

High school fined after child is fatally injured

A high school in Chelmsford has been fined after a young child died after a locker in a changing room fell on top of him.



Chelmsford Magistrates' Court heard that on the 23 May 2019, nine-year-old Leo Latifi was fatally injured when he attended an after-school swimming lesson at the sports centre of Great Baddow High School. The incident occurred whilst he and another young child had been waiting in the boy's changing room for their lesson to start. The lockers, which had doors missing, stood prominently in the changing area provided a climbing frame to the children. As they climbed on the front of the unit it toppled forward. One child was able to jump free but tragically Leo could not and the locker fell on top of him.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) found that the locker unit, which was 180cm tall and weighed 188kg, had not been secured to the wall to prevent it from toppling over despite the unit having fixing brackets fitted as part of its structure. The court heard how several scenarios could have caused the unit to move including an adult stepping onto the lowest edge of the unit to pull at a bag stuck in a top tier locker or to clean the top the unit.

Great Baddow High School, Duffield Road, Chelmsford pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and has been fined £16,700 and ordered to pay costs of £12,000 with a surcharge fee of £170.

After the hearing HSE inspector, Saffron Turnell, said: "This tragic incident led to the avoidable death of a young child which has, and will continue to, deeply affect his loving family, his friends and acquaintances.

"This incident could easily have been prevented had the school simply ensured the locker unit had been securely fixed to the wall, however it had failed to identify the risk associated with the potential for the unit to topple over

and to put in place appropriate monitoring arrangements to ensure that it stayed secure.

“At the inquest into Leo’s death last year, the jury agreed that this tragedy was significantly contributed to by a lack of appropriate assessment to a clear and obvious risk. This remained the case for around six years.

“I therefore urge all organisations to urgently check that any free-standing furniture is appropriately assessed and properly secured, if they have not done so already.”

Leo’s family commented: “Nothing can bring back our precious Leo, and the prosecution hearing is yet another very difficult time when we will have to re-live what happened on the terrible day he died.

“Families must be sure that their children will be kept safe when they are at school, in the care of other adults and organisations. We can only hope that no one else has to suffer what we have endured these past two years since our Leo lost his life, and if the prosecution makes other schools more alert to their responsibilities in looking after equipment that could put children at risk, then that is all we can ask for right now.”

Notes to Editors:

1. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is Britain’s national regulator for workplace health and safety. We prevent work-related death, injury and ill health through regulatory actions that range from influencing behaviours across whole industry sectors through to targeted interventions on individual businesses. These activities are supported by globally recognised scientific expertise. www.hse.gov.uk
2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: www.legislation.gov.uk and <https://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/classroom-checklist.pdf>
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>
4. Following the tragedy, a health and safety message was issued to HSE’s dedicated schools eBulletin list.
5. The family do not wish to be interviewed.

The post [High school fined after child is fatally injured](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

[Company fined after apprentices suffer chemical burns](#)

A car dealership has been fined after two apprentices suffered chemical burns.

Leicestershire Magistrates' Court heard how on 15 March 2018 two apprentices were working at Mercedes-Benz of Northampton in Riverside Business Park, cleaning the vehicle ramps in the workshop using a chemical from an unlabeled barrel. The chemical caused burns to their hands and arms, which resulted in both of them being taken to hospital for treatment.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the company failed to ensure that the exposure of this hazardous substance was either prevented or adequately controlled.

Cruickshank Motors Limited (trading as Mercedes-Benz of Northampton) of Penman Way, Grove Park, Leicester was found guilty of breaching Regulation 7(1) of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002.

The company was fined £360,000 and ordered to pay costs of £12,622.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Aaron Butel said: "When working with hazardous substances, there is a legal requirement of every employer to ensure that exposure is either prevented, or where this is not reasonably practicable, adequately controlled.

"This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply implementing suitable control measures and safe working practices.

"Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards."

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3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>
4. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/index.htm>

The post [Company fined after apprentices suffer chemical burns](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

[Private security firm sentenced after employee attacked at a youth offender training centre](#)

A private security company has been fined after an employee suffered life-changing injuries when he was assaulted by four individuals at a young

offender's training facility in Milton Keynes.

Milton Keynes Magistrate's Court heard how on 15 March 2017, the secure care officer (SCO) was working alone with a group of six trainees, who were taking part in a scheduled activity on the outdoor fenced football pitch at the Oakhill Secure Training Centre in Milton Keynes. The SCO had only worked for the company for around three or four months.

During the activity one of the individuals attempted to climb the fence. The incident escalated and the SCO attempted to deal with it alone, the situation became hostile and he was attacked by four of the individuals.

The SCO sustained multiple injuries to his head and body and was taken to hospital by ambulance where he was put in an induced coma for three weeks. He suffered brain damage and had a plate fitted in his skull. He spent a further two months in a specialist brain injury rehabilitation centre.

He said: "When I came round from the coma I could not walk without assistance and I would sleep for around 17 hours a day. I was on medication for about a year, this was mainly to prevent epilepsy which is common following a brain injury."

He added: "I have a scar and an indentation on my head, this means people always ask me about what happened. I do not like talking about this to people. Even now I struggle to form relationships with people as I find it difficult to trust people.

