many are now taking a fresh look at the options available.

Modern low-level access (LLA) solutions are part of this plant fleet rethink. Not necessarily to replace traditional methods, but give decision makers and users more choice, more control, and more opportunities to work in ways that support long term health, productivity, and site safety processes.

THE SCALE OF THE ISSUE

Low-level access tasks may feel like a standard part of daily operations, but they carry significant risk. UK data continues to show the impact.

Over the last decade, an estimated 425,000 non-fatal falls from height have occurred and around 37,000 workers self-reported a fall related injury in the last annual period. Non-fatal falls from height result in approximately 688,000 lost working days per year, costing the economy around £850m. Falls from height can also prove fatal, and are the leading cause of death among workers, with 35 fatalities in 2024/25.

At the same time, musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs), often linked to repetitive reaching, constrained posture, and manual handling, affected more than 511,000 workers in 2024/25 and led to 7.1 million lost working days. These strains have great potential to occur in environments where workers regularly access ceilings, fixtures, or plant equipment at height.

No particular type of equipment is to blame for these statistics. The causes may be multi-faceted. However, it is important to recognise that task intensity, frequency, and equipment ergonomics matter when it comes to protecting people. Modern solutions such as powered access equipment may help support reduced physical strain on people performing these tasks day after day, and can be useful additions to equipment fleets, contributing to improved site safety practices and a more predictable site environment.

WHAT IS LOW-LEVEL ACCESS?

When talking about low-level access, this typically refers to a working height of 5 metres and below. This may not sound like a high elevation when compared to equipment on the market that lifts more than 10 times that. However, this constitutes working at height for the purposes of safety. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guides that working at height means working

“OVER THE LAST DECADE, AN ESTIMATED 425,000 NON-FATAL FALLS FROM HEIGHT HAVE OCCURRED AND AROUND 37,000 WORKERS SELF-REPORTED A FALL RELATED INJURY IN THE LAST ANNUAL PERIOD.”

anywhere where, if no precautions are taken, a worker could fall a distance liable to cause personal injury.

Falls from height are not always ‘freak accidents’. They more often can be a symptom of a failure to take the right measures, whether that is training, equipment choice, or operator behaviour. Falls tend to be predictable outcomes of predictable habits, like overreaching, carrying tools while climbing, or working one handed to maintain balance.

The HSE makes its position clear. As much work as possible should be done from the ground, and advises organisations to follow a simple hierarchy of control for work at height:

1. Avoid working at height where possible.
2. Prevent falls using appropriate equipment.
3. Minimise the distance or consequences of a fall if one occurs.

Modern LLA solutions can support this hierarchy by offering enclosed platforms designed to provide stability, designed to help reduce the need to overreach or adopt awkward positions, and reducing or removing the need to climb in many scenarios. For instance, choosing JLG Power Towers models may help employers and site managers to take a more controlled, consistent approach to repeated routines. It offers contractors and site managers additional routes to support compliance efforts, support workforce protection, and increase flexibility in daily operations.

DESIGNED FOR PEOPLE, NOT JUST PRODUCTIVITY

Today's workforce not only expects that both access and plant equipment keeps them safe, but also that it is designed to support comfort, efficiency, and long-term health. Modern low level access platforms have been designed with these expectations in mind.

Designed with ergonomics in mind – JLG Power Towers LLA solutions provide space to support natural working postures, which may help reduce shoulder, wrist and back strain common in overhead and repetitive work.

A stable platform for focused working – Guardrails and enclosed platforms are designed to provide collective fall protection, supporting workers to concentrate on the job rather than maintaining balance.

Reduced climbing requirements – Many platforms are designed to reduce the need for climbing, which may help reduce the strain associated with repeated ascent and descent during busy shifts.

Space for tools and materials – Having equipment at platform height can help reduce unnecessary reaching or improvisation and supports more organised, efficient work.

Productivity may therefore be influenced by good design. When a worker feels comfortable, supported, and confident at height, the quality and consistency of their tasks may improve naturally.

