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News

Latest news releases

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[Latest member news](#)

[Our magazine - SHP](#)

[RSS Feeds](#)

[Industry news](#)

[Connect](#)

[Campaigns](#)

[Media centre](#)

[Events](#)

[Home Page](#) > [News and events](#) > [News](#) > [Latest news releases](#)

News release

8 February 2010

NR 05/10

The devastating, hidden impact of work-related accidents

The devastating effect a work-related accident can have on your life will be hit home when Jason Anker, a former construction worker who was left paralysed from the waist down after falling from a ladder in 1993, will talk about his accident and the shocking impact it has had on his life.

Looking back, Jason says:

"At the time of the accident, I was married with two young children and I'd just been working over the Christmas and New Year period to earn some extra cash to support them. Things were really looking up for me.

"But then the accident changed everything. Being told I would never walk again was so hard, and I became a completely different person. My wife left with the kids, and I lost my home and many friendships as I tried to come to terms with what had happened to me. I did many things I'm not proud of before I finally turned the corner. It was like I was living in a recurring nightmare."

Jason added:

"Everything I went through could have been avoided had proper health and safety measures been in place. If I'd been more aware of health and safety 17 years ago, I probably wouldn't have been up that ladder in the first place.

"I don't want anyone else to go through what I've been through because of a work-related accident. I don't want another family to suffer like mine has. That's why it is so important that people are taught about health and safety by their employer."

More than 130,000 workers were injured, and 180 were killed, last year in the UK's workplaces. Around 200 trainers who provide health and safety training to some of Britain's biggest organisations will be present at the event, where they will also be able to find out about the benefits of tailored training courses.

Caroline Holden, Commercial affairs director at IOSH, said:

"Jason's story brings home the reasons why people need a good understanding of health and safety in the workplace. The injuries he sustained didn't just shatter his career, they changed his life forever.

"Health and safety training is about raising people's awareness of the risks that exist in the workplace. To do that you have to capture people's attention and get their imagination working. If it's fun then they'll remember it. That's why we use games, quizzes and DVDs to make our training course interactive.

"Our tailored course approval service helps you to put together a totally interactive course which focuses on the specific hazards faced by your organisation or client organisation. That means it's not only fun, but it will be totally relevant to those attending the course."

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Food and drink manufacturing conference
Delivering health and safety solutions



IOSH's tailored course approval service launch will take place on 11 February at One Bishop's Square, London.

- Ends -

Notes for editors:

IOSH is the Chartered body for health and safety professionals. With more than 37,000 members in 85 countries, we're the world's biggest professional health and safety organisation.

We set standards, and support, develop and connect our members with resources, guidance, events and training. We're the voice of the profession, and campaign on issues that affect millions of working people.

IOSH was founded in 1945 and is a registered charity with international NGO status.

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