



**death**  
by health and safety



# CORPORATE INSIGHT 2008

## Rimini planning to be permitted underwater

Following a judgement by the European Court on the right of women to choose their method of childbirth, the Social Privilege Unit of DBHS (Death by Health and Safety) is to allow Rimini planners freedom to select the most conducive environment to carry out their duties.

The issue was brought to light by Cromarty Forties, a former trawlerman whose highly-regarded Rimini packs are produced in an underwater chamber below the offices of his employer, Tyne Dogger Ltd. Mr Forties' Standards Change Application was too soggy to read but an advocate from Bude's Hydrotherapy Foundation asserted that water induces a state of neurological suspension, vital for any effective Rimini planner.



Willamena Beaver, DBHS's Assistant Head of Corporate Adventure, stated that the benefits of other emerging management techniques are currently being investigated. These include 'audit by parachute', drunken risk assessment and comedy rule writing. The latter has been pioneered at DBHS.

A new Standard is now being developed which will identify appropriate safeguards. Mr Forties has agreed to be fitted with an iron lung and permanent buoyancy aids. Every six months, he will be smeared in goose fat by specialists from a body care centre in Soho.

## Office evacuated due to over-sharpened pencil

DBHS's team of cosmetic surgeons had to be evacuated from their operating suite after an over-sharpened pencil was found down the back of a settee. No-one was hurt but the departmental head had to be woken up and treated for acute hypertension.

Two suspect scalpels and a rotary sander were cordoned-off and taken away for analysis. The area was later swept by sterilisation experts who found two fully-stressed bulldog clips and a small quantity of excellence which has been banned from the building since 1992.

The incident came just two weeks after a Junior Fluff Monitor suffered a paper cut as a result of handling an unsecured 'post-it' note. The relevant method statement now instructs staff to attach 'stickies' using 'No More Nails' or procure the services of a welder.

## PTS candidates to receive bootlace training

In an effort to promote a downwards trajectory for slip, trip and fall injuries, the Personal Track Safety course is being enhanced by a DBHS best practice seminar and certification regime for tying bootlaces.

Research has identified that disengagement of footwear securing chords is often a precursor to a gravity-induced collapse, potentially causing lacerations and contusions as the wearer hastily adopts a prone position.

Following advice from Captain H Pugwash of HMS Black Pig, trackside workers will be trained to adopt either anchor hitch or double-loop bowline knots for all laces exceeding 22.7cm.

In accordance with the latest HSE guidance, it is also proposed that stone ballast should be phased out and replaced with a soft, rubberised surface.



## On-Track Steering is 'the way forward'

Delegates to this year's Rail Sustainability Masterclass were treated to a demonstration of on-track steering - a new cost-saving initiative being developed by DBHS.

For trial purposes, Oliver & Hardy Plant Ltd has built a fleet of wide-gauge vehicles. From Monday to Thursday, their nearside wheels are being steered along the cess rail of our virtual test track. Offside wheels are used on Fridays and at weekends, running along the six-foot rail.



Initial results suggest that rail wear is being reduced by almost 50%. Speeds in excess of 7mph have been attained and a group of primary school children said they really liked the colour of the driver's socks.

The project received overwhelming support from the audience of safety professionals but two stray engineers had to be escorted from the building after evading guards and razor wire to raise issues of practicality. Events were delayed while the venue was deep-cleaned with feather dusters. Ambulances then had to be called after this triggered an HSE inspector's dust allergy.

Phase two will involve a tarmac coating being applied to the track formation, together with the adoption of rubber-coated wheels.

Project leader Bea Chingzacks, who is on a two-year secondment from the Confederation of Road Hauliers, announced that "on-track steering is the way forward and could be used for backward movements too if a reverse gear was fitted. The industry needs more 'blue sky thinking' so we're flying to the Bahamas to consider this matter in greater depth whilst lying on a beach."

For further information, please contact **Stirling Moss, Director, Direction Directives** on **0898 123176** or email [stirling.moss@slumberland.uk.org](mailto:stirling.moss@slumberland.uk.org).

## Taskforce sets staffing levels for light bulb change

The Failed Appliance Replacement Taskforce (FART) has commissioned statistical analysis to determine the optimum number of staff needed to change a light bulb.

The current process has been the subject of criticism since £134,000 was spent installing a fibre-optic lighting rig in the 56-yard Macyntyfylch tunnel after the bulb went in the inspector's handlamp.

Research specialists Grei Vytrane PLC have employed actors to improvise several practical scenarios. Early results suggest that, for most applications, the ideal group comprises eight members - one to cordon-off the area, two scaffolders, a three-man competence assessment team, an engineer from the National Grid and a clown. The UK Circus Performers Guild is developing generic Work Package Plans for both fluorescent and incandescent circuits.

For further information (during daylight hours only), please contact **B D Spark** on **0898 1231789** or email [bright.spark@slumberland.uk.org](mailto:bright.spark@slumberland.uk.org).

## DBHS Staff Spotlight Utopia Humpworthy - Emotional Support Assistant



Utopia Humpworthy was born in the back of a bread van on Hackney's notorious John Inman Estate in the 1960s. Daughter of a rat dropping collector, she exceeded all expectations by stealing three swimming certificates and a Blue Peter badge before her fifth birthday.

In 1985, Utopia was appointed chairwoman of the CBI as the result of a typing error. Regarded as its most successful post-war leader, she resigned seven years later after her speculation on the financial markets forced Chancellor Norman Lamont to withdraw the pound from the European Exchange Rate Mechanism.

Now working for DBHS on a charitable basis, Utopia provides emotional support to the Decision Avoidance Unit, allowing team members to call her 'mummy' and suckle from her left breast. Despite being Grade II listed, her right breast was condemned as unsafe in 1979.

To contact **Utopia**, please call **0898 123743** or email [utopia.humpworthy@slumberland.uk.org](mailto:utopia.humpworthy@slumberland.uk.org).