

# KTL - NEWSLETTER APRIL 2010

**Accidents – April Total = 0**

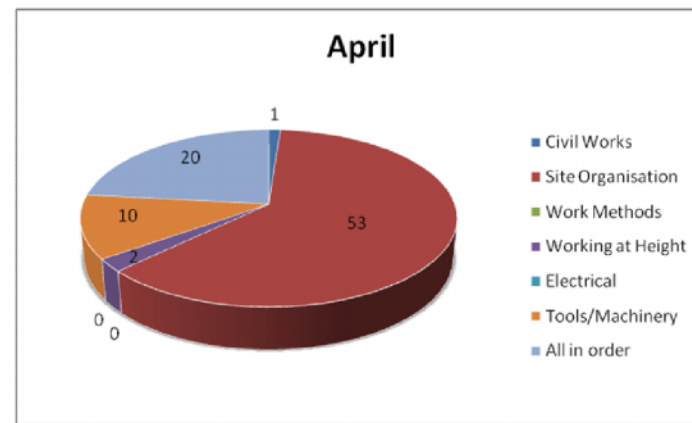
**Incidents – April Total = 1**

**Medical – April Total = 0**

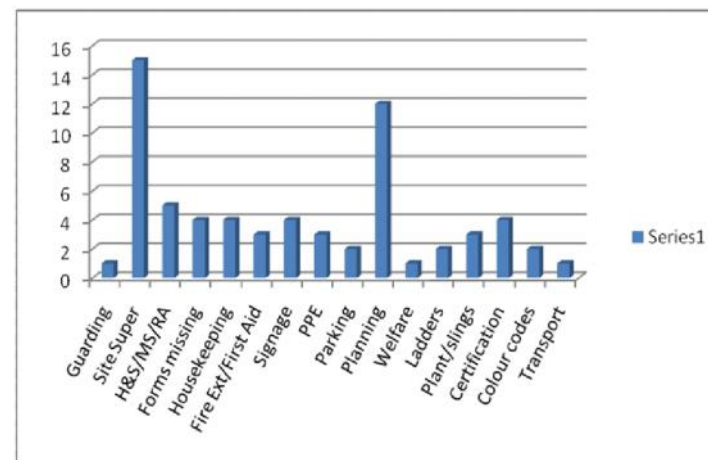
**Near Misses – April Total = 31**

- Driver of cherrypicker lorry encountered a car while driving across a bridge. Car hit lorry and wing mirror broke off car.
- Crew had been parking on the pavement, crew climbed and crossed the barbed wire fence to gain access to site. Access gate is down in the field as mentioned in Site Survey.
- Operative almost stepped into open trench behind him while hand digging to expose cables
- Operative stumbled while lifting gantry pole into position
- Young child stepped out on road from behind parked car.
- While rigging crew was using tirsors to clamp the sections of a 15m pole together on the ground, one of the clamps snapped and broke. This didn't hit or injure anyone, but it was potentially very serious.
- Driver talking on mobile phone while driving on M7
- Operative nearly walked into barbed wire that was hanging down at head height
- While excavating for the monopole foundation, the second operative in the crew walked past without looking and was nearly hit by the bucket of the excavator.
- While excavating for the monopole foundation, the crew came across a bee hive and they were nearly stung.
- While opening an electric fence between fields in the farm, the operatives' hand slipped on to the bare wire giving him a shock
- The area within the compound around the cabin was overgrown with briars and presented a serious trip hazard.
- Entrance to the compound is overgrown with vegetation (in access gate). When I opened the gate, a branch hit the gate and as a result the gate hit me in the back.
- Spanner fell down from the tower
- Crane driver driving onto round about nearly hit a car whilst watching the jib and turning
- Operative was transporting 25t machine when a car pulled out in front of trailer and made him jam on the brakes
- Whilst carrying out an equipment inspection, auditor attached the double lanyard to a tool bag loop instead of the main harness ring, if rigger had not noticed this on his own inspection the fall arrest would have failed the auditor
- Timbers used under crane rams are cracking do to uneven surface
- O ring seal on the weight limiter check valves burst due to oil over heating, causing the hydraulic oil to sprayed every where
- Operative loading lorry with spoil with foundation blocks , when 2mtr concrete block fell out of the bucket but fell into the lorry hitting the sides
- When installing barbed wire, the wire cut through operatives glove
- Concrete truck was reversing into site blocking road in both direction without a banksman in place
- Paint splashed on painter when painting high wall. Paint could have gotten in his eye
- When lifting hosepump, a tool was catapulted into the air landing between 2 operatives
- Dust blowing across site got into operatives eye as he was walking back to site
- Intermediate Handrail missing on scaffold
- Block fell from partition wall to scaffold platform
- Small hydraulic oil leak from Mini digger.

