



South Cumbria &
North Lancashire District
Manchester & NW Branch

Joint meeting

Next meeting reminder,

December 2012 Minutes & Notices



South Cumbria
Occupational Health
& Safety Group

Next Meeting

Topic: Changing Workplace Culture
Speaker: Matthew Strong, Consultant, Ryder Marsh (specialists in the psychology of industrial safety).
Date: 17 January 2013, 1330 hrs
Venue: The Netherwood Hotel, Lindale Road, Grange over Sands LA11 6ET

December Meeting Minutes

Topic: Gas Safety
Speaker: Terry Broughton, Managing Director, Gas Safe Consultants Ltd
Date: 13 December 2012 1330 hrs
Venue: The Netherwood Hotel, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 6ET

The names of those attending our meetings are recorded, if you need proof of attendance please contact Geoff Price Meeting Minutes Secretary (contact details in the programme)

Martin Fishwick, our Chairman, sent his apologies that he was unable to attend today's meeting because of unexpected work commitments therefore the meeting was chaired by Carol Stearne, our Vice Chairman.

Carol welcomed members and then introduced Terry Broughton, Managing Director, Gas Safe Consultants to give members an overview of gas safety in the workplace.

Terry began the session with an interactive exercise involving audience participation. He presented groups of three with four photographs of two compressed gas cylinders on a trolley photographed from different angles. He then asked members identify faults in the way that the gas cylinders were stored, or in the equipment. Members identified the following storage problems and faults:

1. Damaged gas regulator on O₂ cylinder.
2. Worn drive screw on oxygen hose: unauthorised hose repair.
3. Oxygen hose wrapped around the oxygen and acetylene cylinders: used to attach them to the cylinder trolley.
4. Oxygen cylinder not adequately secured to cylinder trolley.
5. Acetylene cylinder: side entry regulator on top of outlet cylinder (PUWER states any equipment to be safe and suitable *ie the right type of regulator for the right type of cylinder*). Regulators are designed for different gas types. There are single and multiple stage regulators. The latter is needed to check the right pressure for work involving gas mixes: pressure falls can cause flash back fires ie flame imbalance
6. Flash Back Arrestor (FBA) out of date: manufacturers' recommend replacement after 5 years or 6 years from date of manufacture.
7. FBA attached to torch inlet.
8. No cylinder spindle key on one cylinder: an adjustable spanner is used instead
9. Acetylene gas hose attached to oxygen cylinder: gas hoses are colour coded because they have different liners eg oxygen blue; acetylene red
10. Jubilee clip joint in acetylene hose
11. Damaged torch attached to acetylene hose.
12. Date of replacement of gas regulator is 2008; photograph taken in 2012. NB regulators corrode and may become faulty.

Terry stressed that all equipment should be inspected prior to use as well as a formal annual inspection by a competent person being carried out. Written records should be kept. All equipment should be tagged and marked showing the date of the inspection.

Terry then moved on to explain how to handle gas cylinders safely (See also additional information *British Compressed Gases Association* www.bcgga.co.uk technical information sheet 12 (2010))

Gas cylinders are generally heavy and are relatively unstable due to the base diameter to height ratio. Large cylinders can weigh over 100 kgs when full and being tall and thin they are easily toppled over.

Terry stressed that before handling or using gas cylinders it is important that employees are properly trained. They need to understand the properties and hazards of gases that they are using or moving. Users should always check the cylinder label to ensure that they have selected the correct gas cylinder. They should also be aware of the properties and hazards associated with the gas (provided in the suppliers' safety data sheet). If in doubt it is important that users ask their line managers or their supplier for advice.

Handling compressed gas cylinders

1. *Cylinders are heavy and should be handled with care. Cylinders should not be dropped or subjected to impact when being moved or used.*

NB To handle cylinders safely needs specific training in safe handling techniques.

