

SAFETY POST & ENVIRONMENT UPDATE

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Aberdeen Harbour

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FIRST OF ITS KIND SAFETY COURSE FOR HARBOUR STAFF

All Aberdeen Harbour's Officials have attended a 5-day IOSH course *Managing Safely in Ports*.

The course, delivered to managers, supervisors and selected other staff, gives them all the information they need to deal with health and safety issues and forms part of the Board's commitment to the highest standards of training

and competence. The course covers eight subject areas: managing safely, reactive monitoring, assessing and controlling risks, understanding responsibility, identifying hazards, investigating incidents, measuring performance and protecting the environment.

Each module was delivered with a strong focus on the ports industry and the activities that

occur in harbour areas. The course tutor, Ian Scott from the Ports and Logistics Centre at Hull College, brought a wealth of valuable experience to the table. Ian previously worked as the Health and Safety Manager at one of the UK's biggest ports.

AHB's Health and Safety Advisor, Kirsty Benedetti, said, "It wasn't just a few days in a warm cosy classroom either,

delegates had to prove they paid attention by submitting written coursework and passing an exam before they were allowed to graduate".

The course runs again between the 29th September and 7th October. Six places are available for staff from companies on the Port Safety Liaison Group. Interested parties should contact Kirsty.

GARBAGE SKIP MISUSE

There have been several reported incidents of hazardous 'special waste' being placed in the ship's garbage skips located around the port.

Live flares, oil, paint, batteries, fluorescent tubes and electrical equipment have all appeared in the skips, which are provided for general waste only.

The law requires that these items, as well as many others, are specially treated because they have hazardous properties.

Assistant Harbour Master Danny Stroud said, "skip misuse poses unacceptable risks to safety and the environment, our personnel use CCTV footage to trace the source of this waste so offenders can be reported. Both ship's agents and AHB can arrange for special waste disposal facilities if required."

Bulky items like pallets and fishing/scramble nets also cause problems in the compactor van. These items should be broken up before disposal.



RECYCLING FACILITIES LAUNCHED

Enhanced recycling facilities have been rolled out at AHB's Maintenance Department as part of a drive to reduce waste sent to landfill.

The new colour-coded bins form part of an upgraded waste management plan that will be introduced at AHB's other buildings in the coming months. Collections of paper, cardboard, plastic bottles and cups, as well as food and drink cans are added to those for timber, scrap and waste oil.

AHB already recycles or reuses 75% of the waste it generates.

PROGRESS ON TORRY QUAY E.I.A.

The Environmental Impact Assessment project for the Torry Quay Redevelopment is well under way. EIA is required because the work will take place in the River Dee Special Area of Conservation.

The aim is to identify risks to the environment and develop a range of mitigation measures. Of particular concern is the effect that underwater noise during pile driving has on salmon and marine mammals.

These concerns are likely to be addressed by a range of strict working procedures and monitoring. A proving trial of sonar equipment that can identify and count fish in the water column will take place in September.

Assessments of changes to road traffic in the area, as well as the impacts on the visual landscape, local archaeology, bats, otters and trees have already taken place. No significant issues were identified.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

There has been an increase in safety concerns related to road traffic. 47% of the 32 concerns and incidents last year were related to dangerous driving or ignoring operational notices.

Unique threats are posed by the large number of vehicles in the busy port area, as well as their specialist nature. Port users should report incidents and concerns to AHB.



SAFETY ALERT! The maximum permitted speed for any vehicle on any part of the port estate is 15mph. Traffic signs, especially 'One Way' and 'Quay Closed' signs, are provided for your safety and must be obeyed. Ignoring these mandatory requirements could mean your vehicle is banned from the port!

FOCUS ON:

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

As the port authority, Aberdeen Harbour Board has overall responsibility for facilitating safe access and working areas within the common user areas of the port.

However, this responsibility does not absolve port users or their employees from their own responsibilities under health and safety laws.