None of this diminishes the ongoing role that ladders, scaffolds, or podiums have in many workplaces. Instead, it demonstrates how a broader selection of tools helps employers choose the right method for the right task, taking account of ergonomics, duration, reach, and frequency.

It helps directors, facilities management teams and health and safety professionals to create a site safety culture that puts people first, with ways to select equipment that helps demonstrate strong risk management, aid long-term workforce wellbeing, and optimise productivity. Equipment choice becomes not simply a compliance decision, but a strategic one.

CONFIDENT TO CHOOSE THE BEST OPTION

Changing site safety culture must stem from the top. However, plant and access equipment operators

have a vital role to play as well. Every worker should feel empowered to ask questions about how they complete their tasks. Installers, electricians, maintenance technicians, or anyone working at height need equipment that supports them, protects them, and enables them to produce their best work. Employees should have the confidence to ask: "Is this the best way to work at height today?" Having a choice of solutions to match the task, operator, or environment is key.

SMART FUTURE SOLUTIONS

Work at height, especially at low levels, is not going away, but the way organisations approach it continues to evolve. With a wider range of access methods, including modern low-level access platforms, employers can support teams with equipment that fits today's expectations of safety, ergonomics, and productivity.

This is not about rejecting traditional methods; it is about expanding what's possible and helping to reduce avoidable risks. Because safety shouldn't rely on luck, and people deserve better.

www.jlg.com/en-gb



BALANCING CONTROL WITH COSTS IN HEALTHCARE

As healthcare providers face mounting pressure around infection control and operational efficiency, Catherine Grinstead, UKI Customer Marketing Manager of Kimberly-Clark Professional, explores how smarter hygiene solutions can help reduce contamination risks across hospitals and clinics.

In today's healthcare environments, maintaining exceptional hygiene standards is essential to both operational efficiency and patient safety. As healthcare providers continue to face increasing pressure around hygiene compliance, healthcare-acquired infections (HAIs), workforce shortages and rising operational costs, the need for effective, scalable hygiene solutions has never been greater.

Kimberly-Clark Professional (KCP) explores how healthcare facilities can achieve this critical balance, not only within washrooms, but also across high-traffic patient and visitor areas where the risk of germ transmission is often highest.

Hot spots, objects that are touched by lots of people throughout the day such as doorknobs, elevator buttons, handrails, need to be cleaned and disinfected regularly to break the chain of germ transmission. In a span of 24 hours, the average adult touches 7,200 surfaces, and then touches their face 552 times.

Healthcare sites have heavy foot traffic which creates high risk areas for spreading germs, especially for HAIs. In fact, according to research studies by the National Library of Medicine, poor cleaning of surfaces within healthcare facilities is a major source of HAIs because of the transmission of microorganisms, such as MRSA. According to the British Medical Journal, HAI's cost the NHS £2.7bn annually, which means it's never been more critical for healthcare teams to maintain clean environments for patients and workers alike.

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KCP understands how increasingly difficult it is for healthcare teams to achieve infection control. The company acknowledges the complex pressures faced by cleaning teams in hospitals, and that having the right solution and the right support is crucially important in helping to keep people safe. As such, it consistently targets research and development towards finding solutions that encourage hand hygiene compliance, reduce the risk of cross-contamination, and improve cleaning efficiency with products available direct through NHS Supply Chain or local Distribution partners.

REDUCING THE RISK WITH CRITICAL CLEANING

WypAll wipes from Kimberly-Clark Professional are engineered to serve specific tasks in all environments. For sectors where cleaning cannot be compromised, the WypAll CriticalClean selection offers wiping products designed to reduce human error and contamination.

Engineered to enhance regulatory hygiene practices and ensure compliance, WypAll cloths have been designed to give staff, patients and visitors confidence

that surfaces are hygienic wherever they are in a hospital or clinic. WypAll X50 Critical Clean cloths provide the flexible, yet durable wipes needed for extended use with disinfectants, bleach and sanitisers that is required in healthcare settings for infection control. The non-woven low lint cloths are engineered with advanced Hydroknit technology ensuring they are both lightweight and absorbent when used on any surface.

