

Welcome to this month's specialist groups bulletin

Construction

Several high profile people from across the sector came to a Construction Industry Strategic Response Forum meeting set up by the Construction SG at IOSH last month. The meeting was called following the release of the latest UK statistics for construction – deaths are up by nearly 40 per cent from 2005/06 to 2006/07. Trends for the first quarter of 2007/08 suggest that the higher number of fatalities will be repeated this year. Delegates at the Forum looked at the statistics in detail, discussed possible measures that could be taken and prepared a plan of action to help tackle the problem. You'll find a full report on the event at www.iosh.co.uk/specialistgroups/construction.

Consultancy

Our next networking event, on **Delivering a professional service**, is on Friday 21 September at IOSH's base in Leicestershire. We'll be looking at a number of issues, including insurance, the new 18001 safety management system, and the basics of contracts and contract law. There will also be plenty of opportunities to meet other consultants with a 'speed networking' session! We used this format, based on 'speed dating', with great success at our last seminar. The event is £45 for members and £65 for non-members. For more details, go to www.iosh.co.uk/specialistgroups/events.

Food, Drink and Hospitality

Business continuity management is becoming an increasingly important discipline for health and safety professionals. The corporate agenda is changing, with a growing demand for preparing for and handling new risks, from food contamination to a flu pandemic. Alongside this, crisis communication is also under the spotlight, as we've seen in the Sudan I recall and Cadbury salmonella scare. Health and safety managers are now expected to take on a lead role in crisis management teams, and this is where our next event can help. **Continuity management**, on Thursday 20 September, will focus on practical approaches to prevention and control, dealing with crises, and managing the aftermath. Members from all sectors will find this event useful. Places cost £58.75 for IOSH members and £76.38 for non-members. To download the full programme and booking form, go to www.iosh.co.uk/specialistgroups/events.

Railway

We had a huge amount of interest in our St Pancras site visit this month, so we're holding another tour of the Barlow Shed project on Tuesday 4 September. Again, numbers are strictly limited and you'll need to bring your own hard hat, safety glasses, high visibility vest and safety boots. The tour costs £23.50. For full details and to download a booking form, visit www.iosh.co.uk/specialistgroups/events.

SG bulletin online

We're delighted to let you know that **SG news** will now be published on our website. We've had some great feedback on the monthly bulletin and many of you have suggested that it'd be useful for *all* members to see a quick round-up of what's going on in the SG network. You'll find the current and back issues of **SG news** at www.iosh.co.uk/specialistgroups. Next month, rather than clogging up your inbox with a PDF, we'll send you the link to the online bulletin.

Do you have an idea for the next bulletin? Or a question on SGs? Please mail us at sg@iosh.co.uk, or call +44 (0)116 257 3100. Keep up to date with what's going on at www.iosh.co.uk/specialistgroups.