



FIRE

Staff dodged flames after alarm missed

Risk assessment ignored

+ A manufacturer of pre-fabricated building products that failed to install an automatic fire detection system has been ordered to pay over £30,000 after a blaze gutted its factory in Pontypool.

The fire started in the production area of Brick Fabrication's site in south Wales on 8 July 2014 after sparks from an angle grinder ignited residue from a cleaning fluid.

A worker raised the alarm by shouting and most workers in the factory quickly evacuated. However, two members of staff in the canteen did not hear the alarm and braved smoke and flames to escape.

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service found that findings from a fire risk assessment from February 2012 had not been acted on. One recommendation was to fit an automatic fire detection system, which would have alerted the employees in the canteen. Brick Fabrication had also not reviewed the assessment since it was carried out.

At a hearing on 23 May, it pleaded guilty to eight breaches of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order. Magistrates fined Brick Fabrication £22,350 plus costs.

REGULATION

RIBA pushes for more PDs

Institute offers new validated courses for members

+ The Royal Institute of British Architects, the professional body for 44,000 chartered architects, is calling for its members with over three years' experience who have completed a new validated course to take on the role of principal designer (PD) under the CDM Regulations.

The Institute is upskilling its members with new two day, one day and half-day training courses. These have been attended by around 300 architects and practice staff since October 2015.

The lecture and workshop courses are said to be "empowering" architects to take on the role of PD.

The courses are being delivered by architect Paul Bussey, who sits on a new RIBA health and safety steering group and advises the HSE's Construction Industry Advisory Committee on health; and engineer Tony Putsmann, vice-chair of the health and safety panel at the Construction Industry Council.

Bussey told *Health and Safety at Work*: "It's aimed at people who want to do the PD role from an architectural perspective. The RIBA is putting the message out there that it's an essential skill requirement of any architectural designer.

"As architects, we have to coordinate all the other aspects of the buildings, so we're presenting health and safety as another



RIBA: empowering members

aspect architects should be coordinating. It's not a bolt on, but at the core of good day-to-day architectural design.

"We're encouraging RIBA members by saying, 'You might need help on the details, but you can do this'.

“ The RIBA believes architects with three or more years' experience could take on the PD role”

Joni Tyler, the RIBA

"Most people who leave the course say 'We're now on the case, we're going to do this.' All the feedback forms have been very encouraging. People are feeling very empowered."

At the RIBA, Joni Tyler, head of policy on continuing professional

development, said: "The RIBA believes architects with three or more years' experience post qualification could, and should, take on the principal designer role. To help achieve this, we are delivering a suite of principal designer courses: half day, one day and two days.

"We do encourage those members who act in this role – or who want to act in this role – to attend the RIBA courses. The RIBA is also offering a range of free and online material to help architects gain confidence and knowledge in order to embrace this role and to understand the changes to the Regulations."

Tyler said that the RIBA's new health and safety steering group is also working to embed health and safety in professional training, from university onwards, in a "career learning path".

The RIBA has also recently held a leadership event on health and safety. Bussey said: "We're getting the message out to a larger number of people and their respective practices about how they can do this job proportionately.

"We want to get this the message out there that this is important from a project and regulations perspective, but also from a moral and ethical viewpoint."



LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

LEGISLATION/CONSULTATION

LEGISLATION

Explosives Regulations 2014 (Amendment) Regulations 2016

IN FORCE/CLOSES

20 April

NEED TO KNOW

Implements the recast of the Explosives for Civil Use Directive. Changes include new requirements for the civil use of explosives to be accompanied by instructions and safety information

APPLIES IN

GB

MORE INFORMATION

www.hse.gov.uk/explosives/regulations2016.htm

LEGISLATION

Control of Electromagnetic Fields at Work Regulations 2016

1 July

Implements the EU's EMF Directive. Introduces requirement to assess levels of EMF exposure against specific thresholds

GB

www.hse.gov.uk/radiation/nonionising/index.htm