



Risks Newsletter



Number 240 – 21 January 2006



Editor: [Rory O'Neill](#) of [Hazards](#) magazine. Comments to the TUC at healthandsafety@tuc.org.uk

Risks is the TUC's weekly online bulletin for safety reps and others, read each week by over 12,000 subscribers and 1,500 on the TUC website. To receive this bulletin every week, click [here](#). Past issues are [available](#). This edition contains [Useful links](#) [TUC courses for safety reps](#) [Disclaimer](#) and [Privacy statement](#).

In this issue

• UNION NEWS

- Euro MPs back unions on ports safety
- Government urged to act on security staff safety
- Unions calls for asbestos cancer action
- ASLEF calls for level crossing action
- Teachers face daily abuse

• OTHER NEWS

- Company fined £100k for driver's death
- Small fine after worker falls from roof
- Nine out of 10 farm injuries unreported
- Small firms pay for putting safety last

- Tougher rules planned on welfare to work
- HSE pushes rehab and sickness action
- Tube bomb blasts hero may lose his job
- Work stress gets everywhere, study shows
- Company pays out £75,000 for work asthma
- MPs urged to vote for total smoking ban

• INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- Australia: Mourners slam deadly law changes
- Global: Coal mines killing workers worldwide
- Global: Shipbreaking hazards a major concern
- Trinidad: Union protests edge safety law closer
- USA: Farmworkers demand action on Parkinson's

• EVENTS AND COURSES

- A job to die for?, public meeting, Liverpool, 23 January
- TUC/HSE safety training day, Newcastle, 31 January
- TUC courses for safety reps

• USEFUL LINKS

UNION NEWS

Euro MPs back unions on ports safety

A Europe-wide trade union campaign to keep ports safe has scored a notable victory. The European Parliament this week voted overwhelmingly to reject the EU port services directive, which threatened massive deregulation and casualisation of port work. The 532 to 120 vote was welcomed by Graham Stevenson, the TGWU national organiser for transport, who said MEPs had done the right thing to reject a piece of legislation which would have been another dose of the “horse medicine” of privatisation and deregulation. HE added: “TGWU and the UK port employers were at one on rejecting the directive in the first place. That alliance was sustained when the Commission tried to push it through a second time. Maybe the EU Commissioners will now get the message.” Paul Kenny, GMB acting general secretary said: “Europe’s future prosperity lies in ensuring quality services, not engaging in a deregulatory race to the bottom.” Both the union and employer sides said the directive would compromise safety, threaten jobs and undermine investment. Dockers in UK ports have taken part in a series of consultation meetings on the issue and representatives have travelled to Strasbourg and Brussels to join international lobbies against the directive. Frank Leys, secretary of the dockers section of global transport unions’ federation ITF, said: “Chalk one up to commonsense, to committed opposition by trade unions, and to virtually the whole industry uniting in rejection of the package. But even as we congratulate ourselves and thank our colleagues worldwide for their support, we must remain vigilant. You never know when the next attempt to turn the industry on its head may come.”

- [TGWU news release](#). [GMB news release](#). [ITF news release](#).

Government urged to act on security staff safety

Security staff union GMB has teamed up with the British Security Industry Association (BSIA) to call for urgent measures to stem the “scourge” of attacks on security workers transporting cash. Representatives of the union and the industry body met this week with Home Office minister Hazel Blears, and told her “cash in transit” (CIT) crimes were on the increase. GMB acting general secretary Paul Kenny told the minister: “Criminal possession of firearms is rising, particularly in London and other urban areas.” He added: “Since 2000 the number of armed robberies on public highways, including attacks on security vans and street robberies continues to increase. In over two-thirds of all reported armed robberies the weapon used was a handgun.” BSIA chief executive David Dickinson said: “The industry invests in excess of £100,000,000 per year in tackling the problem, but we are looking for the government to provide more support to this essential public service. This includes reclassifying CIT robbery so that it is a higher police priority and encouraging local authorities to use their planning powers to create safe areas for the transfer of cash.” There were 836 attacks in 2005, up from the 763 in 2004, itself an increase on the 697 attacks in 2003. In the course of these attacks 447 crew members were injured, 58 of these seriously. In over 700 occasions firearms were used in attacks.

