



Health & Safety
CDM
Training
Inspection
Testing

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025

I want to wish all my friends and colleagues a

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

As we start a new year, below are a couple of recent prosecution cases that emphasise the need to be vigilant and maintain high standards of health and safety management going forward.

At **DPHS** we are here to help, offering advice as requested and offering training in all aspects of your health and safety management responsibilities to assist you where practicable in giving your employees instruction, information and training to suit specific and / or industry standards.

Please let us know if you have any special requests for training as we can develop accredited training solutions to suit your requirements.

Fine for Kent timber firm after worker loses three fingers

A company has been fined after an employee had three fingers severed by a panel saw at work.

The individual who was 36, had been working at a company that manufactures timber frame structures for the construction industry, at its site in Ramsgate on the morning of 4 January 2023.



He was operating a panel saw and asked to cut down the thickness of a length of timber – known as a rip cut. This process involved passing a length of timber through the panel saw multiple times as the timber exceeded the depth the blade could cut in one pass.

CCTV footage shows he successfully completing the cut before flipping the length of timber over, but he soon found the second cut much more difficult. He can be seen attempting to feed the timber through the saw and while receiving it from the cut end, his right hand made contact with the saw blade, instantly amputating his index, middle and ring fingers, also cutting his little finger.

The individual said the accident has massively impacted all aspects of his life: “I used to do weight lifting, ride my bike and keep active, I used to work a lot with my hands and I am now getting frustrated as I can’t do these things.

“Even normal activities like cooking or taking a shower are a challenge. It makes me feel stressed as I can’t do the everyday activities I used to do.”

He now also struggles to care for his children, including his young son, born after the accident.

“Those in control of work have a responsibility to devise safe methods of working”

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that The individual was asked to complete a task that was not suitable for the machine he was using. The timber frame company had also failed to ensure he received sufficient training or instruction on how to use the panel saw safely, which would have included vital information about the limitations of the saw, guarding and other safety features such as a riving knife and the use of a push stick.

The saw riving knife was also absent at the time of the incident.

The regulator also discovered that the company had appropriate machines to undertake this task safely, but the individual was unaware of this due to his lack of training.

On 8 January 2025, the timber frame company based in Kent pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 at Sevenoaks Magistrates’ court. The company was fined £12,000 order to pay full costs of £4,034.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE Principal Inspector said: “Those in control of work have a responsibility to devise safe methods of working and to provide the necessary information, instruction and training to their workers.

“If a suitable safe system of work had been in place prior to the

incident, the life changing injuries sustained would not have happened.”

Company fined after barn roof fall

A company has been fined £133,000 after a man was left seriously injured when he fell through a barn roof in Southampton.

The 37-year-old had been helping his friend repair a fire-damaged storage barn on 9 February 2023.



The father-of-one had been at the top of a sloped roof fixing new panels to timbers, but they weren’t strong enough to hold his weight. They gave way when he stood on them, and he fell through to the hard surface about 10 metres below. The injuries he sustained were severe and resulted in an extended period in hospital.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that safety measures such as barriers, netting or access equipment were not in place.

The Farm had failed to take appropriate precautions to ensure the safety of workers, and others affected by the

work, when replacing the barn roof.

“Too many workers are injured and killed every year”

The Farm pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The company was fined £133,000 and was ordered to pay £8,816 costs plus £2,000 surcharge at a hearing at Southampton Magistrates Court on 3 Jan 2025.

After the hearing, HSE Inspector said: “Too many workers are injured and killed every year as a result of falling from height.

“The sentence imposed on the Farm should underline to everyone who carries out work at height that the courts, and HSE, take a failure to follow the regulations extremely seriously.

“Measures to prevent the accident, such as avoiding working from the roof, protecting fragile surfaces and having netting in place, are well known and readily available.

“HSE will not hesitate to take action against companies which do not do all that they should to keep people safe.”

DPHS

Estate House

19 High Street

Hoddesdon

Hertfordshire

EN11 8SX

T: 07852 282190

E: david@dp-hs.co.uk

W: www.dp-hs.co.uk

Sources:
HSE
SHP