The wipes stay strong and durable whether wet or dry, and are food-contact certified, guaranteeing the highest levels of safety and minimising the risk of contamination in canteens, and the many other eating areas found in hospitals. They notably have superior crumb pick-up, efficiently trapping dirt and grime for quick and effective cleaning which is especially useful in high turnaround and busy healthcare settings.

WypAll X50 is available in four distinct colours to help avoid cross contamination by clearly identifying different cleaning tasks for different coloured wipes. With the pressure of working fast but effectively, the colour coded system can reduce mistakes but also streamline procedures.

For a faster and more efficient clean, Wypall X80 Colour Coded cloths are available with even more absorbency, stronger and even more suitable for contaminant removal and deep cleaning which might be required during patient changeover, deep cleaning or for oily or grease heavy substances.

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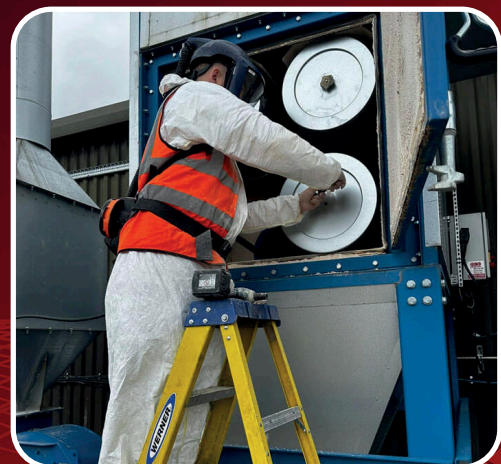


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HEALTH ALERT

Dr Katherine O'Reilly, Regional Medical Director of Medical Information and Analysis at International SOS, explains why rising cases of measles, polio and meningitis highlight the growing importance of infectious disease preparedness in everyday life and the workplace.

Recent public health developments in the UK, including rising measles cases, the detection of poliovirus in London wastewater, and a meningitis outbreak in Kent, are a reminder that infectious disease is not an overseas or abstract risk. These are not new pathogens, or unexpected ones. Instead, they show how familiar diseases can re-emerge when population immunity dips, and people live, work, and socialise in close contact.

While these are distinct and individual diseases, considered together, they demonstrate that infectious disease risk has become persistent, local, and represent an increasing risk.

Measles is perhaps the clearest example. In January 2026, the UK lost its measles elimination status. Cases have been increasing since 2022, and peaked in 2024, with the highest concentration in the West Midlands and London. The uptake of the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine has declined, with coverage in some communities dropping as low as 69.9%, far below the 95% threshold required for herd immunity. While most cases have occurred among children, adults are also at risk.

For individuals, the message is straightforward: knowing your vaccination status, and that of your family, matters. Measles can be serious, especially for young children, pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems. Seeking medical advice early, when symptoms appear, and avoiding close contact with others when unwell, helps limit spread and protects the wider community.

For organisations, measles can quickly spread through workplaces. Even a small number of cases can lead to staff absences, operational disruption and anxiety among teams. Clear communication, supportive absence policies and encouraging access to healthcare can help maintain continuity while reinforcing trust.

The detection of poliovirus in London wastewater has understandably also raised concerns. Even though no

local transmission has been identified, awareness remains important. Polio immunisation coverage in the UK has fallen from around 95% in previous years to approximately 92% in 2022–23.

For individuals, reassurance grounded in facts is important. Polio vaccination remains highly effective, but checking immunisation records and responding to public health advice helps close gaps, particularly in communities where coverage has slipped.

For employers, the lesson is about proportionate communication. Headline-driven fear can spread faster than infection. Providing accurate context about what wastewater detection means, and what it does not, helps prevent misinformation from filling gaps.

The meningitis outbreak in Kent illustrates a different form of risk. While geographically limited, invasive meningococcal disease can progress rapidly and have severe consequences. The outbreak shows how quickly serious illness can emerge in close-contact settings where people live and socialise together.

For individuals, recognising symptoms and acting fast remains critical. Meningitis does not always present clearly, and early medical assessment can be lifesaving.