- [GMB news release](#).

Unions calls for asbestos cancer action

Unions and asbestos disease support organisations are backing a national Action Mesothelioma Day on 27 February. The event aims to highlight the issue of mesothelioma - or meso – an asbestos cancer which already kills almost 2,000 people each year in the UK, or about one every five hours. Kevin Rowan,

Northern TUC regional secretary said: “Mesothelioma is the most virulent and violent asbestos-related illnesses, from diagnosis victims have a very short time to get any kind of help in terms of benefits or any advice relating to compensation claims. And this has to be managed during what is an incredibly traumatic and painful time for the victim and their family.” The British Lung Foundation, which is coordinating the action day, wants organisations and individuals to sign up to an “Action Mesothelioma Charter”. This calls for urgent measures to give more rights to people with the fatal cancer and for the government to make the issue a top public health priority. It says services for patients and families must be improved, including better treatment, support and legal advice. Coroners should provide “a consistent nationwide service”, it says, with inquests dealt with promptly. The charter calls for the government to make mesothelioma a national priority of its cancer “tzar”. The action day has the backing of TUC nationally.

- [Northern TUC news release. Sign the Action Mesothelioma Charter.](#)
- Hazards [asbestos](#) and [cancer](#) news and resources.

ASLEF calls for level crossing action

The eighth crash at an unstaffed level crossing in Cornwall in the last five years exposes the urgent need for new safety measures, train drivers’ union ASLEF has said. General secretary Keith Norman warned that delay in implementing the union’s proposals on level crossings was putting the public in “severe danger”. He was speaking after a report this week of a passenger train colliding with a car on a remote Cornish level crossing - the second crash at the spot in a month. The collision happened on the Gunnislake to Plymouth rail line at Calstock, south east Cornwall. It was the eighth crash on an unmanned level crossing in Cornwall in the past five years. “It is fortunate that no one was hurt in this latest incident,” Keith Norman said.

“But trusting to good fortune is no way to run a public transport system. We need track-to-train surveillance – video pictures of the line ahead so drivers can see potential hazards well in advance. It would be massive irresponsibility to wait for more fatalities before there is any movement.”

- [ASLEF news release.](#)

Teachers face daily abuse

Teachers are facing a daily torrent of abuse, a union survey has found. NASUWT asked 355 teachers in the south west of England to record the level of verbal abuse they faced over a two week period. In that short period there were 13 incidents where teachers were threatened with violence, said the union. One teacher was told by a pupil: “I’m going to petrol-bomb your car.” Another was told: “I’m going to get my brother to stab you in the face.” Chris Keates, NASUWT general secretary, said: “These snapshot regional surveys NASUWT is now using on a regular basis are very revealing. They demonstrate that there is a great deal of work still to be done to tackle the corrosive and debilitating effects on teachers of verbal abuse.” She added: “No one should have to face this on a daily basis. It is essential that the health and welfare of staff is protected by a clear school policy of zero tolerance of this type of behaviour.” Les Kennedy, NASUWT south west regional organiser, said: “NASUWT will continue to offer strong support to members who are victims of such abuse and urges them to come forward for assistance.”

