

COU14D033

Title: University Health and Safety Executive Report to Council
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Issue

This report is a routine report updating Council on health and safety data relating to the University.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the following information.

Resource Implications

Not applicable - this report is for information.

Risk Implications

Not applicable - this report is for information.

Equality and Diversity

There are no equality or diversity implications.

Timing of decisions

Not applicable - this report is for information.

Further Information

Requests for further information or queries may be addressed to the Director of Safety Services
p.donson@uea.ac.uk Tel: 01603 592199.

Background

Not applicable - this report is for information.

Discussion

Reporting of accident data to Council

Accident and fire safety statistics are provided to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) for the academic calendar year (1st August to 31st July).

Accidents and Incidents

| | 2013/14 | 2012/13 |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Total | 228 | 202 |
| Staff | 148 | 146 |
| Students | 35 | 27 |
| Others | 32 | 29 |
| Reportable | 13 | 10 |

Reportable accidents

Reportable accidents are categorized into *deaths*, *specified injuries*, *over 7-day injuries* (accidents which result in incapacity for work for more than seven consecutive days) , and *dangerous occurrences* (certain incidents which have the potential for causing serious injury without actually having done so). The university is also required to report any accident to a non-employee which resulted in their being taken to hospital.

Reportable accidents up to 30th April 2014 were given in the last report. In the period 1st May to the 31st October 2014 there have been 7 reportable accidents, which were:

Two **specified injuries**:

- a student adviser fractured her nose when she tripped on a path.
- a facilities support supervisor fractured her elbow when she tripped on a metal post holder.

Four **over seven day absence** accidents:

- an information co-ordinator suffered bruising after tripping on a raised paving slab.
- a grounds person badly but two fingers and fractured one finger when his hand made contact with the blades of a hedge trimmer after slipping.
- a catering supervisor jarred her neck and cut her fingers after tripping on a concrete lip or edge.
- a facilities support supervisor injured her back as a result of bending to pick up an empty bottle.

One **member of the public** was **taken to hospital** as a result of an accident at the university:

- a post graduate student suffered cuts to his fingers when a glass tab broke while he was trying to remove a hose.

Fire Safety

There were 8 reported Fires in the 7 month period from 1st April 2014 to the 31st October 2014.

| Date | Building/Area | Cause of Fire |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 4th April 2014 | Paston House | Oil in pan ignited |
| 8th April 2014 | Chemistry | Leakage of solvent in a solvent still |
| 11th April 2014 | Norfolk Terrace | Oil in unattended pan ignited |

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| 30th April 2014 | Campus Kitchen | Fire in a fryer that was accidently switched on. |
| 30th May 2014 | Registry | Microwave caught fire |
| 6th June 2014 | Constable Terrace | Student playing with lighter set fire to a cardboard box |
| 8th October 2014 | Chemistry | Sodium hydride fire in fume cupboard |
| 21st October 2014 | Chemistry | Laboratory fire resulting from ignited |

The fire on the 21st October 2014 caused a site incident that disrupted activities over a large area of campus for seven hours.

False Fire alarm activations

| Year | All buidings | Residential buildings | Non-residential buildings | No. attended by fire brigade | % attended by fire brigade |
|---------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2013/14 | 178 | 123 | 55 | 6 | 3.3 |
| 2012/13 | 202 | 137 | 65 | 11 | 5.4 |

Legislation changes during the period of the report

Four pieces of legislation were brought in on the 1st October 2014. In all 4 cases this is consolidating older legislation with some modernisation.

The new legislation is:

Genetically Modified Organisms (Contained Use) Regulations 2014

Explosives Regulations 2014

Acetylene Safety Regulations 2014

Petroleum (Consolidation) Regulations 2014

Upcoming legislation

Apart from the proposals to replace the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 with new regulations and targeted guidance in 2015 (which was identified in the last Council report), there are no significant imminent legislation changes.

Attachments

None.