For organisations employing younger adults, students or apprentices, awareness and rapid response pathways are essential. Encouraging staff to take symptoms seriously and ensuring they feel supported to seek care can significantly reduce harm.

Across measles, polio and meningitis, the common theme is preparedness rather than panic. Health resilience is not built only during pandemics; it is maintained through everyday decisions by individuals and organisations alike.

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SLIPPING **UNDER** THE RADAR

Watco examines where slip risks really develop and why they're often missed.

Slips, trips and falls are among the most common causes of workplace incidents, and most teams are confident they know where the risks lie. Wet floors, external steps, loading bays and busy walkways are all regularly identified as risk areas. However, many incidents don't occur in these obvious locations.

Instead, they happen in areas that are considered low risk. Spaces that are familiar, frequently used, and gradually changing under operational pressure. Understanding why risk develops in these areas is key to preventing accidents.

THE PROBLEM WITH 'KNOWN' RISK AREAS

High-risk zones tend to receive the most attention. They are inspected regularly, clearly marked, and often treated with solutions where needed. But this focus can create a blind spot elsewhere.

Surfaces outside of these zones are still exposed to traffic, contamination and environmental conditions but without the same level of scrutiny. Over time, they begin to behave differently, even if they appear unchanged.

WHY UNEXPECTED AREAS BECOME HAZARDOUS

The areas where slip risk is underestimated tend to share one thing in common: they are subject to changing conditions and mixed use.

Transitional areas including entrances, thresholds and loading doors are exposed to constant movement between environments. Water, dust and debris are carried across surfaces, often sitting on materials that weren't designed for those conditions.

Access routes between operational zones often experience high footfall and fast movement. These areas are rarely treated as high risk, but they are used repeatedly throughout the day, which leads to surface polishing, reduced texture and a gradual loss of slip resistance.

External walkways and secondary routes present another challenge. Unlike main access points, they may not benefit from regular cleaning or drainage maintenance. Water can pool, debris can build up, and surface damage can affect how moisture sits on the ground, all of which increase the likelihood of slips.

In each case, the risk is not caused by a single issue, but by the interaction between surface condition, environment and behaviour.

THE IMPACT OF GRADUAL CHANGE

Slip risk rarely develops suddenly. Surfaces can become smoother as coatings wear down or concrete becomes polished through repeated use. Line markings may fade, reducing visibility and awareness of designated walkways. Small areas of damage, such as minor cracks or uneven areas, can alter how water sits on a surface or how people move across it.

Because these changes are gradual, they are often overlooked. Teams adapt by adjusting routes or slowing down, without recognising the underlying issue. Over time, this creates conditions where risk exists but is not actively managed.

A MORE INFORMED APPROACH

Addressing this challenge is not about inspecting more areas at random, but understanding how different parts of a site behave in practice. This means focusing on:

- Areas where environments change (internal ↔ external).
- Routes with repeated, high-frequency use.
- Surfaces exposed to moisture, contamination or poor drainage.

Where early signs of wear are identified, such as reduced texture, pooling water or inconsistent grip, targeted solutions should be applied. This may include anti slip coatings or GRP solutions to restore traction, repairs to correct uneven or damaged surfaces, or updated markings to reinforce safe movement.

Selecting solutions that match how each area is used ensures that surfaces continue to perform reliably over time.

“THE AREAS WHERE SLIP RISK IS UNDERESTIMATED TEND TO SHARE ONE THING IN COMMON: THEY ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGING CONDITIONS AND MIXED USE.”

LOOKING BEYOND THE OBVIOUS

Managing slip risk is not just about responding to visible hazards. It is about recognising how environments change over time and identifying where risk may be building beneath the surface.

By understanding why certain areas become hazardous, rather than simply where incidents have already occurred, facilities managers can take a more targeted and effective approach to managing risk.

www.watco.co.uk/advice/guides-resources



A CLEAN FLOOR IS NOT A **SAFE** FLOOR

A high-gloss finish is often a mask for a high-risk environment. Even a seemingly shiny floor can hide unseen risks that impact the safety of your workforce, as Cheryl Wallace, European Product & Commercialisation Manager at New Pig, explains.