- [NASUWT news release.](#)

OTHER NEWS

Company fined £100k for driver’s death

The death of a lorry driver, set alight when a truck overloaded with molten steel slag tipped over, was a “disaster waiting to happen”, a judge has said. Short Brothers Plant Ltd admitted breaking health and safety laws and was fined £100,000 and ordered to pay costs of £42,000. Carl Parsons was engulfed in flames when the truck tipped over and the molten slag ignited diesel spilling from the tank. The 55-year-old father-of-two from Cardiff died two days after the accident in April 2002. Cardiff Crown Court heard Short Brothers had not done proper health and safety checks on its vehicles at its site at the former Allied Steel and Wire (ASW) works. The truck had been modified to carry the scorching hot slag. But the extra weight affected the brakes, which were not tested regularly, the court heard. Sentencing, Judge Gerald Price QC said Mr Parson's death happened “following the defendant's failure to ensure his safety”.

Prosecutor Bryan Thomas said: “Mr Parsons died as a result of the company's systematic failure of basic health and safety features.” HSE principal inspector Steve Scott said: “This is a most tragic case, and must serve as a warning to all companies engaged in potentially hazardous activities of the need for thorough and robust health and safety measures to protect their employees.” He added: “The financial penalties for failing to do this are severe, but in cases like this, there is also the human cost which no fine can ever repay, and we would extend our condolences to Mr Parsons' family at this time.”

- [HSE news release. Western Mail. BBC News Online.](#)
- [HSE workplace transport webpages.](#)

Small fine after worker falls from roof

A Derbyshire company has been fined £6,000 after one of its employees suffered serious spinal injuries when he fell through a roof. Ashbourne-based Allen and Hunt Construction Engineers pleaded guilty to failing to protect the worker who fell at Newton Grange Farm in February 2005. Derby magistrates were told by the Health

and Safety Executive (HSE) that the accident had been “wholly avoidable”. The company was also ordered to pay the full court costs of £1,525. HSE inspector David Gould, who investigated the incident, said: “Incidents such as this have a devastating effect, not only on the life of the individual but also that of their family, and what is so sad is that they can be avoided. People in control of work at heights must do what is necessary to ensure the safety of workers.” He added: “Regardless of whether the work at height takes place once in a blue moon or day to day, any activity with the potential of a fall that could kill or cause serious injury must be thought through and a safe way of doing the work put into action.” The prosecution came three days after Barrington McDonnell Ltd was fined £2,500 for safety offences which led to a worker breaking his back ([Risks 239](#)). HSE figures show in 2003/2004, 67 people died and nearly 4,000 suffered a serious injury as a result of a fall from height in the workplace.

- [HSE news release. BBC News Online.](#)
- [HSE falls webpage.](#)

Nine out of 10 farm injuries unreported

Most farmers do not report accidents to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), according to a new survey. The study by the Farmers' Union of Wales revealed that although 40 per cent of farmers said they had suffered an injury while working, almost 90 per cent admitted that they did not tell the HSE. Of these, 56 per cent said they failed to make a report because they considered it to be a minor accident and a further 25 per cent thought the process of filling in forms was just too bureaucratic. FUW president Gareth Vaughan said the union would work with the HSE to address the issues raised by the survey, including longstanding concerns about injuries caused while clipping cattle before transporting to slaughter, in line with the Meat Hygiene Service's clean cattle policy. Mr Vaughan said: “We have raised this issue a number of times with the government because

we believe this is a dangerous procedure which results in injuries to farmers. But the response we have always had is that there are no statistics to back up our claims. I hope that this survey will be the starting point for more detailed research to find out exactly how the injuries were caused.”

- [FUW news release](#). [Western Mail](#). [HSE accident reporting website](#).

Small firms pay for putting safety last

Workplace health and safety is the lowest priority of small businesses, a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) opinion survey has found. The poll, part of HSE’s ‘better business’ campaign, found new year’s resolutions in small firms prioritised better financial systems and more effective marketing, followed by staff training and improving IT systems. “With so many things to focus on, health and safety gets pushed to the bottom of the list of priorities,” HSE said. “However, up to 600,000 people were injured or became ill because of work last year, costing their employers an average of about £1,200 each time. For small businesses especially it can add up to a serious dent in profits.” Safety minister Lord Hunt said: “It really is a false economy for any business to overlook health and safety measures. But small businesses stand to lose far more if they do neglect this vital area, as accidents could have a detrimental effect on their employees’ health and that of the business as a whole. I would urge them to put health and safety at the top of their new year’s resolutions.” HSE says its better business campaign is a national initiative to raise awareness about the financial and personal costs and causes of workplace incidents. It also shows the real bottom-line benefits of managing health and safety effectively, it says.

