

**The 19th  
National Hazards  
Conference**

**Hazards 2008**  
**Work make you sick?**  
**Organising makes**  
**you better!**

**18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> July 2008**  
**at**

**Keele University**  
**Newcastle-under-Lyne**  
**Staffordshire**

**Organisation and administration**  
**by**  
**Greater Manchester Hazards Centre**  
**on behalf of the**  
**National Hazards Campaign**

# Hazards c a m p a i g n

## Hazards 2008

C/o Greater Manchester Hazards Centre  
Windrush Millennium Centre  
70 Alexandra Road, Moss Side  
Manchester M16 7WD

**telephone:** 0161 636 7558

**fax:** 0161 636 7556

**e-mail:** hazconf@gmhzards.org.uk

## All the information you need to register 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 and full board, and refreshments at refreshment breaks.

- ◆ Residential delegate fee..... £195.00

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

- ◆ Non-residential delegate fee..... £105.00

### The Campus and Residential Accommodation

Most University accommodation is single rooms. We have a small number of double or twin rooms available at The Hawthorns, about half-a-mile away from the campus centre. These are reserved for either pairs of delegates, i.e. where **both partners** are delegates to the conference; where a delegate has to bring a carer, or for delegates with a child or children.

Conference activities will be in and around Chancellor's Building, accommodation in Holly Cross, Barnes Hall, and Lindsay Court. Check the Keele website for maps and other information at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/university/campus/index.htm>

### Bringing a non-delegate partner.

We don't have sufficient double rooms to accommodate non-participating partners, so if you wish to bring a non-participating partner, you need to register as a non-residential delegate and arrange your own accommodation.

### Creche and child care.

As usual, there will be a professional creche at Hazards 2008 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.

### 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 — normal lunch will be provided in the dining room for all other delegates.

### Delegates with access or other needs.

If you have mobility difficulties and need a ground floor room or other special consideration, please tick the box on the registration form and let us know. There is ample car parking on campus, and the accommodation is between 300—400 metres from the centre. If you have any other special needs, please tell us about them on the form and we will do our best to meet them.

### Cancellation/substitutes

We have to confirm with the University the number of delegates attending on the 27th June. After that date, we are contracted to pay the full cost for the number of delegates we confirm. If you have to cancel your booking before 27th June we will refund your delegate fee, less 20% to cover our administrative costs. If you cancel after 27th June, or you just don't turn up on the day, any refund will be dependent on the circumstances and at the discretion of the Conference organising committee.

You can send a substitute in your place without any additional fee or penalty, but please try to let us know the substitute's name beforehand if possible.

**For more information, clarification or queries:**

**Hazards 2008 telephone line: 0161 636 7558**

**Hazards 2008 e-mail: hazconf@gmhzards.org.uk**

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**General Information for delegates.**

**The 19th National Hazards Conference: Hazards 2008**

Hazards Conference, organised by the national Hazards Campaign, is the UK's biggest educational and campaigning event for trade union safety representatives and activists, and we have places for 500 delegates this year. Hazards Conference is a mixture of activities; plenary sessions with speakers, a comprehensive workshop programme and campaigning meetings, with plenty of opportunity to network, make a wide range of contacts and exchange experience and information on health & safety issues. Exhibitors include unions, PI solicitors, the HSE, and campaigners.

This year we focus on the government's obsessive desire to reduce sickness-related absence by getting people back to work seemingly at any price, regardless of either the cause of their illness or injury, or the quality of the work and the work environment in their workplace. We will give some emphasis to current developments in occupational health policy and delivery, and also focus on how we believe workers need to organise to ensure they are not damaged by work.

So join us to debate these, and other health & safety issues, network with others, share experiences, learn in meetings and workshop sessions, and help to build the campaign for effective action and workplace organisation.

The formal opening plenary session at Hazards 2008 will be on Saturday morning at 09.00. The Conference ends with lunch on Sunday at 12.30.

**The conference venue and car parking.**

Keele University is in Staffordshire, just outside Newcastle-under-Lyme. There is ample car parking, and Stoke-on-Trent railway station (on the West Coast mainline) is a 20 minute bus ride. The bus goes right into the centre of the campus. It is a compact campus, with all the main buildings we will use a few minutes walk apart. Full details with maps will be sent out with the delegate's credential two weeks before the conference date.