2. *Assess the risk before lifting and moving the cylinder.*

NB Necessary checks include:

- Ensure you know the weight of the cylinder being handled.
 - Check how far and over what type of surface the cylinder is to be moved. Obstructions and debris should be cleared away on the route.
 - Ensure that you know where to put the cylinder before you start to move it.
 - If the cylinder is to be moved more than a few metres use a suitable trolley and other means of transport.
 - Wet or cold cylinders are even more difficult to handle as they affect your ability to hold the cylinder securely.
 - *Be aware of your limitations.* Ask yourself if you have the ability and technique to move the cylinder safely. *If not SEEK HELP.*
3. *Always use appropriate personal protective equipment:* see the safety data sheet. Eyes hands and feet should be protected when handling or using cylinders. Many injuries to the foot affect the metatarsal (Instep) bone. Footwear with metatarsal protection is recommended.
 4. *Do not move the cylinder with the valve open.* When the cylinder is empty or you have finished with it, return it to the supplier. The valve must be closed before transporting.
 5. *If the cylinders are leaning over* in the storage bay do not attempt to straighten them on your own. Get help and make sure you know what everyone is to do to avoid trapping each other's fingers and being hit by a falling cylinder.
 6. **Always** make sure that the cylinder restraints are securely fastened after moving cylinders.
 7. *Avoid injury, by using correct lifting method when raising a large cylinder from the horizontal position*
 - Foot position: hip width apart with one foot slightly in front of the other, astride the valve end of the cylinder.
 - Bend the knees to lower your body. This will enable your thigh muscles to do most of the lifting.
 - Ensure that the valve guard is secure then take a firm grip using both hands. Only lift the guard if it has been designed for this purpose, otherwise grip the cylinder neck.
 - Keep your back straight throughout its length. This does not mean it has to be vertical. Doing this will help to prevent a slipped disc. Pull your chin in so that your back is locked in a straight line and look in front rather than to the ground.

- Lift decisively with a smooth non jerking motion. It is done initially by straightening the legs then following through with the arms at the same time walking forward until the cylinder is upright.
 - *When the cylinder is upright, do not leave it free standing but move it a safe storage area.*
8. The churning method requires the use of both hands. One supports the cylinder whilst the other rotates the cylinder (away from the body). It requires the cylinder to be tilted slightly (again away from the body). The method takes some practice and should only be attempted on a firm even surface.
 9. ***Never attempt to stop a falling cylinder. Get out of the way!***

Terry then went on to reiterate the following steps that are needed to ensure the safe use of compressed gases in the workplace:

1. *Risk assessments*: Ensure all necessary have been undertaken eg CO₂ monitor/alarms are working, regulator adjustment knob is in place, ventilation in vans eg roof spinner etc...
2. *Contractors*: check their workers' training records eg hot work, fire records, cylinder handling etc...
3. *Inspection records*: ensure that equipment records are up-to-date.
4. *Standard Operating Procedures* www.bcgga.co.uk (Technical Sheet 22 BCGA Policy on connecting Gas cylinders)
5. *Personal Protective Equipment*: appropriate for the task eg gloves, eyes, etc...
6. *Equipment*: check it is in good condition and correctly repaired.
7. *Leak test*: ensure systems are leak free. *Sniffing*: not acceptable or necessary!
8. *Work area*: appropriate for the task eg task compatible with other work in area.
9. *Task*: undertaken following advice in safe system of work for specific task.
10. *Completion*: shut down systems a properly and store cylinders and equipment correctly after use.

Gas Hazard Property Colour Codes:

| | |
|-----------|---------------------|
| Inert | Bright Green |
| Oxidising | Light Blue |
| Flammable | Red |
| Toxic | Yellow |

Further information on BCGA Technical sheet 6 which also includes comprehensive information about a range of colour codes and hazard labelling requirements for gas cylinders.

Cylinder outlet valve cleaning

1. Valve outlet debris: visible material or moisture should be removed by cleaning with a clean, dry, and oil and grease free cotton cloth.
2. Cylinders with a valve outlet protection caps should be free from debris.
3. *Sniffing*: not acceptable or necessary. Some years ago this was a recommended procedure but, with modern valves and valve outlet protection caps it is not necessary and is a dangerous procedure.

Free British Compressed Gases Association (BCGA) technical information sheets to download: <http://www.bcgga.co.uk/preview/products.php?g1=1e5239&n=2>

Terry fielded a range of questions that resulted in some interesting discussions about the use of various gases and safe systems of work.

After notices Carol Stearne thanked Terry for giving members a practical insight into procedures for ensuring the safe use of compressed gases in the work environment. She then presented to him with a small gift as a token of members' appreciation.