- [HSE news release](#) and [better business campaign](#). [Western Mail](#). [BBC News Online](#).

Tougher rules planned on welfare to work

Tougher sanctions are planned against people claiming incapacity benefit who refuse to take jobs, work and pensions secretary John Hutton has said. Proposals for reforming the benefits are due to be unveiled this month. Speaking at an event organised by The Work Foundation, Mr Hutton said the new system would take a “something for something” approach. He said the reforms would include an element of compulsion and said people who were able, but refused, to return to work could have their benefits cut. But he said: “It will be dependent on measuring their ability to work fairly.” He promised more help for those who had no prospect of returning to work, with no proposals to cut or change the current benefit rates. The BBC says its sources believe the new approach will allow sanctions to be used against existing claimants of incapacity benefit, not just new claimants, contrary to earlier assurances from the government ([Risks 194](#)). The minister said he wanted to go further than pilot projects on the Pathways to Work scheme, which offers incentives to those returning to work ([Risks 185](#)). Mr Hutton said he wanted the new laws to be passed in the current session of parliament and in operation by 2008. He added: “The increased support we offer to people seeking to get back into the workplace must, I think, now be matched by increased obligations. The ‘something for something’ approach demands that state help is matched by increased responsibility on the part of claimants to take advantage of that support programme that governments can provide.” Unions warned last year that the welfare reforms must help, not penalise workers ([Risks 228](#)).

- [John Hutton’s speech to The Work Foundation](#). [BBC News Online](#).
- Hazards [work and health](#), [sickness](#) and [rehab](#) webpages.

HSE pushes rehab and sickness action

The Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) is urging manufacturing firms to take action on sickness absence and rehabilitation. HSE's Terry Aston said: "Long-term sickness absence costs UK businesses over £3.8 billion each year. Organisations that have implemented effective management programmes have reaped huge rewards in terms of having a healthy workforce, reducing costs, improving competitiveness, improving workplace relationships and holding on to valued staff." He added that one company "reduced musculoskeletal disorders by 90 per cent and through that, saved not only considerable human suffering, but also £0.5 million in the first year of their programme alone. Other businesses can learn from this experience." This example will be featured at an HSE 'best practice' conference in March. HSE says the event is aimed at "key intermediaries involved in manufacturing industries, such as trade associations, employer associations, trade unions and training organisations." Unions have urged companies to provide supportive sickness absence approaches combined with effective prevention and rehabilitation efforts. They have warned, however, that punitive sickness absence approaches to hound workers back to work are damaging and counterproductive ([Risks 189](#)).

- [HSE news release](#) and [sickness absence webpages](#). HSE conference, 9 March 2006, North Staffordshire Medical Institute, Hartshill Road, Stoke-On-Trent. Organisations and individuals interested in attending should forward their details, including the organisation they represent to: [Tracey Oliva](#), HSE, Manufacturing Sector (Stakeholder Engagement Section), Lyme Vale Court, Parklands Business Park, Newcastle Road, Trent Vale, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 6NW. Telephone 01782 602340.

Tube bomb blasts hero may lose his job

A heroic Tube driver who narrowly escaped the 7 July 2005 bombings in London and who led frantic passengers to safety during the failed 21

July attempts, has been told he has just 13 weeks to get back to his driving duties or face losing his job. Instructor and driver Darryl Lisles has been too traumatised to drive a train through a tunnel since the attacks. But he has not missed a day of work and has been training other drivers in classrooms. He is still receiving counselling and could now face a process of redeployment. This means staff who are medically unfit to work are given around 16 weeks to find an alternative position within the company or they could face losing their jobs. ASLEF union representative Steve Grant called the move "medical termination". He said managers wanted to press workers back to their jobs so they didn't lose performance-related bonuses. The union rep, who is representing Mr Lisles, added: "At the very least, London Underground should wait until the court case about the bombings is heard before they resurrect the issue." Mr Lisles was commended for his actions by Scotland Yard and Tony Blair and won an award from Transport for London for his bravery.