Slips, trips, and falls remain the single most common cause of major injury in UK workplaces. They aren't just HR headaches; they are a financial drain, costing employers approximately £512m annually in lost production and legal liabilities.

While most point to poor housekeeping or accidental spills as the culprits, a more insidious threat is hiding in plain sight. Often, the very protocols designed to keep a facility safe, such as daily mopping and high-shine buffing, are the factors making the floor more dangerous and contributing to the accidents and incidents themselves.

It is time for professionals to look past the shine and address the microscopic reality of floor safety.

THE HIDDEN THREAT

Every floor, from brushed concrete to polished marble, exists on a spectrum of friction. Even a surface that feels smooth to the touch is composed of 'microscopic mountains and valleys' that provide essential traction that helps guard against a slip and fall incident.

The texture of a walking surface might or might not be visible. Some flooring materials, such as linoleum and laminate flooring, feature textures deliberately added to increase traction. Other surfaces are buffed, brazed, sanded, acid-etched or otherwise treated to increase traction.

This traction is measured as the Coefficient of Friction (COF). However, COF isn't a static number. It is a living metric that changes with foot traffic, age, and, most critically, cleaning methods. In fact, improper cleaning can quickly make a floor unsafe. When we focus only on how a floor looks, we ignore how it performs.

IMPROPER CLEANING INCREASES RISK

The most common 'hidden' danger is a process called polymerisation. Improper cleaning leaves behind microscopic layers of dirt and soap residue. Over time, sunlight and harsh chemicals like bleach or ammonia 'bake' this residue into the surface. This fills the microscopic valleys that provide grip, creating a glass-like smoothness that is lethal when wet.

What many don't realise is that cleaning can be part of the problem, dirt and soap residue quickly fill up the floor's valleys, levelling them with the mountaintops. This change often goes unnoticed – especially if floor cleaning and drying happens when a building is unoccupied – because it happens gradually, and the floor still looks shiny to the naked eye.

ADDRESSING THE INVISIBLE THREAT

How do you identify a hazard you can't see? For cleaning teams, it's important to look for two red flag indicators.

One simple way to check for problems from polymerisation is to find an area of the floor that has been covered by something such as a piece of furniture, an appliance or a piece of equipment. If you move the item and find the area more brightly coloured and vibrant than the surrounding floor, you aren't seeing a cleaner spot, you are seeing the original floor before polymerisation took hold.

Dark-coloured grout, or grout lines that are darker in areas with higher traffic are another sign of polymerisation. If your grout lines are black, grey or beige in high-traffic areas, it is often a sign that contaminants are being mopped into the floor rather than lifted off it.

AVOIDING MURKY WATERS

Fixing a dangerous floor is significantly less expensive and less disruptive than replacing one or settling a personal injury claim. However, it also requires a shift in strategy. This strategy begins with removing the polymerisation, then changing floor-cleaning procedures to keep it from recurring.



“EXTERNAL CONDITIONS DIRECTLY DICTATE INTERNAL SAFETY. DURING PERIODS OF HEAVY RAIN OR SNOW, STANDARD CLEANING FREQUENCIES ARE OFTEN INSUFFICIENT.”

Commercial floor cleaning companies offer many different methods for removing polymerisation, and this might be a worthwhile investment. Commercial chemical suppliers can also provide the right products for those who choose to tackle the project with in-house staff and equipment. When choosing a product, it is vital to match the cleaning chemical with the type of floor, the temperature of the water and the type of cleaning methods that will be used.



After removing the buildup, determine whether to re-seal the surface. If you do, choose polishes or sealers that maintain or increase traction.

Next, evaluate the contaminants. Is it just outdoor dirt, or are there oils and greases? Products designed for dirt often fail on oily floors. Conversely, degreasers might not pick up particulates. Choose a chemical specifically designed for both your floor type and the specific contaminants present. While stocking one multi-purpose cleaner is easier, it is often the source of the problem.

