



News and Updates – July 2026

Health & Safety Newsletter

Keeping workplaces safe, informed, and compliant.

What's Inside This Issue

1



Fatal Injury Statistics

Latest HSE annual figures and what they mean for your business

2



Engineered Stone & Silica Dust

Enforcement action and how to stay compliant

3



Recent Enforcement Cases

Learning from HSE prosecutions across key risk areas

4



Site Security

Keeping construction sites secure during the summer holidays

5



Working in Heat

Managing heat stress and protecting workers in warm weather

6



Get Support

How our team can help with your health & safety needs

Fatal Injury Statistics Published

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has released its latest annual statistics covering work-related fatalities between April 2025 and March 2026. While the figures indicate an improvement in some areas, these incidents serve as a stark reminder that robust safety management remains critical across all sectors.

126

Worker Fatalities

Lost their lives in work-related incidents
across Great Britain

25

Construction Deaths

Down from 35 the previous year — a
notable improvement

Most Common Causes of Fatal Workplace Injuries

Falls from Height

The single leading
cause of fatal
workplace accidents
across all sectors.

Struck by Moving Vehicle

Inadequate traffic
management
continues to result in
fatalities on site.

Struck by Moving Object

Falling materials and
swinging loads
represent a persistent
and serious hazard.

What Can Employers Do?

- **Review Risk Assessments Regularly**
Ensure all assessments are current, site-specific, and understood by the workforce.
- **Strengthen Work at Height Controls**
Verify that edge protection, access equipment, and planning are effective and compliant.
- **Maintain Vehicle Segregation**
Clear separation of pedestrians and vehicles is non-negotiable on any working site.
- **Reinforce Through Supervision and Training**
Consistent supervision and refresher training reinforce safety culture at every level.

Engineered Stone and Silica Dust

HSE has begun enforcement action as part of its nationwide inspection programme targeting engineered stone fabrication businesses. Several companies have received **Prohibition Notices** after inspectors identified serious failures in controlling exposure to **Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS)**. Engineered stone can contain up to **90% crystalline silica** — making it one of the most hazardous materials in the construction and fit-out industries.

Why Is This Important?

Exposure to silica dust can cause serious and irreversible health conditions, including:

- Silicosis
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Lung cancer

These conditions are entirely preventable when suitable control measures are implemented and maintained.



Employer Action Checklist

 Use wet cutting methods wherever possible

 Provide suitable RPE and ensure correct fit testing

 Implement local exhaust ventilation and dust suppression controls

 Conduct regular health surveillance

 Train workers on silica risks and safe systems of work

Learning from Recent Enforcement Action

The following areas represent the most frequent themes in recent enforcement activity. Employers should use these as a practical checklist to evaluate the adequacy of their own arrangements.



Work at Height

Falls from height remain the leading cause of fatal workplace accidents. Employers must ensure suitable access equipment, effective edge protection, thorough planning, and adequate supervision are all in place before any work at height commences.



Lone Working

Businesses must assess the specific risks associated with employees working alone and ensure robust communication systems, regular monitoring, and documented emergency arrangements are established and tested.



Tower Scaffolds

Only competent persons should erect, inspect, and use scaffold towers. Manufacturer guidance and industry best practice must be followed.



Excavations

Excavation collapses can have catastrophic and fatal consequences. Adequate shoring, correct battering, regular inspections by a competent person, and thorough pre-work planning is essential.



Workplace Vehicles

Safe traffic management systems remain critical for preventing vehicle-related injuries on construction and industrial sites. Segregation of pedestrians and vehicles should be physically enforced wherever possible.

Keeping Construction Sites Secure

With schools across the country now on summer break, HSE is reminding construction businesses to ensure sites remain secure and inaccessible to members of the public, particularly children.

Construction sites can pose significant dangers to unauthorised visitors, and employers have a legal duty to protect both workers and the public from harm. Tragically, incidents involving children trespassing on unsecured sites can and do result in fatalities.

Maintain Secure Perimeter Fencing

Ensure all hoarding and fencing is structurally sound, free from gaps, and meets required height standards throughout the project lifecycle.

Lock Gates and Access Points

All gates and access points must be locked when sites are unattended, including evenings, weekends, and public holidays during the summer period.

Remove Climbing Hazards

Identify and remove or secure any materials, plant, or structures that could be used to gain access to or climb within the site boundary.

Regular Security Inspections

Conduct documented inspections of all perimeter security measures at regular intervals, increasing frequency during school holiday periods.

Visible Warning Signage

Ensure all hazard and warning signage is clearly visible, well-maintained, and positioned at all potential entry points around the site.

Working in High Temperatures

As warmer weather continues, employers should ensure workers are adequately protected from heat-related health risks. It is important to note that there is currently **no legal maximum workplace temperature** in the UK, because workplaces and working conditions vary so significantly.

Heat stress can significantly affect concentration, increase fatigue, and contribute directly to workplace accidents. Vulnerable workers — including those on certain medications, older employees, and those performing heavy physical work outdoors — should be monitored with particular care during periods of elevated temperature.



Increase Water Access

Ensure workers have ready access to cool drinking water throughout the working day.



Provide Rest Areas

Make shaded or cooler rest areas available and encourage workers to use them during scheduled breaks.



Review PPE Requirements

Review whether existing PPE remains appropriate during hot weather and consider whether lighter alternatives are suitable.



Adjust Work Schedules

Reschedule physically demanding tasks to cooler parts of the day, such as early morning or late afternoon.



Monitor Vulnerable Workers

Identify and closely monitor workers who may be at greater risk from heat stress, ensuring prompt action if symptoms develop.



Encourage Regular Breaks

Short, frequent breaks help workers recover from heat exposure and reduce the risk of heat exhaustion and fatigue-related incidents.

Need Health & Safety Support?

Our experienced team provides practical, expert health and safety support to businesses across a wide range of sectors. Whether you need help meeting your legal obligations, responding to an enforcement notice, or simply improving your safety culture, we are here to assist. Get in touch to discuss how we can support your organisation.



Risk Assessments

Comprehensive, site-specific risk assessments tailored to your operations.



Health & Safety Audits

Independent audits to evaluate your current safety management systems.



Site Inspections

On-site construction inspections to identify hazards and verify compliance.



COSHH Assessments

Expert assessments for hazardous substances to meet COSHH Regulations requirements.



Health Surveillance

Guidance on your health surveillance obligations and programme implementation.



Training & Competency

Targeted training programmes to build workforce competency and awareness.



Accident Investigations

Thorough investigation support to identify root causes and prevent recurrence.

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