## Deviation breakdown for April



## Breakdown of deviations in April



## Safety Audits Summary

AUDIT FINDINGS SUMMARY - APRIL		Total
Number of staff audited		190
Number of Audits		61
All in Order		20
<b>Civil Works</b> - Edge Protection, Excavations, Work Permits, Rebar, Scaffolding, Oses, Ducts, Confined Spaces, Storage, Guarding		1
<b>Site Organisation</b> - Site Supervisor role/control, TBCS, Method Statement, Risk Assessment, Housekeeping, Signage, Training/Certification, PPE, Induction, Parking, Hazard Mgmt, Access/Egress, Roping off/Barriers		53
<b>Work Methods</b> - Pulling, Lifting, Cutting, Concreting, Hammering, Drilling, Erecting, Carrying, Manual Handling		0
<b>Working at Height</b> - Climbing, Harness, Exclusion Zone, Tool Bags, Fall arrest equipment, Edge Protection		2
<b>Electrical</b> - Earthing, Close Proximity, Stay Wires, Goal Posts		0
<b>Tools/Machinery</b> - Hand tools, Plant, Slings, Pull Lifts, Colour Codes, SWL, Certification, Check valves, Leads, Drills, Restrictions, Transport		10

## Near Misses League Table

The safety department would like to congratulate all crews for the increased number of near misses in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2010. Please keep up the good work, they haven't gone away!! Remember a near miss reported today could prevent an accident happening tomorrow.

## Toolbox talks for April

The safety department along with Project Managers and Site Supervisors aim to give a tool box talk to crews at least twice per month. If anyone has any interesting tales / horror stories from site let us know and we'll include them in May's tool Box Talks.

**Workplaces Accidents – “Safety takes too long!!” “Safety is gone overboard!!” “It won't happen to me!!” Well it did happen to these unfortunate people so watch out, be careful what you say!**

A worker was reportedly killed in an accident involving a cement truck at a local work site. The 40-year-old man, a subcontractor in the city, was run over by a cement truck while working at a construction site, according to Local reports. The man's job was to test concrete and stone to make sure it meets standards. He reportedly poured a sample into a wheelbarrow and was taking it to his truck when he heard the beeping signal from the cement truck that was backing up, according to reports. Witnesses say he was hurrying to get out of the way of the truck when he stumbled over the wheelbarrow and was run over by the vehicle. The man was taken to Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

On 20 June 2007, a general operative was in a trench, building foundations. A dumper truck filled with cement was reversing towards the trench he was in. According to reports, the lorry was playing up, repeatedly stalling. The operative remained in the trench guiding it into position, the driver lost control and the father of four was crushed as the lorry fell on him. Lockety was given first aid but died on the way to hospital. "His injuries were too severe"

## Fall from Ladders

A maintenance fitter lost his footing on the second rung of a ladder. His feet slipped through the rungs and he was killed when his head hit the floor as he fell backwards. The supervisor of a team of shop fitters was



concerned that the target date for completion of a project would be missed. On arriving on site to assess progress he became involved in helping to finish the job on time. He fell 2 m from an unsecured ladder after overreaching while trying to pull cabling through ductwork. He broke an ankle and a wrist in four places. The project was not completed to deadline

## Machinery Falling over the edge

In Ennis Circuit Criminal Court on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2010 a Judge imposed a twelve month suspended sentence on a former employee (retired) of Clare County Council. Fines totalling €50,000 were also handed down to Clare County Council as a result of serious breaches of health and safety legislation. The case arose as a result of an accident involving a 49 year old man, from Ennis, Co. Clare. At the time of the accident the man was operating a site dumper and tipping material over the edge of an embankment to an area about 1.5m lower than the road at a road works site near Tulla, Co. Clare on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2006. He suffered serious injuries when the site dumper he was operating overturned, The employee of Clare County Council, died as a result of the injuries on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2006.



**Eye injuries:** 70% of eye injuries at work result from small particles or objects striking or abrading the eye - e.g. metal slivers, wood chips, sparks, dust and cement chips that are

ejected by tools, wind blown or fall from above the worker. Some of these objects such as nails, staples, slivers of wood or metal penetrate the eye ball and result in permanent loss of vision. Large objects may strike the eye causing blunt force trauma to the eyeball or eye socket. 20% of eye injuries result from splashes of chemicals or cleaning products leading to chemical burns to one or both eyes. Thermal burns and UV radiation burns routinely damage workers eyes and surrounding tissue.

# KTL - NEWSLETTER APRIL 2010

## Safe Driving

The number of Irish road deaths fell to 239 in 2009, the lowest level on record, down 40 from 2008. The Government's road safety target of achieving no more than 252 deaths per annum by the end of 2012 was achieved three years ahead of schedule. The 239 who died consisted of 40 pedestrians, 7 cyclists, 128 drivers, 38 passengers and 27 bikers. Other figures show:

- 40% of deaths were aged under 25
- Sunday was the most dangerous day of the week with 51 deaths
- 49% of road deaths happened at the weekend
- The hours between 6pm and 8pm were the most dangerous, with 30 deaths (13%)
- The average monthly fatality rate was 20 in 2009 compared to 23 in 2008 and 28 in 2007
- The safest month of the year was September when 13 deaths occurred. This is also the safety month on record

### Mobile Phones and Driving

You are **four times more likely to have a crash when you're using a mobile phone**. Not only is it dangerous, but it's against the law - you could be fined up to €2,000. Unless you're phoning 999, don't use your mobile when you drive.

