 South East Region

The ICM – *keeping you informed*

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**NEWSLETTER**

**Director of Education and Training**

David Jones took on the role of Director of Education and Training at this year’s AGM but prior to that he has been working tirelessly behind the scenes assisting with the development of the new Website.

The role has for some years been little more than a title as apart from local CPD lectures very little has been on offer to members. David is working towards providing a link to training to enable old and new members to obtain construction based information through the website. The educational modules he is making available, some as free taster modules, will be on a ‘paid for’ basis which will bring much needed revenue into the Institute.

At the present time David is involved with the London Build 2018 Expo which is being held at Olympia, London on the 23rd and 24th October. David is Chairing the Skills Hub on the 23rd October and he has been invited to deliver a 45 minutes workshop during the Skills Hub when he will be able to officially launch the Institute’s Competence Register. The Register is available on the Home Page of the website – click on ICM CDM Competence Register and follow the direction - and it is hoped the advantage of acquiring accredited competence levels through the website will encourage new membership which again will enable the Institute to go forward. Mark Rea, President and Roy Blamey, Director of Membership will also be attending the event.

Please look at the new website, it has a great deal of new information on it and is proving a success judging by the number of ‘hits’ it is receiving.

**Health and Safety**

Construction continues to be the industry that accounts for the most workplace fatalities, 38 last year, although agriculture and the waste sector remain the more dangerous environments. The three most common courses of fatal injuries across all industries continued to be workers falling from height, being struck by moving vehicles or objects. Mesothelioma, contracted through past exposure to asbestos, and one of the few work-related diseases where death can be counted directly (2595 in Great Britain in 2016) is largely the consequence of occupational asbestos exposure that occurred before 1980.

No Time to Lose

Workers across a wide range of sectors around the world at risk of being exposed to asbestos have received the first of a two-part webinar to provide advice on managing the risks. Asbestos is banned in dozens of countries but it is still present in large numbers of buildings.

Asbestos is the biggest occupational cancer killer claiming between 100,000 and 200,000 lives a year worldwide. A range of resources, highlighting the risks and educating workers on asbestos risks have been downloaded and 27 organisations have signed up as supporters with five having pledged to take action since the asbestos phase launch of No Time to Lose.

A global audience has seen media coverage of the launch and 1.7 million people through social media. There has been collaboration with organisations to reach people at high risk of asbestos exposure including construction workers, sole traders and young people. A session was held with trainee plumbers in Lincolnshire and it is hoped this will be the first of many taking the campaign to colleges UK-wide and potentially further afield.

In September construction industry professionals tuned in to a presentation on No Time to Lose Asbestos at the Considerate Constructors Scheme’s Image of Construction event. The scheme is an NTTL supporter and has co-branded resources for its ‘Spotlight on occupational cancer campaign’.

**Grenfell-style Cladding**

The Equality and Human Right Commission (EHRC) has accused the UK government of being too slow to address the problems that contributed to the Grenfell Tower fire. A consultation into banning the use of combustible materials in cladding systems, like those used in the Grenfell Tower, is concerned about their continued use on buildings. The EHRC wrote to the Ministry of Housing highlighting its fears and reminding government of its duties under human rights law to protect lives but have not yet received a reply.

The housing secretary has published proposals to revise the building regulations banning the use of combustible materials in the inner leaf, insulation and cladding used on external walls of high-rise resident buildings. In response the EHRC say combustible cladding materials should be banned by taking legislative action such as amending the building regulations as government has proposed. The clarity and additional public confidence is welcome but much more needs to be done to prevent another Grenfell Tower fire and making all existing high-rise buildings containing combustible cladding safe for residents.

**Construction Industry Training Board**

Forecast that construction is set for growth despite Brexit uncertainty with 150,000 construction jobs set to be created over the next five years. The forecast from CITB reveals –

Infrastructure and housing will be the best performing sectors and carpenters, project managers and professional staff will be in demand.

**Sellafields, Cumbria**

Liebherr’s crane has become Sellafields tallest construction. The tower crane has been erected to a height of 152 metres at the nuclear power plant to assist to bring down a redundant chimney stack. It will begin work this autumn to remove and lower chunks of the chimney using diamond wire saws. The crane is erected on specially commissioned foundations and is tied to the stack in three places.

The Windscale Pile One chimney with its distinctive top heavy tower has dominated the Sellafield skyline for nearly 70 years. The sky high filters captured an estimated 95% of the radioactive dust created at the site.