The formal part of the meeting was followed by networking with the speaker and other members over tea and mince pies.

NOTICES & NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FOR MEMBERS

Future meetings

13.30 at *The Netherwood Hotel, Grange-over-Sands LA11 7DB unless stated otherwise.*

Jan 17* *Changing workplace culture*

Matthew Strong, Consultant, Ryder Marsh Ltd (specialists in the psychology of industrial safety).

Feb 21 *IOSH IPD/CPD morning workshop*

10.00 Carol Stearne, Safety Adviser, H J Heinz, Ltd (Kendal)

Hazel Harvey, Director, IOSH Membership Team

Booking required: beda1-sc.mnwd@ioshnetworks.co.uk

Feb 21 *Work at height: equipment and training*

13.30 Jim Tongue, Director, Accounting for Safety, Barrow-in-Furness

Booking not required: normal monthly meeting.

Mar 21* *Safety of home workers (especially for home visits)*

Christine Morrison, Training Consultant, Suzy Lampugh Trust

* Followed by Committee meeting

HSE information on gas safety:

HSE information about gas safety: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/gas/index.htm>

HSE information about safe use of gas cylinders: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/cdg/pdf/safusgc.pdf>

HSE information about safe use of compressed gases in welding, cutting and allied processes:
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg139.htm>

HSE information about the maintenance and examination of pressure regulators on cylinders of compressed gas: http://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/td_din/other-gas/td5_058/index.htm

Current HSE consultations

[CD249 - Public consultation on regulatory measures to support EU chemicals legislation and proposals on reducing seven existing sets of domestic regulations into one statutory instrument \('7 into 1' package\)](#)

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE), in relation to the EU Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Regulation HSE Northern Ireland (HSE NI), are seeking views on regulatory proposals for measures supporting three directly applicable EU chemicals Regulations on: Biocidal Products; Export and Import of Hazardous Chemicals (commonly known as the PIC Regulation); and Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) of substances and mixtures.

Consultation began on **20 December 2012** and ends on **31 January 2013**.

[CD247 - Public consultation on a National Local Authority Enforcement Code – Health and Safety at Work, England, Scotland and Wales](#)

This consultation sets out proposals for a *National Local Authority Enforcement Code* (the Code). The Code has been developed in response to the Professor Ragnar Löfstedt report "Reclaiming health & safety for all: An independent review of health and safety legislation" commissioned by the Minister for Employment which recommended that HSE be given a stronger role in directing LAs health & safety inspection and enforcement activity.

Consultation began on **21 December 2012** and ends on **01 March 2013**.

HSE case studies about H & S myths see: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/myth/myth-busting/index.htm>

Case 103 - School fête organisers told they cannot use shredded paper for lucky dips as this contravenes health and safety laws

Issue

The enquirer has heard from two different people organising school fêtes that they are looking for polystyrene packing pieces for their school lucky dips as apparently they are not allowed to use shredded paper or tissue paper as this contravenes health and safety laws.

Panel decision

There are no health and safety laws which prevent the use of shredded paper or tissue paper in lucky dips. It is hard to imagine what "risk" people might believe is associated with using shredded paper but it seems a rather extreme example of risk aversion.

Joint South Cumbria Programme Cards for 2013

Are available for collection at our monthly meetings, or, if you would like to receive an electronic version please ask Val Kennedy to e-mail one to you.

Please take several and pass them on to other organisations who might be interested in our meetings.

SCOHSG Membership certificates:

If your organisation has renewed its membership and you have not collected your certificate please collect it from Val Kennedy at the next Netherwood meeting you attend or e-mail her if you would like your organisation's certificate to be posted to you.

SCOHSG Membership (for companies and organisations); membership renewal for 2012/13 due from 1st April 2012:

SCOHSG membership entitles companies and organisations to send representatives to the joint meetings with South Cumbria IOSH District for H & S training and to meet H & S professionals for informal discussion.

If your company would like to join SCOHSG please send your membership subscription to Geoff Price, Membership Secretary. Membership is open to organisations (not individuals); further information www.communicate.co.uk/lakes/SCOHSG

South Cumbria & North Lancashire IOSH District

The IOSH web team have sorted out most of the technical problems on the IOSH web site. Please let Val Kennedy know if you are still experiencing problems.

Updated: 12 January 2013