CLEANING PROCEDURES

It's important to develop floor-cleaning procedures based not only on the information on the cleaning product's label and any other supplier recommendations, but also on wider environmental factors.

As well as considering how often to clean the floor, at what time of day cleaning takes place and the tools and equipment to use to apply and remove cleaning chemicals, protocols must also adapt to weather conditions.

External conditions directly dictate internal safety. During periods of heavy rain or snow, standard cleaning

frequencies are often insufficient. Foot traffic introduces higher volumes of water, mud, and de-icing salts, all of which can react with existing floor residues to create a slick 'slurry'.

Procedures should mandate increased mopping cycles during wet weather and the strategic use of high-absorbency entrance mats to capture moisture at the source. In adverse weather, the 'cloudy water' rule becomes critical. As mop water becomes saturated with salt and grit, it stops cleaning and begins redistributing a thin, abrasive film that accelerates polymerisation. In these instances, mop water should be changed as soon as it looks cloudy, rather than waiting until the end of a shift.

Finally, consider secondary products. Furniture polishes, glass cleaners, and odour-eliminators can drift onto the floor, making surfaces less safe. Using pre-moistened wipes for these tasks can help minimise this hazard.

Effective cleaning procedures can eliminate falls, but managed incorrectly, they can actually increase the risk.

www.newpig.co.uk/floor-level-safety



REAL **VALUE** ADDED

When is automated fall detection technology most effective and how does it strengthen a lone working risk assessment, asks Peoplesafe.

Falls continue to be one of the leading causes of workplace injury in the UK, accounting for 30% of all reported non-fatal employee injuries.

For lone workers, however, the primary risk is not always the fall itself, but the absence of immediate assistance when something goes wrong. This is where automated fall detection technology has become an increasingly important consideration for health and safety professionals seeking proportionate controls that align with UK HSE expectations.

The key questions are: when is it most effective and how does it strengthen a lone working risk assessment?

WHEN FALL DETECTION IS MOST USEFUL

Fall detection delivers the greatest benefit in environments where the consequence of an incident is heightened by isolation.

High-consequence, low-visibility roles are a common example. Utilities engineers, facilities maintenance teams, security personnel and night workers often operate out of sight, sometimes in remote or poorly trafficked locations. In these settings, a fall may go unnoticed for long periods without automated escalation.

It is also particularly effective in tasks with elevated slip, trip or fall risk such as working in wet conditions, accessing plant rooms, basements, roof spaces or uneven outdoor terrain. Fall detection doesn't replace physical risk controls (e.g. appropriate footwear or handrails), but the technology accelerates incident detection strengthening the overall control framework.

Another important consideration is medical incapacitation. Not all falls result from environmental hazards; fatigue, dizziness or underlying health conditions can all lead to collapse.

HSE guidance is clear that employers must consider scenarios where a worker is unable to raise an alarm. Automatic fall detection directly addresses this gap.

FALL DETECTION AS A CONTROL MEASURE

From a compliance perspective, fall detection should be viewed as an engineering control within emergency response arrangements, rather than a standalone solution.

Systems – such as those developed by Peoplesafe – use three factors that mimic a falling motion to raise an alarm. The device with fall detection enabled is monitoring for accelerated movement and a change in orientation followed by a period of non-movement.

When integrated with a 24/7 monitoring service, an alarm can be raised and assessed quickly, with escalation protocols triggered if the worker is unable to respond.

This approach reduces reliance on the individual, shortens response times and provides a structured escalation pathway, all of which align well with HSE's expectations around reasonable practicability.



SUPPORTING DUE DILIGENCE AND ASSURANCE

One often overlooked benefit of fall detection technology is the audit and assurance trail it creates. Incident alerts, timestamps, response actions and outcomes can all be logged automatically.

In the event of an investigation, this data helps demonstrate that:

- Risks were identified.
- Appropriate controls were implemented.
- Response arrangements were defined and tested.

For duty holders, this evidence can prove invaluable in demonstrating compliance with the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations.