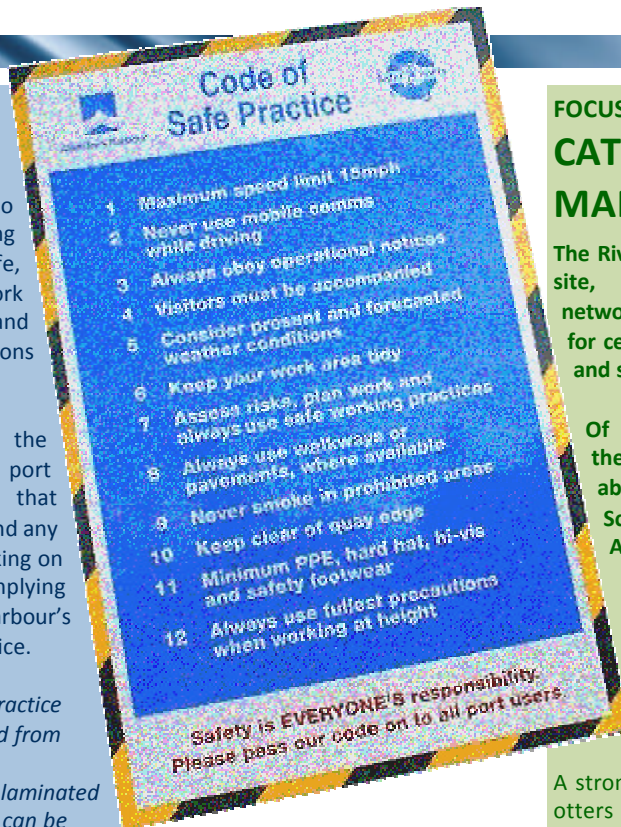
The Board is committed to promoting a safe working environment and ensuring that operations taking place within the Port are done so safely and without risk to other Port users or operations.

It remains the individual responsibility of port users (as well as their contractors and

sub-contractors) to ensure that working areas are made safe, safe systems of work are employed and dangerous operations are cordoned off.

It is also the responsibility of port users to ensure that their employees and any other person working on their behalf is complying with Aberdeen Harbour's Code Safe of Practice.

The Code Safe of Practice can be downloaded from www.aberdeen-harbour.co.uk and laminated pocket-sized cards can be ordered from the Operations Department.



FOCUS ON:

CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

The River Dee is a Natura 2000 site, part of a European network of protected areas for certain important habitats and species.

Of special importance to the Dee, which contributes about 5 percent of Scotland's total catch, are Atlantic Salmon.

Salmon are also of interest to the Harbour because they migrate to and from the river through the port.

A strong healthy population of otters is also present on the Dee, as well as the freshwater pearl mussel.

The Habitats Directive (which designates Natura 2000 sites) and the Water Framework Directive both encourage the implementation of measures to improve environmental quality.

On a river, the best way to do this is to examine the 'catchment' (the area of land that eventually drains into the river); identifying particular pressures and characteristics and then developing a series of locally appropriate solutions.

For three years AHB has been working with the Dee Catchment Partnership on a local plan to improve water and habitat quality on the Dee. Last year, a Catchment Management Plan was officially launched.

AHB has agreed to undertake a number of actions on the plan. These will minimise the impact of its operations on the protected site and species.

AHB continues to sponsor the Dee Catchment Partnership and has a place on the Action Group tasked with improving water and habitat quality in urban watercourses.

FIRE HOSES REMOVED

Fire-fighting hose reels have been removed from a number of the Board's buildings in line with fire safety guidance and the findings of fire risk assessments.

Fire hoses generally need two people to operate and may encourage users to remain in danger when they should evacuate the building.

The Board's policy is that fires should only be tackled with a suitable extinguisher. If the fire is not out by the time the extinguisher is empty then it is already too serious and should be left to fire brigade.

HARBOUR STAFF CYCLE 2 WORK

AHB staff can reduce their carbon footprint and increase their fitness by joining the Cycle 2 Work scheme.

C2W allows AHB to purchase the bike and safety gear of an employee's choice and lease it back to them. With no VAT and reduced tax/NI payments, staff enjoy savings of up to 40%!

With the city-centre in the grip of yet more nightmarish roadworks, early participant in the scheme, Ally Maciver, who lives in Inverurie, pointed out that, 'the best bit is jumping long traffic queues, especially at Haudagain!'

COMING SOON

Keep your eyes open for these developments in the coming months...

- **A white line painted one meter back from the quay edge.**
N.B. The line and the area between it and the quay edge must be kept completely free of cargo, vehicles and equipment (or parts thereof). Any person working between the line and the quay edge MUST wear a buoyancy aid as well as the minimum quayside PPE.
- **Enhancement and expansion of safe walkway network.**

RoES ENHANCE SAFETY CULTURE

Seven members of AHB staff have become Representatives of Employee Safety. They will join Kirsty to form a new Health and Safety Forum.

The most important part of the RoES role is communicating health and safety news and the outcomes of incident reporting to their colleagues. Promoting

the safety culture and listening to the concerns of fellow staff is also paramount to the role.

RoES will meet regularly for training workshops, to discuss the latest issues and to carry out hazard spotting exercises. A key benefit is that forum members will learn and benefit from each other's experience.

Your RoES are...

Andrew Sutherland, George Park, George Ross, Glen McIntyre, Peter Lindsay, Philip Wilkie & Ralph Greig.