

Hazards 2007

**The 18th
National Hazards
Conference**

Hazards 2007

**Sensible
Health & Safety!**

27th - 29th July 2007

At

**University of Manchester
Sackville Street Campus**

**Organised for the
National Hazards Campaign
by
Greater Manchester Hazards Centre**

Hazards 2007
Workers strategies for healthy workplaces
27th - 29th July 2007

General Information for delegates.

The 18th National Hazards Conference: Hazards 2007

Hazards Conference, organised by the national Hazards Campaign, is the UK's biggest event for trade union safety representatives and activists, and attracts 500+ delegates annually. Hazards Conference is a mixture of activities; plenary sessions, debates, campaigning meetings and a comprehensive programme of workshops, with plenty of opportunity to network, make a wide range of contacts and exchange experience and information on health & safety issues. There is a large exhibition area with stalls provided by unions, personal injury solicitors, the HSE, and other campaigning organisations.

This year's theme focuses on the concept of Sensible Health & Safety. We believe, like Humpty Dumpty, that when we use a word, it means exactly what we want it to mean. So what, exactly, is a workers definition of 'sensible health & safety', and how does that diverge from the HSC's.

Join us to debate these, and other health & safety issues, network with others, share experiences, learn in meetings and workshop sessions, and help to develop the campaign and improve workplace organisation.

The opening plenary session at Hazards 2007 starts on Friday evening at 7.45 pm. The Conference ends with lunch on Sunday, at 12.30 pm.

The conference venue and car parking.

The University of Manchester Sackville Street campus is at the heart of Manchester city centre, just a few minutes walk from Piccadilly railway station. There is a multi-story car park adjacent to the campus site for delegates who travel by car. Delegates with mobility difficulties will be allocated parking at ground floor level. Full travel details with maps will be sent with the delegate's credential letter two weeks before Hazards 2007

How to register for Hazards 2007.

The absolute deadline for applications is Friday 6th July 2007.

Choose your workshops and campaign debate from the list, organise your delegate fee, complete the registration form, and send it with your cheque **payable to Hazards 2007** for the appropriate delegate fee, to Hazards 2007, C/o Greater Manchester Hazards Centre, Windrush Millennium Centre, 70 Alexandra Road, Manchester M16 7WD. **Please do this as soon as possible, as we have a maximum number of 550 delegates which cannot be exceeded.** As always at Hazards, places will be allocated on the "first come - first served" principle.

Notification.

We will acknowledge receipt of your application as soon as we get it. If you don't hear from us within a couple of weeks of posting your form, please telephone us and check that we have received it. Our telephone number is **0161 636 7558**, or e-mail hazconf@gmhazards.org.uk Final joining instructions and delegates credentials will be sent out by first-class post on Friday 13th July.

Registration at Conference

Delegate registration will start at 13.00 and end at 21.30 on Friday 27th July. Delegates can also register between 07.45 - 09.00 on the Saturday morning. A buffet meal will be provided from 17.00 - 19.15 on Friday.

The conference opening session begins at 19.45 on the Friday evening.

Hazards campaign

Hazards 2007

C/o Greater Manchester Hazards Centre
Windrush Millennium Centre
70 Alexandra Road
Manchester, M16 7WD
phone: 0161 636 7558
e-mail: hazconf@gmhazards.org.uk

All the information you need for booking is here.

Delegates Fees.

Residential delegates stay in University accommodation on-site. The delegate fee covers access to all conference events, and includes 2-nights accommodation, all meals, and refreshments at tea and coffee breaks.

- ♦ **Residential delegate fee**£190.00

Non-residential (day) delegates have access to all conference events, refreshments and food, except residence and breakfast.

- ♦ **Non-residential delegate fee**£105.00

Residential Accommodation

Most University accommodation is single rooms. We only have a few double or twin rooms available, and these will be reserved for pairs of delegates — i.e. where *both partners* are conference delegates.

Bringing a non-delegate partner or child.

If you wish to bring a non-participating partner to Manchester, or are bringing a child or children, you should register as a non-residential delegate and arrange your own accommodation. There are 2 Ibis hotels very close to the conference venue. The nearest is Charles Street, telephone: 0161 272 5000. The other is Portland Street, telephone: 0161 234 0600. You should make a booking as early as possible. Please note that we do not endorse the Ibis hotels — they are just convenient for the venue.

Creche and child care.

As usual, there will be a professional creche at Hazards 2007 for delegates who need to bring children. It is free of charge. The creche will be open 30 minutes before and close 30 minutes after the formal conference sessions, including the Friday evening opening plenary.