INTEGRATING FALL DETECTION INTO RISK ASSESSMENTS

For fall detection to be effective and defensible, it must be implemented through a risk-led approach, clearly documented within the lone working risk assessment and supported by appropriate procedures and training.

HSE would expect employers to justify why the technology was selected, demonstrate that workers understand how it functions, and show clear response arrangements once an alert is triggered.

Importantly, fall detection should not replace supervision or other control measures, but sit alongside them as a supplementary safeguard, addressing residual risk where lone working increases the potential severity of an incident.

Used selectively and documented properly, fall detection can play a valuable role in managing lone working risk. For many organisations, it represents a practical, defensible control; one that protects workers and strengthens compliance where it matters most.

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REMOVING THE GUESSWORK

Wearing the wrong gloves when handling chemicals can have serious consequences, from immediate risks such as burns and skin irritation to long-term health conditions. Despite this, many workers continue to rely on gloves that are not suited to the substances or tasks they encounter. Clair Weston, Head of Marketing at uvex, explains how a new solution is helping to close this gap.

With so many glove materials, coatings and performance ratings available, selecting the right glove is far from straightforward. Understandably it's not uncommon to find glove selection is driven by habit, availability or long-standing assumptions, rather than a detailed evaluation of workplace risks.

In practice, this can lead to mismatches between protection and application. A glove that performs well in oily conditions may offer little resistance to solvents, while another may deliver high cut protection but limited chemical defence.

The result is a gap between perceived and actual protection. Without a more informed, risk-based approach to glove selection, workers may be relying on products that are not designed for the hazards they face, creating avoidable vulnerabilities in workplace safety.

That's why uvex has developed the uvex Glove Expert for chemical handling. Built with a strong focus on innovation and customer support, it is designed to remove uncertainty from the glove selection process.

The tool provides a simple, intuitive way for users to identify the most appropriate gloves for specific chemicals and applications, helping to ensure that safety decisions are informed by accurate, up-to-date data rather than guesswork. By combining technical expertise with practical insight from the field, uvex aims to support businesses in making more confident, risk-based PPE choices.

DATA-DRIVEN DECISIONS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

At the heart of the tool is a comprehensive online chemical database, accessible 24/7. Users can search for individual substances and instantly view detailed permeation data, showing how different glove materials perform when exposed to those chemicals. This includes breakthrough times, which indicate how long a glove can safely resist a substance before it begins to penetrate.

The ability to combine multiple chemicals and compare them across different glove options is particularly valuable. In many workplaces, exposure is rarely limited to a single substance. The glove selector tool allows users to apply filters and quickly narrow down suitable options, making it far easier to identify gloves that provide adequate protection across multiple risks.

While the primary focus is accurate selection, it is worth noting that advances in glove design have made this process more effective. Modern safety gloves are increasingly capable of protecting against multiple hazards, combining chemical resistance with features such as cut protection, grip performance and flexibility. For example, innovations in liner materials and coating technologies now allow gloves to remain lightweight and



comfortable while delivering higher levels of protection across different conditions.

However, even the most advanced glove cannot perform effectively if it is used in the wrong context. This is why selection tools remain so important as they ensure that the capabilities of modern PPE are matched correctly to real-world applications.

Beyond selection, the uvex Glove Expert system also helps organisations maintain consistent safety standards. By registering, users can take advantage of the integrated glove plan designer giving access to over 20,000 chemicals allowing users to create clear, task-specific glove plans that can be customised and shared across teams. In addition, if a specific chemical or hazardous substance is not listed, uvex can offer a bespoke analysis via its experts located at uvex's glove centre of expertise in Germany who are able to make permeation charts and recommend solutions. These plans support training, improve compliance, and ensure that the correct gloves are worn in the correct situations every time. Completed plans can be exported as professional PDF documents, making them easy to implement and audit.

The tool also supports compliance with recognised standards such as EN 374, providing clear guidance on chemical protection performance. Where specific data is not available, users can access direct support from uvex specialists.

