

**INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS  
TO DATE**

February 2001  
Issue 2

<i>Incident</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>
Fall from platform	Fatality	1997
Gas exposure	Hospitalisation	1998
Fall through fragile roof	Near miss Hospital treatment	2000
Scaffold collapse	Near miss Equipment damaged	2000
CO exposure at steel works	Near miss	2000
Steam release by sampling platform	Near miss	2000
Fall from ladder	Hospitalisation	2000
CO exposure	Near miss	2001



# HEALTH & SAFETY *BULLETIN*

Source Testing Association

The Health & Safety Bulletin is a means of disseminating important issues relating health and safety of professionals involved in air emission monitoring and allied fields.

To contribute to this publication please e-mail [H&S@s-t-a.org](mailto:H&S@s-t-a.org) with your suggestions or article

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**STA Guidance Notes are available from the publication page on the web site.**

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## Health and Safety Briefing

The STA is subscribing to this fortnightly newsletter produced by Croner. CCH Group Ltd. In each newsletter we will publish the contents list of each newsletter that is on file.

If you would like copy of any particular issue please contact Samantha.

STA Doc No	Issue No	Contents
HS 1054-00	197	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Work-related road incidents</li><li>2. News round-up</li><li>3. Case law: work equipment (part 2)</li><li>4-5 Factory tours and corporate events</li><li>6. Union watch</li><li>7. Your letters</li><li>8. Notebook</li></ol>
HS 1055-00	198	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Local authority report</li><li>2. News round-up</li><li>3. Case law: psychological damage (part 1)</li><li>4-5 Asbestos update</li><li>6. Eurofile: future health and safety research</li><li>7. Your letters</li><li>8. Notebook</li></ol>
HS 1060-00	199	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Passive smoking ACOP</li><li>2. News round-up</li><li>3. Case law: psychological damage (part 2)</li><li>4-5 CHIP update</li><li>6. Union watch</li><li>7. Your letters</li><li>8. Notebook</li></ol>
HS 1068-00	200	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Corporate killing</li><li>2. News round-up</li><li>3. Case law: RSI update (part 1)</li><li>4-5 Young people in the work place</li><li>6. Eurofile: work at heights</li><li>7. Your letters</li><li>8. Notebook</li></ol>
HS 1070-00	201	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. High hazard workplaces</li><li>2. News round-up</li><li>3. Case law: RSI update (part 2)</li><li>4. Health and safety at call centres</li><li>6. Union watch</li><li>7. Your letters</li></ol>
HS 1071-00	202	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Fees for first-aid approval</li><li>2. News round-up</li><li>3. Case law: HSAWA (part 1)</li><li>4. Violence at work</li><li>6. Eurofile: European Parliament</li><li>7. Your letters</li><li>8. Notebook</li></ol>
HS 1073-00	203	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. HSC annual report</li><li>2. News round-up</li><li>3. Case law: HSAWA (part 2)</li><li>4. Cost of accidents</li><li>6. Union watch</li><li>7. Your letters</li><li>8. Notebook</li></ol>

## Guidance on Confined Spaces Legislation

The Confined Space Regulations 1997 came into force in January 1998 and require every employer and every self employed person to ensure that they comply with the regulations in respect to any work carried out by their employees.

They are also required to ensure that other employees comply with the regulations where this is reasonably practicable and within their control.

The definition of a confined space is given in the regulations (HSC 1997) as:

*"Any place, including any chamber, tank, vat, silo, pit, trench, pipe, sewer, line, well or other similar space in which by virtue of its enclosed nature, there arises a reasonably foreseeable specified risk"*

Where 'specified risk' includes a risk of-

- a) Serious injury to any person at work arising from a fire or explosion;
- b) without prejudice to paragraph a). -
  - i) the loss of consciousness of any person at work arising from an increase in body temperature;
  - ii) the loss of consciousness or asphyxiation of any person at work arising from gas, fume, vapour or the lack of oxygen;

In addition to the above definition of a confined space the regulations suggest that the ex-



