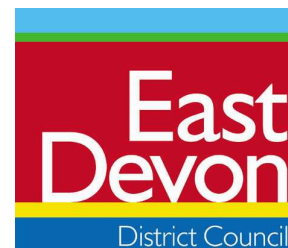




INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



News Service

8 June 2007

'NEW LADDERS FOR OLD' OFFER TO IMPROVE FIRMS' LADDER SAFETY

Teaching businesses difference between right and rung...

ON average 13 people a year die at work falling from ladders and nearly 1200 suffer major injuries and steps need to be taken to reduce the accident toll.

Now, District Councils throughout Devon are planning a major awareness campaign to advise local businesses about ladder safety. From 25 June to 6 July, representatives from the Councils' Environmental Health teams will be talking to employers about their duty to assess the risks and to plan and supervise all staff whose jobs cause them to work at height.

Each Council will visit ten businesses to talk to them about how they can prevent falls – for instance by giving staff information on the rights and wrongs of climbing ladders and what they should look for to ensure their equipment is safe.

In a modern twist on the Aladdin theme, the Councils will be working with Speedy Hire* and HSS Hire**, to run running a ladder exchange scheme. This will enable businesses to swap their old ladders for new ones, which can be bought at a special discount.

CASE HISTORY

A self-employed installer fitting cavity wall insulation was working off a ladder using a heavy diamond tube drill. The ladder was not tied and was in poor condition with loose and bent rungs. He overreached and the ladder fell causing the installer to fall 3 m on to the concrete floor below. He broke his right heel and various other bones in that foot. He has subsequently undergone several bouts of major surgery but is still unable to walk without crutches, and he has not worked since the accident.

Ends

* Speedy Hire, Budlake Road, Marsh Barton Trading Estate, Exeter EX2 8PT
Tel: 01392 824400

** HSS Hire, 16 Trusham Road, Marsh Barton Trading Estate, Exeter EX2 8QG
Tel: 01392 428015

EDITOR'S NOTE

Some dos and don'ts for ladder safety:

- **Check the stiles**
Don't use if they are bent or damaged - the ladder could buckle or collapse.
- **Check the feet**
Don't use if they are missing or worn or damaged, - the ladder could slip.
- **Check the rungs or treads**
Don't use if they are bent, missing or loose - the ladder could become unstable.

With step ladders also

- **Check the locking bars**
Don't use if they are bent or the fixings are worn or damaged - the ladder could collapse.
- **Check the stepladder platform**
Don't use if it is split or buckled - the ladder could become unstable or collapse.
- **Check the steps or treads**
Don't use if they are contaminated - they could be slippery.

For more information please contact::

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