As environments become more complex and PPE continues to advance, tools like the uvex Glove Expert system bring together expert knowledge, accessible data and user-friendly design, to help ensure the right protection is always within reach.

www.uvex-safety.com/en/glove-expert

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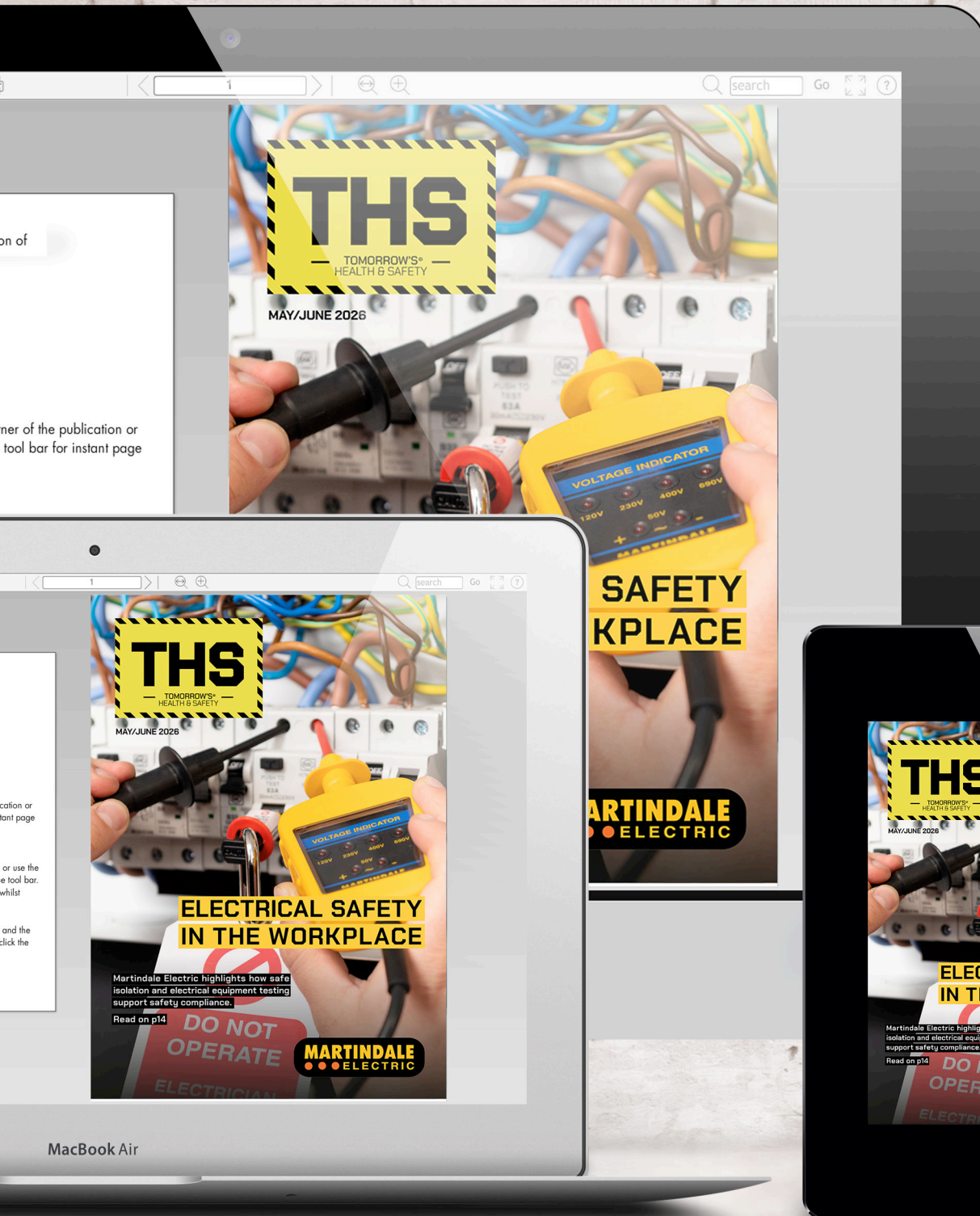
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