**ARE YOU CARRYING OUT RISK ASSESSMENT?  
ARE YOU AWARE OF THE COSHH IMPLICATION OF THE STACK YOU ARE ON?  
ARE YOU WORKING IN A SAFE MANNER?**

**If the answer is NO to any of these questions STOP!**

pression confined space may also refer to the following examples and similar places:

*"ducts, vessels, culverts, tunnels, boreholes, bored pits, manholes, shafts, excavations, sumps, inspection pits, coffer dams, freight containers, ship cargo holds/tanks, ballast tanks, double bottoms, ship' engine rooms, buildings, building voids, some enclosed rooms (particularly plant rooms) and compartments within them, including some cellars, enclosures for the purpose of asbestos removal, and interiors of machines, plants and vehicles".*

The application of these regulations in any of these places will depend on the presence of a reasonably foreseeable risk of serious injury.

### **Problems specific to Stack Emission Monitoring**

The key area in stack emission monitoring where these regulations may apply is the use of portable gas analysis equipment in enclosed rooms and back of vans or mobile labs. The extraction of hazardous stack gases, often with depleted oxygen levels, and the transfer of these gases into analysers situated in enclosed rooms or mobile labs has the potential to cause serious injury as defined in the regulations. The use also of calibration gases, nitrogen and fuel gases in such situations also has the potential to cause serious injury as defined in the regulations. 'these risks may be described as reasonably foreseeable' however this definition may need further explanation.

### **Suitable Guidance**

The HSE produces a general guidance note on confined spaces in its IND (G) series (HSE 1997) and the CITB produce the tool box talk notes (CITB 1999) which gives brief guidance of the hazards of confined spaces in the construction industry.

There is no guidance on the hazards of confined spaces in the stack emission monitoring business. The HSC document (HSC 1997) gives detailed guidance on safe working practices in confined spaces, risk assessments, emergency procedures and plant and equipment used in confined spaces.

There may be a need for specific guidance on the hazards associated with the use the stack emission monitoring equipment in confined spaces.

This may include guidance on;

- Suitable ventilation rates and systems for mobile labs and enclosed rooms.
- Exhaust systems for typical instruments including the venting of all exhaust ports and bypass vents,
- Risk assessment procedures and example checklists to ensure all precautions are taken
- Typical exhaust rates and hazard factors for common instruments.
- Warning notices and emergency procedures.
- Equipment to assess air quality in the confined space.

The increased use of calibration gases onsite and support gases for instruments has increased the complexity of onsite sampling systems and increased the risk of leaks and accidental releases of hydrogen/helium fuel gases and nitrogen-based calibration gases into mobile labs and enclosed rooms, The use of heated sample lines and temperature-sensitive instruments has moved the sampling position from the stack platform to small enclosed rooms, rears of vans and mobile labs.

Under the 1997 regulations these may be defined as confined spaces as a risk of serious injury is reasonably foreseeable.

### **References**

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION (1997). *Safe Work in Confined Spaces. Approved Code of Practice, Regulations and Guidance L101.* HSE Books, London.

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE (1997) IND(G) series: *Safe work in confined space.* HSE Books, London.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD (1999) *Tool box talks No. 35 Confined spaces.* CITB



