

Achievements of the health and safety enforcement service in 2007-08

1. 439 full health and safety inspections were completed in 2007-08 against a target of 350 inspections. The over achievement was due to some specific projects not progressing as quickly as planned with more time therefore being allocated to inspections.
2. 285 accidents were reported during the year of which 224 were deemed to be reportable with 70 (31% of reportables) receiving full investigations.
3. 256 health and safety complaints or requests for service were received and responded to during the year.
4. 1941 smoke free inspections were carried out between July 2007 and March 2008 with 97.6% of premises inspected being smoke free compliant. This exceeded the LAA targets of 1200 inspections with 75% compliance. 154 complaints and 131 enquiries concerning smoke free were dealt with. 3 fixed penalty notices were served for smoke free offences and one public house was prosecuted for failing to prevent smoking at the premises.
5. Several projects were delivered including a falls from height campaign, a slips and trips initiative in the catering industry, participation in the Health and Safety Laboratories (HSL) nailbars project and a joint initiative with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) which targeted workplace transport, work at height and manual handling on an industrial estate.
6. A Safety and Health Awareness Day (SHAD) was delivered for steelstockholding businesses at Himley Hall in September 2007. The event was organised by Dudley officers and attended by 85 businesses from across the West Midlands including 28 from the Dudley borough.
7. 2 prosecutions and 2 simple cautions involving health and safety enforcement cases were concluded during the year. A case against a large local wholesaler for health and safety offences resulted in fines totalling £32,000.
8. The European Week for Safety and Health theme was "Lighten the Load" and was participated in by distribution of information sheets to small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) advising about sources of supply of trolleys and other stock moving equipment.
9. A 2 year review of the Joint Accident Prevention Strategy and Action Plan 2005-08 was co-ordinated and achievements reported to the Health and Well-Being Partnership.
10. Two premises with cooling towers coming under the Council's jurisdiction for monitoring for compliance with controls to prevent risk of legionella were inspected. The occupational safety team were also involved in a Health Protection Agency (HPA) led incident investigation following 5 cases of legionella in Dudley in July/August 2007.
11. The project to raise awareness of manual handling injuries in the furniture and the carpet handling trade was commenced but not completed during the year. The

project has received funding from the National Health and Safety Laboratories (HSL) for production of interactive training packs and a decision was made to postpone the project until the packs are available. This project will be rolled out nationally during 2008-09.