Packed lunch on Sunday

Please indicate on the form if you need a packed lunch on Sunday. Only delegates who are unable to stay for lunch because of travel arrangements should ask for one. Lunch will be provided at 12.30 in the dining room prior to departure for all other delegates.

Delegates with access or other needs.

If you have mobility difficulties and are coming by car, please tick the boxes on the registration form. We will arrange ground level parking for you. If you have other access needs, please let us know on the form and we will do our best to meet them.

Cancellation/substitutes

If you have to cancel your booking up to 1 (one) week before conference, we will refund your delegate fee less 20% to cover our administrative costs. If you withdraw in the final week, or you just don't turn up, any refund will be at the discretion of the organising sub-committee, and dependent on the circumstances. You can send a substitute in your place without any additional fee or cancellation charge, but please try to let us know the substitute's name beforehand if possible.

For more information, clarification or queries:

Hazards 2007 telephone line: 0161 636 7558

Hazards 2007 e-mail: hazconf@gmhazards.org.uk

Website: www.hazardscampaign.org.uk

Hazards 2007 Workshops & Campaigning Debates

We are back to 3 workshop sessions for 2007. There are 30 workshops and 3 debates to choose from, and we have allocated a 1-hour slot for information & campaign meetings on Saturday afternoon at 4.30-5.30 pm, and these will be advertised at conference reception.

More conference event information

For more information about the programme & events visit the Hazards 2007 Conference pages on the Hazards Campaign website - www.hazardscampaign.org.uk

We will post-up the programme, more details about workshop contents as we get them from facilitators, and will list-up the information meeting topics as they are decided.

How to choose your Workshops and Debate

Select 3 first choice workshops and one reserve (4 in total) plus one debate topic.

Write the workshop numbers and debate number in the boxes on the Registration form, and keep a record for yourself on the other half of the booking form.

We cannot guarantee everyone will get their priority choices, but we will do our best.

Practical workshops for NEW & INEXPERIENCED REPS ONLY

01 Doing a Workplace Inspection

The workshop will focus on preparing for the quarterly inspection; explain the resources and tools you need, include a practical inspection; recording and reporting the results of the inspection and taking follow-up action

02 Communication skills for reps

This workshop is about understanding communication skills, and how to be an effective rep. Preparing and presenting a case; verbal and non-verbal communications, tactics and timing; and how to reach and implement an agreement.

3 What is Risk Assessment

Safe systems & the employers duty to assess risk; what is a competent person; getting effective assessments done, monitored, and updated; the role of the safety rep in ensuring that risk assessments are effective.

4 Information sources for new reps

Avoiding information overload; what is most/least useful for new reps? What do unions provide—getting hold of documents; employer duties to assist reps and provide resources and facilities; using the internet and finding useful sites.

Workshops for everyone

05 The EU and Health & Safety

The EU model; role of the EU in setting standards, with particular reference to the Services Directive; is the EU good for UK workers; how can we intervene at governmental level to influence developments.

06 Provisional Improvement Notices (PIN's)

How do PIN's work; what training would reps need; how does it link to the HSE; what should we do to accelerate the campaign for PIN's.

07 Extending Worker Involvement

How can we best increase our influence; what tactics can we use to overcome employer resistance; what do we need to campaign for to extend our impact.

08 Older workers

Normal retirement age will rise to 68 soon—what are the H&S issues for older workers; identifying key campaigning ideas and targets for better regulation.

09 Compensation for work-related injury

Compensation is a lottery with few winners. How compensation works; the state and civil systems; who should pay; the role of employers liability insurance; is there a case for a "no-fault" system?

10 Epidemiology for reps: barefoot research in the workplace

Ways of finding-out about ill-health in the workplace; reasons for absence, linking illness to conditions in the workplace.

11 Toxic substances & health

What harms workers, and how; finding safer alternatives; how to interpret and use sources of information; organising to clean-up the work environment; what is happening with the European Union REACH proposals.

12 Health Surveillance

What does the law require; how should it be provided; how does the union influence what happens; making sure it is worker focused.

For more information on the workshops etc. please visit the Hazards Campaign Website and follow the links to the Hazards 2007 pages.

