



Company fined after man suffers horrific burns to

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ABC Health and Safety Ltd are now Registered to run the following courses. Spaces are limited so please contact us as soon as possible:

- **IOSH Managing Safely**

Next course:

TBA

- **IOSH Working Safely**

Next course

TBA

- **IOSH Managing Environmental Responsibilities**

Next course

TBA

- **NVQ Level 3 and 4 in Occupational Health and Safety**

If you would like any more information about any of the above courses please contact us:

info@abchsltd.co.uk

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O'Keefe Construction Ltd has today been fined after a teenager suffered horrific burns to his legs at its depot in Sevenoaks, Kent.

The court heard that on 26 October 2009, an 18-year-old man, who asked not to be named, was in a shed at the site, sprayspaining a lighting tower. The employee used thinners in the process and inadvertently spilled some on his trousers.

When he walked across the shed to go to his locker and find a change of clothes, he walked near a gas burner which was being used to heat the workshop. His clothes caught fire and he ran outside where he was helped by colleagues who hosed him down and put out the flames.

The worker suffered burns to both legs, his left arm and his hand. He was in hospital for 16 days, six of which were spent in intensive care. Since then the employee has undergone skin grafts and has been unable to work for six months.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the spray shed had several health and safety failings. Paint containers should have had their lids on and been stored in fire-resistant boxes. The company should also have been aware that the mixing of paint and thinners in the shed would lead to a potentially explosive atmosphere, so a gas burner with an open flame should not have been used in the same space.

The company had executed a risk assessment, but had not implemented the measures identified. A further management action plan, dated three years after the original assessment, re-iterated these measures, but they had still not been put in place at the time of the incident.

Caroline Penwill, HSE Inspector, said:

"The process of risk management involves assessing the risks that arise in the workplace and putting sensible health and safety measures in place to control them.

"In this case, the company had assessed the risks from paint spraying and had identified measures to control the risks, but had not put them in place. It is important that the findings of a risk assessment are acted upon. Had the company done so, then this terrible incident could have been prevented."

O'Keefe Construction (Greenwich) Ltd, of St Andrews House, Dreadnought Street, Greenwich, London, pleaded guilty to breaching section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 at Sevenoaks Magistrates' Court today (15 February) and was fined £20,000. It was ordered to pay costs of £6,329.

For other course dates for the rest of the year, please contact ABC on 01304 206228 or email on info@abchsltd.co.uk