



Q~EST Newsletter

September 2009



Front Page Employee News

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information in relation to company Safety, Training, Quality and Environmental news.

Ray's View

As you can all see we have revamped the format for the newsletter, thanks to Sue Sharman for this review and update hopefully you will all like this change.

On the 11th of this month we open our new training centre and regional office at Verney Junction near Winslow in Buckinghamshire. The opening of this new centre sees the continuation and improvement of the company's commitment to training. It will make it easier for staff living north of the Thames to undertake training without the necessity of travelling to Folkestone. We are offering a full range of courses similar to those now offered but hopefully in the future we will be able to add an enhanced range including plant training in certain categories.

Please remember that you have the opportunity to request courses or training programmes that will progress your career, subject to funding and suitability. We are prepared to consider all training requests; these can be made through the Site Managers, when Chris Gadd or Peter Rowe undertake your annual competency assessments or by contacting Ann Hayes our training administrator.

Training opportunities are made available for you all to benefit and progress your careers, please make the most of all opportunities that you are offered because you are the future of the company. It is important that if we wish to move forward that we have a well trained and knowledgeable work force capable of meeting the challenges of the next decade.

Wishing you all a safe summer.

Regards Ray Walker

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Recently Awarded Contracts

Christ Church Old Dover Road Canterbury Christ Church University Value: £ 56,178 Contracts Manager Martin Watts	Hawkinge & New Romney Dental Practice Pennypot Dental Practice Value: £272,000 Site Agents Paul Kingsbury & Chris Arnott
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Building A5 Fort Halstead
Serco FM
Value: £ 62,102
Contracts Manager
Alan Leigh

Fawley Tunnel
British Rail Residuary Ltd
Value: £243,295
Site Agent
Jon Shepherd

West Hampstead Station
Carillion Civil Engineering
Value: £285,545
Senior Site Agent
Danny Marshall

Hoo Centre
Medway Council
Value: £167,547
Site Agent
Gary Bexon

Bow Creek River Lea
Kier Construction Ltd
Value: £ 53,328
Site Agent
Dave Otter

Paddington Green School
City Of Westminster
Value: £ 92,561
Contracts Manager
Darryl Harvey

CIRAS

the rail industry's confidential reporting system

For those of you who work on the railway CIRAS is an alternative way to report safety concerns that you feel unable to report through company safety channels. It is a completely independent and confidential way to report safety concerns without fear of recrimination.

You can now contact CIRAS from anywhere in the UK by calling Freephone 0800 0850 449, writing to Freepost CIRAS or texting 07507 285887 (standard text rates apply)

Quality Policy

The policy of Walker Construction (UK) Limited is to provide building, civil engineering, demolition, waste, design, training, traffic management, lining, coating and project management services in line with agreed contract requirements, meeting the expectations of the client, within an agreed budget and resulting in a profit acceptable to the Shareholders.

It is the Company's policy to carry out its activities in compliance with current legislation and in accordance with the requirements of ISO 9001, within a culture of continual improvement.

1. To enable this policy to be effective the Directors will:-
2. Provide documented Company Procedures.
3. Ensure all contracts are processed in a uniform and satisfactory manner by using well proven project management techniques.
4. Set quality objectives with measurable targets during Management Review Meetings.
5. Cascade these objectives throughout the Company.
6. Regularly review and change objectives according to the current policy of the Directors.
7. Provide suitable resources.
8. Provide suitable training.
9. Encourage all staff to suggest ways of improving our operations.

Work carried out on behalf of Network Rail on their infrastructure will be in accordance with Group and Company Standards.

SAFETY

DO YOU USE MINI EXCAVATORS?



Mini excavators are a popular choice on many projects nowadays? Quite rightly so, in most cases, as they offer many advantages. However they are not the best choice if they need to operate on steep inclines or uneven / unstable ground. Because of their size, they are not as stable as their bigger brothers and these conditions can increase the likelihood that they may overturn.

This is exactly what happened on one of our sites recently. Happily the operator only received a minor injury and the excavator sustained only cosmetic damage. You may not be so lucky!

If you are considering using a mini excavator then please ensure the ground conditions are suitable and the operator has appropriate experience. Also make sure that, if the machine is fitted with retractable tracks, they are fully extended whilst working. Rapid slewing can also cause these machines to become unstable and overturn.

IF NOT WHAT ABOUT CUT OFF SAWS?

Cut off saw, Stihl Saw, Skill Saw, Con Saw, Disc Cutter, Whizzer and umpteen other local and regional names; call it what you will, it can cause you significant harm if not treated with respect.

Over the last few months I have investigated 3 accidents involving cut off saws, ranging from a minor injury to a "I'm glad that wasn't me" case. I'd rather not do any more thank you so please do me, and yourselves, a favour and follow the following rules.



Before using one of these saws please ensure you:

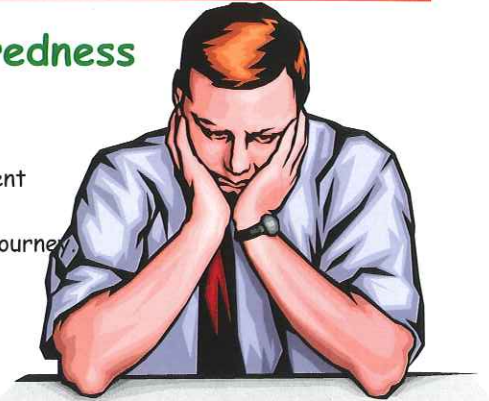
- Are trained to use it safely - if you haven't done the course then you must not use the tool.
- Check the correct cutting disc is fitted.
- Check the tool and the cutting disc are in good condition.
- Have a firm and stable foothold.
- Check the work piece is held firmly.
- Have appropriate eye and ear protection.
- Place the work piece as low as is practicable (generally the lower the better - always use the machine below waist height).