"I struggle to read and understand things, I have been referred to a neuropsychologist."

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that G4S Care and Justice Services (UK) Ltd failed to ensure robust procedures were put in place, to ensure that inexperienced staff were not working alone with groups of young people who presented a high risk of violence.

G4S Care and Justice Services (UK) Ltd pleaded guilty to breaching section 2(1) and Section 33(1)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. They were fined £250,000 and ordered to pay costs of £13,787.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Stephen Faulkner said: "If proper procedures and supervision had been in place to prevent inexperienced officers from working alone in high risk situations, the life changing injuries sustained by the employee could have been prevented."

Thames Valley Police carried out separate criminal investigations against the four individuals involved in the assault.

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The post [Private security firm sentenced after employee attacked at a youth offender training centre](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

[British Airways PLC fined after employee sustained serious crush injuries in a vehicle collision](#)

British Airways Plc has been fined following a vehicle collision at Terminal 5 of Heathrow Airport.

Southwark Crown Court heard that on 16 March 2018, an employee was struck by a tug pulling a train of dollies (vehicles used to transport baggage around the airport). She was knocked under another passing tug with dollies loaded with luggage, sustaining serious crush injuries.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the injured worker was using the centre of the roadway between the two lanes as a walking route and this unsafe practice had been commonplace in the baggage hall for at least ten years. The investigation also identified significant failings in the general management of health and safety and workplace transport risks, including issues relating to supervision and monitoring, risk assessment and training.

British Airways PLC of Waterside, Harmondsworth, Greater London pleaded guilty to breaching section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £1.8 million and ordered to pay costs of £35,724.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Megan Carr said: "The situation in the baggage hall at Heathrow Terminal 5 was an incident waiting to happen.

"British Airways failed to appreciate the serious nature of the risks to which its employees were exposed and as a result failed to take appropriate action to ensure they were properly protected."

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3. HSE news releases are available at: <http://press.hse.gov.uk>
4. For more information about working safely at work with vehicles please visit our website here: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport/>

The post [British Airways PLC fined after employee sustained serious crush injuries in a vehicle collision](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

[Herbert Parkinson named winner of Risk Reduction Through Design Award](#)

British textile manufacturer Herbert Parkinson has received an award for an innovative tool that helps protect workers from developing musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs).

The Risk Reduction Through Design Award 2020/21, sponsored by The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Chartered Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors (CIEHF), recognises design innovation to reduce the risk of MSDs.

MSDs include injuries and conditions that can affect the back, joints and limbs. The parts of the body most likely to be affected are the lower back, shoulders, forearms, wrists and hands, as well as the neck the hips, legs, knees, ankles and feet.

Winning company, Herbert Parkinson, worked with designer David Atherton to develop a 3D printed handheld tool, which can be used to insert a large number of curtain hooks into curtain headers. Workers in the packaging and inspection team had previously been inserting up to 200 metal pin hooks into curtain headers by hand every day, but the new ergonomically designed tool enables workers to slide the hooks in easier, preventing pain in their fingers and hands.



Head of HSE's Health and Work Branch and chair of this year's judging panel Ali Wellens said: "The Risk Reduction Through Design Award is intended to highlight the important contribution that design changes can make in reducing risks of musculoskeletal disorders.

"We would like to congratulate Herbert Parkinson for their efforts to reduce the risks of MSDs in the workplace and improve the lives of their employees.

"We also want to encourage other businesses, large and small, to consider how they could make design changes to eliminate or reduce the risks of MSDs in their workplaces."

Herbert Parkinson, the John Lewis Textiles Factory, was proud to receive the Risk Reduction Through Design Award in recognition of their work.

Partner and branch safety advisor at John Lewis & Partners Rachael Murray said: "Our partners are what make our business, so it's critical that we listen and act on what they tell us – particularly where health, safety and wellbeing are concerned.

"Managing the risks of musculoskeletal disorders not only keep our partners safe, but it's made business sense, reducing absenteeism and improving productivity. Our partners in Herbert Parkinson are thrilled by this award, which helps put risk reduction at the heart of business."

The award was presented at the CIEHF's annual (virtual) awards ceremony on the 18 June 2021.

Chief executive of the Chartered Institute of Ergonomics & Human Factors Dr Noorzaman Rashid said: "We are delighted to collaborate with HSE on these awards to recognise innovation that can make a significant contribution to life, wellbeing and performance.

"Congratulations to our winner and thank you to everyone who entered."

Commendations were also given to Tilda Limited who in collaboration with designer Russell Finex designed a new workstation layout incorporating a vibratory sieve used to break down heavy frozen rice blocks into small rice grains for use in food products; and BOC Crawley who designed height adjustable gas cylinder filling rigs enabling workers to adopt more comfortable postures when filling gas cylinder bottles.

Submissions for the 2021/22 Risk Reduction in Design Award are now open.

Notes to Editors:

For more information about the Risk Reduction Through Design Award visit:

<https://bit.ly/35rMEF6>

For more information on musculoskeletal disorders and how to mitigate the risks visit:

<https://bit.ly/3dJRT82>

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