

Summer has been busy on all fronts with quite a few jobs coming to conclusion in late August and September. Margins remain tight and competition is very keen. Delivering on time and right first time has never been more crucial, but safety still remains paramount. There's been some pleasing feedback from clients. We scored 20 out of 20 at Cromer Terrace; the first time a Principal Contractor has been awarded full marks for a contract appraisal by Leeds University. As always a lot of effort has been put into keeping sites safe this summer with only 3 minor accidents reported, and no RIDDORs. **Well done!** It's worth mentioning one of the accidents, which could have been really serious if the person had not been wearing his hard hat. He was hit by falling debris which had been lodged way up in a wall cavity. It shows how important wearing a hard hat is, it saves lives!

On the **near miss** front I would mention a recent incident where it was found that the electrical contractor had **failed to lock off individual electrical circuits**. This was an **unsafe act as the building was still in use**. If a fault had been reported to the building's maintenance staff by the occupiers and they had gone to the plant room, particularly out of hours when we were not on site, they could have re-energised the turned off circuits that isolated the rooms that we were refurbishing, highly dangerous! As the Principal Contractor we are the duty holder for ensuring services are located, their status known (live or dead) and that access is controlled. So managers please check that M&E contractors properly control access to services. Particularly where there is shared access. In these particular circumstances it's not enough to simply lock the door to the plant room; **individual circuits needed locking off**. Site managers please ensure you check that lock off systems is being correctly implemented particular when an M&E contractor starts on a job. Check that **written information** is displayed at the lock off point informing others of what has been done. It's good practice to confirm lock off systems when carrying out induction to site. M&E contractors should carry a variety of lock off devices as part of their standard kit.

Toolbox talks – the programme of weekly talks is proving worthwhile from the feedback I get from site operatives. If anyone has any suggestions for any future talk subjects please let me know and I'll see what I can do.

Site performance scores: It's been good to see some site managers actively using the score specification to see where site scores can be improved. Site managers should be trying to score at least a 6 or 7 for each of the 61 score categories.

Health & Safety Executive recent activity; based on recent updates from the HSE it seems they are changing their focus a little, moving their campaigns away from the bigger construction companies to the smaller ones. They now see small builders as the riskier part of the industry. This has been brought about by the recent step change in the number of construction fatalities. For a number of years the levels have been more or less the same but now there has been a significant downturn, which is very good news. Unfortunately health figures remain high, particularly for Asbestos related disease and other lung diseases. These by nature take a long time to develop so will take time to peak as most of the exposure occurred back in the 60s, 70s and 80s. Please remember that dust needs to be controlled if we are to avoid damage to health. Use extraction equipment, damp down before sweeping, always use water when disc cutting or if working inside use dry extraction. If you need to wear a disposal particulate mask, **follow the manufacturer's fit instruction**, if you are concerned about the fit, give me a call and I'll come out and do a fit test on you.

A word on **vibration risk control** and, when using any vibrating equipment I expect a site manager to know the "trigger time" allowed for its use by the operative. If you need help with the trigger time assessment give me a call.

Site rule revisited – No radios on site! Why? They prevent emergency alarms / warning shouts being heard. That's why.

You have to laugh sometimes.....



Apparently he's putting up a safety risk board sign on a site!

(Not taken on a Brenville controlled Site)

I know H&S says avoid reversing but this is taking it a bit too far!



If you have something you want to share let me have it. Graham Fox - H&S Manager