### Statistics

#### Collisions:

Drivers 4 times more likely to crash while on the phone

#### Penalty points:

From 2008 to 2009, the number of penalty points issued for driving while using a mobile phone increased by 70% -- from 44,624 to 75,040.

## XX REPORTING PROCEDURES XX

Following a number of recent incidents on ESB Networks by other contractors it is apparent that the proper reporting procedures are not being followed for Accident, Incident & Near Miss Reporting.

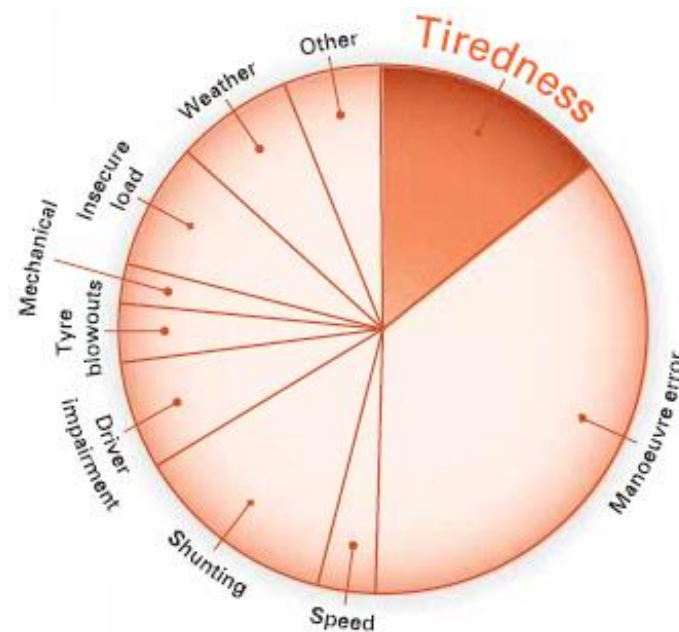
It is important that all Accidents, Incidents & Near Misses are reported to the Project Manager and Safety Officer immediately.

### Day Time Running Lights

Using dipped headlights makes it easier to see oncoming vehicles in the distance and prevents head-on and front-corner collisions. Please use your dipped headlights during the daytime to improve our visibility on the roads. Running your headlights during the day makes a difference around the world:

### Statistics

- Norway had **10% decline in daytime multiple-vehicle collisions** between 1980 and 1990
- Denmark found a **6% reduction in daytime multiple-vehicle collisions** and a 34% reduction in left-turn collisions
- The US had a **12% decline in fatal collisions** with pedestrians and bicyclists in 2004 (from a NHTSA, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration study)



If you have an idea that you think will improve safety on your site, don't be shy, discuss it with others or the safety department



### Tuesday April 27 2010

A joyriding digger driver narrowly escaped tragedy after striking an ESB pylon on the outskirts of the Taoiseach's home town yesterday. The culprit caused thousands of euro in damage to the ESB pylon which was left in a mangled condition following the collision outside Clara, Co Offaly. The digger was discovered burnt out at the scene. Units of the fire brigade and Gardai cordoned off the crash site and alerted the ESB to deal with the damaged pylon. The digger is believed to have been stolen from a local authority yard in the early hours of yesterday. The ESB power supply in the area was not affected as a result of the incident. "The vehicle struck one leg of the transmission tower and the tower began to keel over and immediately tripped the system to allow alternative supply," said an ESB spokeswoman. "We are working with the Gardai on establishing the circumstances surrounding this incident." "There was no interruption to supply and repair teams are on the scene to conduct the necessary work," she added.

Gardai confirmed the matter was under investigation and enquiries were ongoing. Despite some initial confusion, the ESB confirmed that the vehicle had not become electrified at any time during the incident. Once the site has been cleared by the ESB, Gardai are due to examine the vehicle in the hope that it may reveal clues as to the identity of the driver.

## Safety Alerts

- Please ensure that all plant is secured each evening before leaving site. Please embed the buckets of excavators in the ground, set the height restrictors and ensure the immobiliser is activated.
- Reminder for everyone to ensure they are wearing seatbelts when operating Dumpers

## Safety pin for excavator

Below are photos (as demonstrated by another contractor) of a digger bucket where the safety pin came out of one side of the bucket and put extra stress on the weld and caused it to crack. The pin was in place at the start of work that morning. This is a serious near miss – it is essential that safety pins are fitted to all excavator buckets and are inspected regularly.



## Safe maintenance in focus with the launch of the new Healthy Workplaces Campaign

The safe maintenance campaign in Ireland runs throughout 2010/11 and is focused on European Week for Safety and Health at Work which takes place at the end of October each year. One of the principal activities to support the campaign is the European Good Practice Awards. These awards will recognise outstanding examples of good practice related to safe maintenance.

"Our overall strategy is to cut all work-related accidents in the EU by 25% over the coming years. This campaign will help to raise awareness about maintenance-related risks, saving lives across Europe and bringing us closer to our overall goal for safer and healthier workplaces."