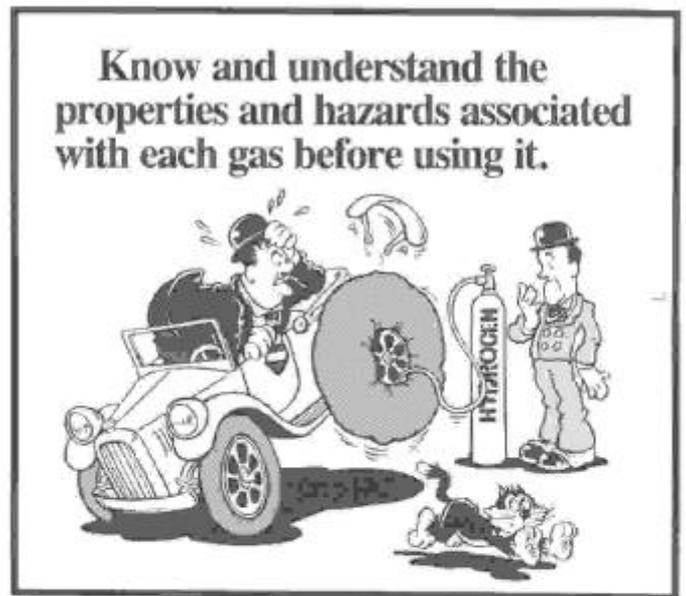
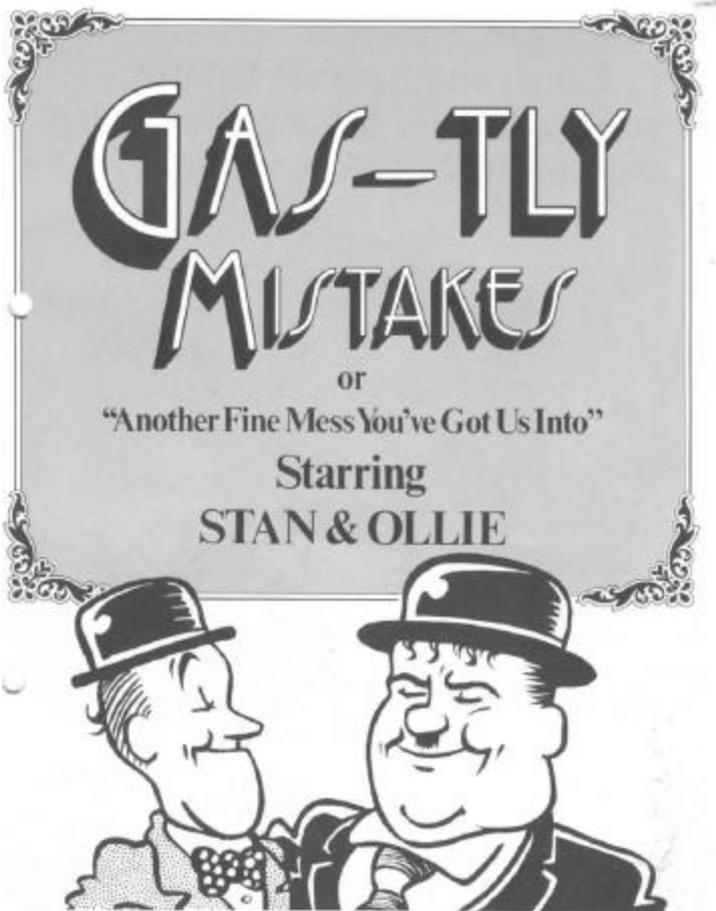
**HAVE YOU BEEN ON THE HEALTH AND SAFETY AT HEIGHTS COURSE RUN BY THE STA?**

If not contact Samantha telephone 01462 457535 for the next available dates, cost is only £110.00 per delegate.

## STA Health & Safety Guidance Notes

The complete list and download facility are available on the STA web site  
or contact Samantha for paper copies

Below is the first in a serialisation of an old document originally supplied by Air Products.  
Pages from the booklet will be printed in each H&S bulletin



### Did you know?

It is highly dangerous to use oxygen as a substitute for nitrogen, inert gas or air in the following applications or ones similar to them:

- \* Starting engines
- \* Operating pneumatic tools
- \* Pressurising oil reservoirs
- \* Paint spraying
- \* Filling vehicle tyres

### The right way

Comprehensive information on the handling and storage of gases and gas cylinders is available on request from Air Products PLC.



### **NEW** Health & Safety Booklet

We have revised our little **YELLOW** book and has been expanded to 32 pages. The booklet is available free to all. *Have you got your copy yet?*

The more that are out with your clients the safer our industry can become.

Contact Samantha for copies, there is no limit to the amount we can send out.

### **NEW** Health & Safety CREDIT CARDS

We have produced a credit-card sized Health & Safety memory jogger. We have enough for every person involved in stack testing. *Have you got your card yet?*

Contact Samantha for the *free* cards and issue them to all involved in stack testing within your organisation.