**How to register for Hazards 2008.**

**The absolute deadline for applications is Friday 27th June 2008.**

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 2008** for the appropriate delegate fee, to Hazards 2008, C/o Greater Manchester Hazards Centre, Windrush Millennium Centre, 70 Alexandra Road, Manchester M16 7WD. **Please do this as soon as possible, as the maximum number of 500 cannot be exceeded.** As always places will be allocated on "first come - first served" principles.

**Notification.**

We will acknowledge your application as soon as we get it. If you don't hear from us within a couple of weeks of sending your form, please telephone us and check that we have received it. The conference telephone number is **0161 636 7558**, or e-mail [hazconf@gmhazards.org.uk](mailto:hazconf@gmhazards.org.uk)

**Registration at Conference**

Delegate registration will be from 13.00 to 21.00 on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July. Delegates can also register between 07.30 - 09.00 on the Saturday morning, 19<sup>th</sup> July. A buffet meal will be provided between 17.00 - 19.15 on Friday evening. A range of informal conference sessions are being arranged for Friday evening.

## Hazards 2008 Workshops & Campaigning Debates

Hazards 2008 opening plenary session will be on Saturday morning, followed by the campaigning debates. This year there will be 2 workshop sessions and one campaigning debate. There are 26 workshops and 3 debates to choose from.

We have allocated a 1-hour slot for information meetings, campaign, sector and other meetings on Saturday afternoon from 4.30 — 5.30 pm, and these will be advertised on the website and at conference reception—you can sign-up for meetings when you register.

### More conference event information

For more information about the programme & events visit the Hazards 2008 Conference pages on the Hazards Campaign website — [www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/hazards2008](http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/hazards2008)

We will post-up the initial programme and amendments as it develops, and more details and outlines of workshops as facilitators send them to us, to supplement the brief outline on this form. We will also put up the meeting topics as they are decided and given to us.

### Choosing your Workshops and Debate

**Select 2 workshops as your first choices and one reserve (3 in total) plus one debate topic. Write the workshop and debate numbers in the boxes on the Registration form, and keep a record for yourself on the other half of the booking form.**

We cannot absolutely guarantee that you will get your priority workshop choices, but we will make every effort to ensure you do.

### Two key workshops for new reps

#### 01 Doing a Workplace Inspection

The workshop will focus on preparing for the regular workplace inspection; explain the resources and tools you need, including checklist development; a practical inspection exercise; recording and reporting the results of the inspection and taking follow-up action with management.

#### 02 Facilities & time-off for reps

Reps need facilities from the employer to enable them to perform their functions effectively. This workshop will clarify the duty on the employer to provide these, give reasons to improve the basics, and be clear about the role of the Inspector when employers are in breach of their duty

### General Workshops for all

#### 03 The EU and Health & Safety

The EU model—is it good for UK workers; role of the EU in setting standards; how the strategy to 2012 is developing; how do we intervene to influence future developments.

#### 04 Safety Rep functions: Employer duties—shifting the emphasis

Rights are hard to enforce; we need to shift the focus to functions and duties in the SRSC Regulations, and discuss how these can be extended into new areas. We'll also look at the role of the HSE in enforcing these.

#### 05 Older workers

Normal retirement age for all will rise to 68 by 2044—what are the main H&S issues for older workers; can we ensure older workers are protected? We'll identify some key campaigning ideas.

#### 06 Enforcement: problems with effectiveness.

"Better regulation" means cuts in HSE budgets and resources, and policy shifts towards more advice and less formal enforcement by inspectors. These undermine the regulatory regime. The workshop will examine what we can do to deal with this.

#### 07 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.

#### 08 Violence at work

Many workers face the risk of violence. The workshop will consider the level of risk and its assessment, and policies, strategies and effective controls that help manage and prevent it.

#### 09 Chemicals & toxic substances

What harms workers, and how; using and interpreting sources of information; COSHH assessments, records, safe systems & alternatives; organising to clean-up the work environment.

#### 10 Risk Assessment

The foundation of safe working; the employers duty to assess risk; what they have to do; who is competent; the role of the safety rep in ensuring that risk assessments are effective.

