

Committee:	Safety Committee	Agenda Item No.:	6.
Date:	27 th April 2010	Category	
Subject:	General Health and Safety Report	Status	Open
Report by:	Health and Safety Officer		
Other Officers involved:			
Director	Chief Executive Officer		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor J.E. Bennett – Portfolio Holder for People and Performance		

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

STRATEGIC ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Continually improving our organisation, by ensuring we comply with legislation and best practice.

TARGETS

The subject matter does not relate to any targets specified in the Corporate Plan.

VALUE FOR MONEY

Helping ensure that the Council discharges its legal responsibilities and does not incur legal costs, fines or civil penalties.

THE REPORT

Fire Safety

Fire drill was undertaken at Pleasley Vale on 26th February. Issues regarding non evacuation of two units and unauthorised disarming of the alarm system have been taken up with the tenants concerned by Innis England (site managers).

Asbestos Management

The asbestos survey contract, carrying out a representative sample of the housing stock has shown a very small number of sites where asbestos was present, and no high risks were identified as needing immediate attention. No action other than 'label and manage' was identified for the housing stock; the two items noted for removal on non domestic housing stock have been dealt with.

No hot spots in terms of building types or locations were identified.

It is proposed to link next year's survey activity to programmed works for kitchens and void properties.

The next stage is to use the information to carry out risk assessments and develop a management plan, and determine what further surveys are needed.

Training

In the last quarter:

Induction training has been undertaken 31 employees (mostly apprentices)

Basic Health and Safety Training, covering coshh, fire, first, aid etc has been delivered to 87 employees in Housing and Grounds Maintenance/Cleansing.

Fire Warden Training has been delivered to 10 persons.

Scaffold inspection training has been delivered to 11 personnel.

Asbestos task training was delivered to 10 employees

Working at heights training, vibration awareness training (including training for managers), health and safety risk assessment training and legionella awareness training will be held in the next quarter.

Swine Flu

Swine flu figures are no longer being collected, there have been no cases reported since January. Should the situation change monitoring can be restarted.

Employee Survey

Details of the employee survey have been received, results and employees comments will be analysed and a report will be prepared for the next Committee meeting.

Improvement Notice

On 19th February we were visited by Health and Safety Executive inspectors following up a RIDDOR report of carpal tunnel syndrome to an employee who had used vibrating tools.

An improvement notice was served in regard to the management of vibration risk. This requires us to demonstrate to the Inspector improvements in our management system, by carrying out a suitable and sufficient risk assessment of activities involving the use of vibrating tools by 24th May 2010.

Specifically they require us to:

Identify those activities which present a risk of hand arm vibration, including non routine activities:

1. Take account of the way in which work is organised and the effects this can have in terms of hand arm vibration
2. Evaluate the risks from the identified hazards by:
 - a. Observing the actual practice and consulting with employees
 - b. Addressing what happens during the work activity
 - c. Taking account of existing preventive measures and, if they are inadequate, assessing what more could be done to reduce the risks sufficiently
3. Identify measures which may be able to eliminate this risk
4. Where elimination is not possible. Identify preventive measures already in place and additional measures which may be able to control the risks
5. Record the significant findings.
6. We were also asked to look at the following specific areas of work and activity outside of the notice:

Removal of manhole covers
Handling of paving slabs
Handling and setting of fence posts
Use of breakers and pneumatic drills
Regularise the servicing and maintenance of tools and equipment
Revising information carried by mobile operatives.

The action plan is summarised below:

- a) Purchasing and distributing appropriate information.
- b) Carrying out tool box talks to all operatives on vibration issues
- c) Identifying vibrating tools and their vibration output
- d) Identifying tasks which are undertaken using vibrating tools by operatives' logsheets and managers' direct observations of work
- e) Calculating exposure using the HSE's point calculator, produce reports identifying areas where exposure is at or near the exposure action value of 2.5 ms^2 .
- f) Carry out detailed risk assessment for activities involving vibrating tools
- g) Re-assessing the activities under 6 above: removal of manhole covers, handling of paving slabs, handling and setting of fence posts, use of breakers and pneumatic drills and also regularise the servicing and maintenance of tools and equipment, revising information carried by mobile operatives.

The HSE letter, improvement notice and our response are included as attachments.

Brief details of the notice will be (but are not yet) available for public examination on the HSE website.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial: No direct financial implications or additional commitments

Legal: In the event of failure to satisfactorily comply with the improvement notice there is a high likelihood of a successful prosecution by the HSE.

Human Resources: No direct implications

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be accepted.

ATTACHMENT: Yes

FILE REFERENCE:

SOURCE DOCUMENT: