



James Macfarlane - Surveyor / Asbestos Analyst

James has been with Noble for about 3 years and is now a dual qualified analyst and asbestos surveyor. James has also gained further site safety training and is becoming more experienced in project management. His cheeky sense of humour and friendly nature has made him a firm favourite with staff members and clients alike.

Asbestos Consultancy

Lack of Asbestos Management when Social Houses are Refurbished, Employees & Tenants at risk!

Recently the HSE has encountered instances during the refurbishment of social housing properties where inadequate measures had been taken to prevent unsafe work associated with asbestos containing materials (ACMs). Workers, and in some cases tenants, may have been exposed to asbestos because of this failure to manage the risk.



The Advisory note on the refurbishment of housing stock likely to contain asbestos provides guidance to social landlords including local authorities, housing associations and social housing management companies who may commission such work.

It is relevant to refurbishment programmes that aim to meet the Decent Homes Standard, Scottish Housing Quality Standard, Welsh Housing Quality Standard or similar such capital projects where you are the client under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007.



The principles contained within it are equally applicable to routine refurbishment / maintenance work commissioned by all landlords.

The Advisory Note sets out how you as a client should manage the risks of exposure of workers to asbestos to comply with current legislation.

It is important that this guidance is shared with all organisations that are likely to act as clients for the refurbishment and maintenance of social housing.

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION & GUIDANCE ON THIS ISSUE.

T: 0844 561 6735 E: dan.j@noble.uk.net

Inside July's News Letter:

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FREE MDHS100 Update Sessions

In light of the new MDHS100 being launched this summer we are going to be delivering **FREE** 2 hour update sessions on the new legislation.

We will be holding sessions in **Bristol, Truro and Plymouth** throughout September 2009. (Subject to availability)

The sessions are aimed at surveyors/organisations who want to find out more about the new HSE guidance on asbestos surveying, what it is likely to mean for surveyors, and how individual surveyors and organisations who commission surveying, can demonstrate their competence.

The HSE is currently reviewing its 'MDHS 100' guidance on asbestos surveying and will be issuing the 'Asbestos: The Survey Guide', which will describe **management surveys and refurbishment / demolition surveys**.



HSE estimates that there are between half a million and a million non-domestic properties which still contain asbestos. The 'Asbestos: The Survey Guide' will therefore place far greater emphasis on competency and who you should commission when carrying out asbestos surveying.

If you are interested in reserving spaces please contact natasha.w@noble.uk.net

Keep an eye out we will be contacting you with further information!

Asbestos Refresher Training - Clarified!

As you probably know there has been a growing disquiet about "annual refresher" training for asbestos training. UKATA, the body set up with HSE by asbestos training organisations have recently published some guidance on the subject which has been seen by HSE. Bruce Sutherland (MD Noble) sits on the executive committee of UKATA and recently wrote the specification for asbestos awareness training for them.

UKATA have suggested asbestos awareness becomes a two year yearly course with a "tool box talk" refresher given at the end of the first year. Following UKATA's guidance, Noble are developing a tool box talk package for our clients to be able to deliver.

Please note that anyone who carries out any work with asbestos still requires formal annual refresher training, and the tool box talk is only appropriate for asbestos awareness training.

At Noble we welcome this important clarification and if you would like any more information please contact us on **0844 561 6735**.

Fatal Injury Statistics

The figure of 180 worker deaths is 22% lower than the average for the past five years (231). In terms of the rate of fatal injuries, the latest figure of 0.59 per 100 000 workers is 23% lower than the five-year average rate of 0.77.

Worker fatalities by main industry: In agriculture there were 26 fatal injuries in 2008/09 with a corresponding rate of 5.7 deaths per 100 000 workers. This compares to a rate of 9.9 when an average of the previous five years is examined.

- In **construction** there were 53 fatal injuries, with a rate of 2.4 deaths per 100 000 workers. An average of the previous five years shows a rate of 3.4. There is an overall downward trend in the rate of fatal injury to workers in this sector.
- In **manufacturing** there were 32 deaths and the rate of fatal injury was 1.1 per 100 000 workers, the same as the average rate for the previous five years.
- In the **services** sector there were 63 fatalities, and the rate of fatal injury in 2008/09 is the same as the average rate for the previous five years (0.3).

Construction Figures

Employees	29
Self Employed	17
Workers*	46
Members of the public	02
Total	48



Noble note: Whilst this reduction is welcome it, we must bear in mind the current economic situation and the contraction in the industry. The question is does this reduction actually reflect a reduction for the industry?

The Health & Safety of Great Britain

New research shows surprising attitudes towards health and safety

HSE launches new strategy for a common sense approach to risk at work

Workplace deaths and injuries have fallen over the past thirty years but thousands still die every year as a result of work-related accidents and ill health.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) will launch a new strategy, *Be Part of the Solution*, on 3 June designed to reduce the number of workplace accidents and take a common sense approach to ensuring that risk management is an enabler for business not a burden.

New research due to be published on in the near future demonstrates that employers and workers alike both recognise overwhelmingly that providing a safe workplace makes sound commercial sense. Nearly 90 per cent of business leaders say that people are their organisation's most important asset. In addition to preventing accidents, 65 per cent of employees say that good health and safety practices make them feel valued.

The recession could make some workplaces more dangerous, as more than a quarter of business leaders say that that their organisation will face pressure to cut spending on health and safety this year. This is not only potentially dangerous but could also be bad for business; nearly eight in ten business leaders acknowledge that good health and safety standards are beneficial. In part, this is because the cost of preventing accidents is almost always less than the costs associated with an accident once it has occurred.

Almost half of Britain's workers know someone who has been injured at work, yet the actual rate of deaths and serious injuries is greatly underestimated. On average, employees think that 3,000 people were killed or seriously injured at work last year, but the true number is 137,000 – more than 45 times higher. Too often health and safety is seen as trivial or the preserve of 'jobsworths', rather than preventing tragedy. A third of employees wrongly think that HSE bans wearing flip-flops at work or children playing

with conkers. In fact, HSE is focused on real risks and preventing the serious harm that dangerous workplaces can cause, Noble have triumphed this common sense approach to managing risk and will continue to do so.

The most effective way to improve health and safety practices is for senior management to show leadership on the issue. HSE is thus calling on leaders today to sign a pledge to 'Be Part of the Solution' and improve health and safety standards.

Be part of the solution

"We believe this strategy represents a clear statement of core principles and a sensible approach to health and safety in Great Britain."

"Whilst the economic climate is difficult and the temptation for some may be to cut corners, HSE, its partners and businesses must resolve to continue to strive to improve health and safety performance. Good health and safety is good business."

Judith Hackitt – HSE Chair

The Pledge:

We, the undersigned:

- Agree to play our part in reducing the numbers of work-related deaths, injuries and ill-health in Great Britain.
- Call on employers to put health and safety at the heart of what they do and to take a common sense approach to health and safety.
- Commit to debunking myths around health and safety that trivialise the impact of injuries, ill health and deaths on individuals and their families.
- Recognise the importance of health and safety in difficult economic times and the dangers of complacency.
- Pledge to work with the Health and Safety Executive and its partners to Be Part of the Solution.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/strategy/index.htm>



Congratulations to - Abbey Environmental Services

Steve Rawlings MD of Abbey Environmental says:

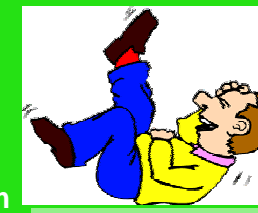
"I am delighted to be able to inform you that on Friday last Abbey Environmental Services were proud winners in the 'Best SME' category in the South West Built Environment Awards and now go through to represent the South West in London in the autumn in the grand final.

We are obviously highly delighted that all the hard work and effort put in during the past few months has been recognised in this way and it proves that, recession or no recession, doing things the 'right way' will always win out in the end.

We have continued to forge our 'collaborative' approach, even when those around us are reverting to type and seeking lowest price as opposed to 'best value', and if you have a requirement for asbestos removal and/or surveying and would like me to arrange a meeting to discuss this I would be very pleased to do so".

Funnies...

A construction worker goes to the doctor and says, "Doc, I'm constipated."



The doctor examines him for a minute and then says, "Lean over the table."

The construction worker leans over the table, the doctor whacks him on the backside with a baseball bat, and then sends him into the bathroom.

He comes out a few minutes later and says, "Doc, I feel great. What should I do?"

The doctor says, "Stop wiping with cement



Training Courses July '09

Non-Construction

Emergency Aid	31 July
Manual Handling	31 July

Construction Courses

Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS)	09 July
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Asbestos Courses

Asbestos Supervisors Refresher	02 July
Asbestos Awareness Refresher	17 July
HSG210 Working with Asbestos Products Refresher	17 July
Asbestos Awareness	23 July
HSG210 Working with Asbestos Products	23 July
New Asbestos Operatives	27/25/28 July
Asbestos Operatives Refresher	30 July

NB: All courses will be held in Plymouth unless otherwise stated

To book a place on any of the above courses or for further information on our in house or bespoke courses please contact Rebecca Huddy on 0844 561 6735 or e-mail rebecca.h@noble.uk.net