Regards
Chris Gadd

Driver Safety - Wake Up To The Signs Of Tiredness

TIREDNESS KILLS! MAKE TIME FOR A BREAK!

If you fall asleep at the wheel you risk killing yourself, your passengers and other innocent victims. An estimated 300 people a year are killed where a driver has fallen asleep at the wheel! To avoid driving tired please read the tips below to ensure you have a safe journey.



BEFORE YOU START YOUR JOURNEY:

- 🚗 Plan your journey to include a 15 minute break every two hours of driving.
- 🚗 Make sure you are fit to drive.
- 🚗 Remember the risks if you have to get up unusually early to start your trip, or have a long drive home after a full day's work.
- 🚗 Avoid making long trips between midnight-6am and 2-4pm when natural alertness is low.
- 🚗 Even a small amount of alcohol, some medicines and drugs can make you drowsy and increase your danger of falling asleep at the wheel.

WHEN YOU ARE ON YOUR JOURNEY

- 🚗 Take a 15 minute break every two hours of driving.
- 🚗 Share the driving if possible.
- 🚗 If you start to feel sleepy find a safe place to stop (not the hard shoulder of the motorway) as soon as possible.
- 🚗 Ideally you need a proper sleep but an effective emergency countermeasure to help you get to a safe place where you can get proper sleep is the combination of two cups of strong coffee or a high caffeine drink and a nap. Caffeine takes about 20 minutes to take effect. This is the time for a short nap. This countermeasure should allow you to continue driving but only for a short time.

You do not fall asleep suddenly without any warning. If you are yawning or having difficulty concentrating you are at risk of falling asleep at the wheel. The only cure is to sleep. Opening the windows for fresh air, turning up the radio or taking exercise will do little to prevent you from falling asleep.

DON'T LEAVE IT UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE!!

Difficulty keeping your eyes open, your head nodding and your vehicle drifting out of lane are not warning signs of tiredness, they are symptoms of a microsleep. You need to stop long before you get to this point. A more reliable early warning of tiredness is repeated yawning. When this starts you will need to get off the road and find somewhere to sleep properly.

Remember!! - The only real cure for sleepiness is a proper sleep. A caffeine drink and a 20 minute nap is a short term solution only! It cannot be repeated over a long period.

Regards Andy Pilcher

Safety Committee

Listed below are the Safety committee members - these represent the workforce and are there to put forward any of your safety concerns or ideas for improvement

Chris Gadd ☎ 07867-552109 Lee Walker ☎ 07710-077735 Luke Kingsbury ☎ 07867-535284 Norman Hollamby ☎ 07860-543046 Paul McLean ☎ 07710-077736 Chris Arnott ☎ 07710-077741 Mick Tyrell ☎ 07710-077729 Jake Sparnon ☎ 07733-127226

Walker Training



As you will have probably heard through the grapevine Walker Training and Walker Construction are opening a new venue and office in September at Verney Junction in Buckinghamshire.

This will enable Darryl Harvey to have a 'real' office and Walker Training will be able to expand the type of training we currently deliver to potentially include plant training.

New courses that we will be delivering at both centres include a Basic Setting Out & Surveying course leading to the intermediate course, and the Site Waste Management Plans (half day).

We are still going through the very lengthy, boring and almost impossible process of trying to obtain the City & Guilds accreditation - watch this space!

If you have any queries regarding courses, please contact Ann Hayes on 01303 227665 or Amanda on 01303 850186.

Training

Regards Amanda Griffith

We are planning to run the following courses, if you would like to book any spaces please contact your Site Agent.

17th & 18th September 2009
 17th & 18th September 2009
 21st September 2009
 23rd & 24th September 2009
 24th September 2009
 24th, 25th, 30th September, 1st &
 2nd October 2009
 29th September 2009
 5th October 2009
 7th October 2009
 8th October 2009
 12th & 13th October 2009
 14th October 2009
 15th & 16th October 2009
 15th, 16th, 21st, 22nd & 23rd October 2009
 19th October 2009
 20th October 2009

29th October 2009
 12th & 13th November 2009
 16th November 2009
 17th, 24th November 1st, 8th &
 15th December 2009
 19th November 2009
 26th, 27th November, 2nd, 3rd &
 4th December 2009
 3rd & 4th December 2009
 3rd & 4th December 2009
 7th & 8th December 2009
 10th December 2009
 10th, 11th, 16th, 17th & 18th December 2009
 16th December 2009

Confined Spaces Initial and Refresher
 PTS Initial
 PTS Re-certification
 Site Management Safety Training Scheme
 First Aid Appointed Person
 Streetworks Supervisor

Asbestos Awareness
 Abrasive Wheels
 Manual Handling
 Unit 001
 PTS Initial
 Unit 002
 Site Management Safety Training Scheme Refresher
 Streetworks Operative
 PTS Re-certification
 Safety Awareness Refresher
 Environmental Awareness
 Safety in Excavations
 PTS Initial
 PTS Recertification
 Site Management Safety Training
 Scheme Initial
 First Aid Appointed Person
 Streetworks Supervisor

Confined Spaces Initial and Refresher
 Site Supervisor Safety Training Scheme
 PTS Initial
 Abrasive Wheels
 Streetworks Operative
 PTS Re-certification



*Training - improve
 your knowledge and
 skills!*



If there is anything you want to contribute to this quarterly newsletter please give the details to Sue Sharman - Either contact her by phone at Head Office Extn 249 or by email at sue.sharman@walker-construction.co.uk

*Kind regards
 Ann Hayes*