#### 11 Health Surveillance

What does the law require; how should it be provided; how does the union influence what happens; making sure it is focused on & serves worker's needs.

- 12 Shiftwork & Health**  
What are the health hazards of shiftwork; do the economics justify shifts; rotating shifts or regular nights - which is worse; what can be done to reduce the impact of shifts on health; developing a campaign.
- 13 Stress risk assessment**  
Using stress risk assessments & the standards; what are the key stress factors; estimating the level of risk; implementing controls; rep's involvement in assessments; negotiating and ensuring action.
- 14 Handling Stress cases at work**  
Ensuring there are effective policies and procedures to prevent illness; representing members who have been damaged; return-to-work strategies and support systems.
- 15 Gender and health & safety**  
Identifying the gender issues that affect workers' health & safety; "gender-neutral" standards and their effect on men & women; organising to improve standards and protection for all workers.
- 16 Overcoming the long hours culture**  
British workers work the longest hours in Europe. Who benefits, and how; will regulation help? What must be done to tackle this problem?
- 17 Disability equality duty**  
The duty on public sector employers to produce an equality scheme; what about the private sector? Good quality schemes; the union role in ensuring protection & advancement of disabled members rights.
- 18 Dermatitis**  
Still a major issue for all kinds of workers; What causes it? How do we protect workers; substitution or PPE—how do you find a safer alternative?

- 19 Slips, trips and falls.**  
A recent HSE improvement project, because ST&F's are still the main cause of injury, from a minor scratch to death. What needs to be done to tackle the causes at the workplace?
- 20 Using the media**  
Crucial for all campaigners to help them get the message across: press releases; letters to the editor; doing an interview and the effective means of communication.
- 21 Musculo-skeletal injuries (MSI)**  
The causes of MSI's and their consequences; regulation and assessments; organising to change the work environment for prevention and how to support victims.
- 22 Fire risk assessment**  
Effective fire RA's; what is needed; opportunities to intervene; monitoring what employers do and intervening to improve protection.
- 23 Duty to manage asbestos**  
Asbestos remains a major problem for millions of workers. What the law requires; ensuring employers have prepared a plan; can it be improved?
- 24 Driving at Work**  
About a third of all drivers killed on the roads are at work in some capacity. What must employers do to better protect the non-professional driver.
- 25 Managing sickness absence**  
Procedures and policies that support sick workers rather than harass and penalise them. Role of the union rep; supporting and defending workers threatened with discipline.
- 26 Bullying & harassment**  
Still a problem for many workers. How do we assess it? What are the legal protections. What is a good policy, and how should procedures help protect victims.

### Campaigning Debates

- 1 Work at any price—good jobs & safe work in a globalised world?**  
The current obsession with getting workers back to work is seemingly at any price. Are there lots of good jobs—safe jobs available for those who have been damaged, or is there just the usual rubbish? And what if it's work that has caused your injury or ill-health?
- 2 “Elf & safety gone mad” — reclaiming the brand.**  
Who decides what is a sensible risk? Has health & safety really gone crazy? How do we reclaim the brand in the face of a media agenda that promotes trivialisation, labels the HSE an oppressive police force, sees workers as risk averse and says employers are overburdened.
- 3 The Black approach—the way forward for occupational health?**  
What is the best way to provide occupational health services for workers? Is Workplace Health Connect the way forward. What about the EMAS? We need to identify clear campaigning aims for what will really help to protect workers health at work.

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

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Reserve</b>	<b>Debate</b>
<input style="width: 40px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 40px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 40px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 40px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>

## Delegate Registration form - Hazards 2008

Family Name: .....

First Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

..... Postcode: .....

Daytime Telephone: .....

Evening Telephone: .....

E-mail: .....

Trade Union: .....

Employer/organisation: .....

**Tick the appropriate box below** for your delegate status and fee

Residential (£195.00) ----  Non-residential (£105.00) ----

I enclose a cheque for £..... payable to **Hazards 2008**, 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 .....

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

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

Return this form with your cheque, made payable to Hazards 2008, to:  
Hazards 2008, C/o Greater Manchester Hazards Centre, The Windrush  
Millennium Centre, 70 Alexandra Road, Manchester, M16 7WD.