- [Daily Mail](#). [Edware and Mill Hill Times](#).

Work stress gets everywhere, study shows

Work as a librarian is more stressful than fighting fires or tackling criminals, new research suggests. Researchers examined perceived levels of stress and found one in three workers across occupations suffer from poor psychological health. They concluded all organisations need to take stress seriously. Librarians are the most unhappy with their workplace, often finding their job repetitive and unchallenging, according to psychologist Saqib Saddiq. He told the British Psychological Society that one in three workers suffer from poor psychological health. The study surveyed nearly 300 people employed as firefighters, police officers, train operators, teachers and librarians. The researchers looked at nine "stressors", such as how much control workers thought they had over their working day, their workload and how much they earned. It also looked at absenteeism, job satisfaction and whether work stress spilled over into their

private life. Mr Saddiq urged all employers to tackle the problem of stress. He said: “Although these findings seem strange at first, they actually show how insidious stress can be, and how it can have an unhealthy impact in any organisation... understanding the at-work behaviours of individuals in all roles, and ensuring that culture and environmental measures are not leading to undue stress is an important factor in reducing the enormous cost of stress in the workplace.” He said jobs like librarian and teacher where the stress was less obvious were less likely to have support systems in place, compounding the problem.

- [BPS news release](#). [BBC News Online](#).

Company pays out £75,000 for work asthma

A former factory worker struck down by asthma caused by exposure to workplace chemicals has been awarded £75,000 in damages. David Simms began working for Wolverhampton-based Schenectady Europe Ltd as a teenager and remained with them for 15 years until 2003, when the company relocated to France. The 37-year-old was a kettle operator and was exposed to “several dangerous chemical fumes” during the course of his work and as a result was “significantly disabled”, his barrister Michael Simon told London's High Court. Schenectady had earlier admitted liability and this week agreed to pay £75,000 compensation for the loss of past and future earnings. The deal came shortly after the start of a High Court trial to assess the level of damages. In written submissions, barrister Michael Simon said Mr Simms was exposed to ethylenediamine, formaldehyde, phenol, xylene and boron trifluoride, and said all five chemicals were capable of causing asthma.

- [Birmingham Post](#). [BBC News Online](#).

MPs urged to vote for total smoking ban

Unions and public health officers are urging MPs to back a total ban on smoking in public places, including pubs and clubs. The calls come after the government’s decision last week to allow Labour MPs a free vote on the smoking ban proposals in the health Bill ([Risks 239](#)). The TUC has already called for a ban without exceptions. And last week GMB organiser Mick Ainsley, whose union organises casino workers, said: “We are writing to all GMB sponsored MPs to remind them that the issue here is not about a smoker’s individual choice, it is about the right of workers not to breathe in secondhand smoke.” He added: “The vote in parliament will put to the test to what extent the smooth words of the new Tory leader will be translated in to effective action to enhance the health and safety of people who work in the leisure industry.” The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) is urging its members – which include the local authority environmental health officers that would be responsible for enforcing the legislation in leisure facilities – to use their lobbying power to convince MPs to vote for an outright ban on smoking in all enclosed public places and workplaces.