<p>13 Lung function & hearing tests A practical workshop using test equipment to demonstrate how proper tests should be conducted; identifying a role for reps.</p> <p>14 Driving at Work About a third of all drivers killed on the roads are at work in some capacity. What must employers do to protect the non-professional driver?</p> <p>15 Inspecting for health problems Inspection techniques for identifying work-related health problems, using body mapping; questionnaires & surveys, workplace maps etc.</p> <p>16 Shiftwork & Health Shiftwork health hazards; how do the economics justify shifts; reducing the impact of shifts on health; how can we campaign against shiftwork?</p> <p>17 Stress Risk Assessment Identifying stress factors; estimating the level of risk; how to intervene in assessments; negotiating and ensuring action to address issues.</p> <p>18 Workload & stress Causes and effects of stress-related illness caused by excess workloads; strategies to reduce the injury toll.</p> <p>19 Backpain: prevention and treatment Backpain affects 60% of workers; causes of back pain; safe systems to prevent injury; effective treatments.</p> <p>20 Gender and health & safety Identifying the gender issues that affect workers' health & safety; "gender-neutral" standards and their effect on men & women. Making sure we are all equally protected.</p> <p>21 The long hours culture Still the longest working hours in Europe. Will the WT Directive ever be implemented fully here? What needs to be done to make progress?</p>	<p>22 Workers with disabilities What remedies are available to workers; how do we get employers to act quickly; what should the union do to protect and advance disabled members rights.</p> <p>23 Musculo-skeletal injury The causes of musculo-skeletal injury and its consequences. Regulation and assessments; organising to change the work environment and protect and support victims.</p> <p>24 Workplace & the Environment Effects of work on the community & environment; key issues & problems; regulation; role of unions and safety reps; building community links.</p> <p>25 Using the media Getting your message across: press releases; letters to the editor; new means of communication.</p> <p>26 Organising around H&S issues Positive options for change; setting some objectives and making a plan for workplace action.</p> <p>27 Fire risk assessment Effective fire RA's; what is needed; opportunities to intervene; monitoring what employers do.</p> <p>28 Managing asbestos The Asbestos at Work Regulations 2006 require employers to have a plan to manage asbestos. What do they have to do? The safety reps role.</p> <p>29 Bullying & harassment Still a problem for many workers. What are the legal protections? What is a good policy, and how should procedures help protect victims?</p> <p>30 Young people at work Work experience, Saturday jobs to full-time employment: what legal protections exist for young workers? What should unions at the workplace be doing to ensure they are safe?</p>
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Campaigning Debates

- 1 Sensible health & safety; what is a sensible risk?**
Are we really risk-averse to the extent the tabloid press and others would have us believe? How should workers deal with the risks that are imposed on them by employers, over which they have no control. Who determines what a sensible risk is?
- 2 The retreat from enforcement - what does it mean for workers.**
Cuts in the HSE budget, fewer inspectors, self regulation, Better Regulation; proposals to review what local authorities enforce; what are the implications for workers' health & safety in the future, and what should we do.
- 3 Consultation & involvement or co-determination and control?**
Is the concept of safety rep rights no longer useful? Rights are frequently over-ridden, and difficult to enforce. Could we move towards emphasising explicit duties on employers in current Regulations to get agreements with safety reps on what happens?

For your own record. My workshop & debate choices are:

1	2	3	Reserve	Debate
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Registration form - Hazards 2007

Family Name:

First Name:

Address:

.....

.....

..... Postcode:

Daytime Telephone :

Evening Telephone :

E-mail:

Trade Union:

Employer/organisation:

Tick the appropriate box below for your accommodation & delegate fee

Residential (£190.00) --- Non-residential (£105.00) -----

I enclose a cheque for £.....payable to **Hazards 2007**, with this form.

Food Choices

Tick the box if your dietary needs are Vegetarian... Vegan...

Do you need a packed lunch on Sunday? (Tick box if Yes) -----
(Please – only if you are unable to stay for lunch due to travel)

Do you need creche places? (Tick box if Yes) -----

If Yes, number of children, and ages:

.....

Access and other needs: please tell us what you need to make the conference

accessible to you (e.g. ground floor room):

.....

.....

If you have mobility difficulties, please tick this box -----

Finally, please tick this box if you are coming by car -----

(We need to know roughly how many car parking spaces we will need)

Workshop and Debate Choices (Put your **workshop and debate numbers** in the boxes in priority order)

1st	2nd	3rd	Reserve	Debate
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Return this form with your cheque, made payable to Hazards 2007, to:
Hazards 2007, C/o Greater Manchester Hazards Centre, The Windrush
Millennium Centre, 70 Alexandra Road, Manchester, M16 7WD.