- [GMB news release](#). [CIEH news release](#) and [advice note on lobbying](#).
- [TUC smoking webpages](#). [Hazards smoking news and resources](#).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Australia: Mourners slam deadly law changes

Mourners at the funeral of an Australian construction worker who died in a site fall have condemned the federal government’s employment law changes for endangering safety. Frank Hughes, whose son Paul died when he fell almost 30m from the top floor of an EnergyAustralia substation in Sydney last week, told a gathering of his son's workmates and

union members the industrial relations changes must be stopped. “We have got to stop it because, unless we do, there will be a lot more workers killed and enough people already have died,” he said. “The union must be supported and I urge every worker to join the union and protect yourselves because it is the only protection you will have. This is just heartbreaking and I don't want to see any other families with broken hearts.” More than 300 workers formed a guard of honour as the hearse carrying the body of 41-year-old Paul Hughes headed for the crematorium. Wrapped in an Irish flag, the coffin was topped with a hard hat emblazoned with “union and proud” and a photograph of the father of three. Frank Hughes, a building worker himself before retirement, called for tougher laws on workplace safety and warned that weakening unions would only lead to more losses like his own. “It's not good enough for the politicians to sit in their limousines,” he said. “We haven't got that comfort. We have to work for it and we shouldn't have to die for it.”

- [The Courier-Mail](#). [Daily Telegraph](#). [Sydney Morning Herald](#).

Global: Coal mines killing workers worldwide

Tragedies in China's coal mines are featured in the global press with remorseless frequency ([Risks 239](#)). But corner cutting and the search for cheap power are leading to deaths in mines elsewhere. This month, 12 miners died in a West Virginia coalmine, USA. The mine had been guilty of hundreds of safety violations in the preceding year ([Risks 239](#)). Last week, seven people were killed and five hurt in an explosion at a coal mine in south-west Romania. The blast is reported to have taken place early on Saturday morning at the mine in Anina. China's official news agency Xinhua reported a coal mine tragedies in Afghanistan last week. One worker was killed and 70 were injured in a mine explosion in the eastern Afghan province of Khost. Officials blamed “enemies of the country” for the blast, a term taken to mean

Taliban militia. Progress in China's own mine safety drive has been faltering. Nearly 60 per cent of the mines ordered to shut down last year are continuing to operate, the government has admitted. The ministry-level National Reform and Development Commission, in a circular, angrily rebuked the local authorities who have allowed the mines to continue operating.

- [BBC News Online](#). [Xinhua](#). [Hong Kong Standard](#).

Global: Shipbreaking hazards a major concern

The dispatch of the asbestos-laden aircraft carrier Clemenceau from France to the world's largest ship graveyard on India's west coast for scrapping has focused new attention on the human and environmental dangers of shipbreaking ([Risks 239](#)). While breaking ships and selling off the scrap provides work and income for tens of thousands in Bangladesh, China, India and Pakistan, the work is frequently undertaken in poorly regulated yards and in life-threatening conditions. “Worker safety has clearly not been a top priority at shipbreaking facilities in the region, and labourers seldom have access to basic personal protective equipment such as hard hats, gloves and goggles for steel cutting activities,” said ILO shipbreaking expert Paul Bailey. “Many are killed and thousands injured working in often tortuous conditions. Titanic-sized vessels are floated ashore and cut up by workers who are often exposed to deadly toxins, exploding gases, falling steel plates and other dangers.” He added: “Before Bangladesh, China, India, and Pakistan became the world's leading shipbreakers, vessels were taken apart where they were built: in industrialised countries. But high costs and environmental restrictions have driven shipowners to look elsewhere for a way of disposing these vessels.” He added it was possible to make the work safer. “Workers alone will not be able to solve the problem,” he said: “We need a global partnership of shipowners, shipbreakers, employers, trade unions and, of course, government inspectors who will see that

these standards are enforced. This is yet again a test for globalisation and decent work.” The India Supreme Court has banned the asbestos-laden Clemenceau from entering its waters until 13 February, when a ruling is due on whether it can be scrapped at the Alang yard.

- [ILO news release](#) and [shipbreaking webpages](#). [Greenpeace shipbreaking webpages](#). [Gulf Daily News](#). [WebIndia123.com](#).

Trinidad: Union protests edge safety law closer

A new Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) is expected to take effect in Trinidad and Tobago in the next four months, thanks to a high profile union campaign. Prime minister Patrick Manning proposed the implementation timetable last week during a meeting with National Trade Union Centre (Natuc) president Robert Guiseppi. The meeting followed two days of union protests, including a demonstration outside the prime minister’s offices. “The prime minister said he would look at our position on the implementation of the OSHA and he would take it back to the Cabinet to see if the Cabinet would rethink its position,” the union leader said. “The prime minister also gave us a proposal to review regarding the reasoning for the March/April implementation date. Even though we are saying implement now, some of the issues highlighted in the meeting do make sense.” The country’s parliament passed the law last year, but the government had refused to implement the bill. In December, unions threatened a national strike if the government failed to implement the law ([Risks 237](#)).

- [Trinidad Express](#).

USA: Farmworkers demand action on Parkinson’s

The US farmworkers’ union UFW is demanding government action on a reported Parkinson’s

disease risk from occupational exposure to pesticides. A UFW petition urges people to tell the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that federal scientists “should be looking at the real-life scenarios of exposures for everyone — especially farmworkers and farmers — which includes exposure to multiple chemicals that can produce cumulative impacts on the body and environment.” The EPA scientists now evaluate chemicals one by one, the union says. UFW cites British research that found at least 40 studies of human patients, three of human brain tissues, and hundreds of animal experiments show “a relatively consistent relationship between pesticide exposure and Parkinson’s.” The union concluded: “This is a problem we can’t ignore.”

- [UFW Parkinson’s disease and pesticides webpage](#). [People's Weekly World](#).

EVENTS AND COURSES

A job to die for?, public meeting, Liverpool, 23 January

‘A job to die for?’, a public meeting sponsored by the Construction Safety Campaign, Liverpool Trades Council and the Merseyside Hazards Centre, will take place in Liverpool on the evening of Monday 23 January. Speakers include CSC national secretary Tony O’Brien and corporate accountability expert Professor Steve Tombs.

- [Further information](#) and flyer [[pdf](#)]. A job to die for?, 7.00pm, Monday 23 January 2006, Casa, Hope Street, Liverpool. Free.

TUC/HSE safety training day, Newcastle, 31 January

A health and safety training day, jointly organised by the Northern TUC and Health and Safety Executive, will take place in Newcastle on

31 January. The morning session of the free 'HSE and TUC working together: Safety representatives can make a difference' event will cover current issues in health and safety, including how priorities are identified, how partnership working is changing the way the HSE operates, and the importance of worker involvement. In the afternoon, breakout sessions will cover three main areas of work; construction, retail and catering, and public services including healthcare. One of the main aims of the day is to give attendees the chance to have their questions answered from the HSE and the TUC.

- [TUC news release](#) and [further information and online booking form](#). HSE and TUC working together: Safety representatives can make a difference, Northern TUC/HSE health and safety training day, 9.30am to 4.00pm, Tuesday 31 January, Gosforth Civic Hall, Regent Centre, Gosforth, Newcastle. Free. Enquiries, phone Dianne Chapman on 0191 202 6212.

TUC courses for safety reps

COURSES FOR JANUARY TO MARCH 2006

- [Northern](#), [North West](#) [South East](#), [Yorkshire and the Humber](#), [South West](#), [Midlands](#), [Scotland](#)

USEFUL LINKS

- **Visit** the TUC http://www.tuc.org.uk/h_and_s/ website pages on health and safety. See what's on offer from [TUC Publications](#) and [What's On in health and safety](#).
- **Subscribe** to [Hazards](#) magazine, supported by the TUC as a key source of information for union safety reps.
- **What's new** in the [HSC/E](#) and the [European Agency](#).
- [HSE Books](#), PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2WA. Tel: 01787 881165; fax: 01787 313995