

**The 21st  
National Hazards  
Conference**

**Hazards 2010**  
**Supporting life-saving**

**safety reps  
whatever the  
Government**

**9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> July 2010**  
**at**

**Keele University**  
**Near Stoke-on-Trent**  
**Staffordshire**

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

**Hazards 2010**  
**Supporting life-saving safety reps.**  
**9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

General Information for delegates.

**The 21st National Hazards Conference: Hazards 2010**

Hazards Conference, organised by the national Hazards Campaign, is the biggest educational and campaigning event for trade union safety reps and activists, and we have places for 500 delegates. The conference is a mixture of speakers, plenary sessions, campaigning meetings and a comprehensive workshop programme. There is plenty of opportunity to network, make new contacts and exchange experience and information on H&S issues. Exhibitors include trade unions, campaign organisations, PI solicitors and the HSE.

However the political landscape changes following the election prior to Hazards 2010, we already know that changes are inevitable. The cost of bailing out the banks and bankers means we will all have to pay the price. The desperate need for the State to cut expenditure may well focus on easy targets like the HSE and impact on other public sector regulators. So whichever party is in government by the time Hazards 2010 takes place, we know we will have a fight on our hands. The Tories have already indicated they think "elf and safety has gone mad" and they want to deregulate by tearing up H&S laws, allow employers to self-regulate and to refuse entry to inspectors. We must be prepared to challenge both government and employers. The statutory H&S framework must remain in place, we must defend enforcement funding as a minimum and we have to continue the fight against unsafe and unhealthy workplace conditions.

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

**The opening session at Hazards 2010 will be on Friday evening at 19.30. 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 on-site parking, and Stoke-on-Trent railway station (on the West Coast mainline) is a 20 minute bus ride. Much more information from <http://www.esci.keele.ac.uk/kudis/campusguide/downloads/index.htm>

**How to apply for Hazards 2010.**

**The absolute deadline for applications is Friday 18th June 2010.**

Choose your 2 workshops plus reserve and keynote meeting from the list, organise your delegate fee, complete the registration form, and send it **together with your cheque payable to Hazards 2010** for the appropriate delegate fee, to the address on the form. **Please do this as soon as possible, as the maximum number of 500 cannot be exceeded.**

**Notification.**

We will acknowledge your application within a few days of receiving it. **If you don't hear from us within a couple of weeks of sending your form,** please contact us to check that we have received it. Our office telephone number is **0161 636 7558**, or e-mail **hazconf@gmhazards.org.uk**

**Registration at Conference**

Delegate registration will be from 13.00 to 21.00 on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July. Late arrivals can also register between 07.30 - 09.00 on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July

# Hazards campaign

## Hazards 2010

C/o Greater Manchester Hazards Centre  
Windrush Millennium Centre  
70 Alexandra Road  
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** ..... £225.00

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

- ◆ **Non-residential delegate fee** ..... £135.00

#### The Campus and Residential Accommodation

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, or where a delegate has to bring a carer.

All conference activities will be in and around the Chancellor's Building. For a campus map and detailed guide, plus travel directions and other information go to <http://www.esci.keele.ac.uk/kudis/campusguide/downloads/index.htm>

#### Bringing a non-delegate partner or child.

If you wish to bring a non-participating partner, or are bringing children, you should 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 2010 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

If you are unable to stay for lunch on Sunday because of travel arrangements, we can provide a packed lunch. Please tick the box on the form if you need one. Lunch is provided at 12.30 in the dining room prior to departure for all other delegates.

#### Delegates with mobility or other needs.

Please let us know about any mobility or other needs by ticking the box on the form and saying what you need. It is important to let us know exactly what you need, so please telephone us before you apply and we can discuss what you need and ensure it will be available. It will be very difficult to make arrangements on the day if you haven't told us in advance. There is ample car parking on campus.

**If you have any other needs, please ring us before applying and we will do our best to meet them.**

#### Cancellation/substitutes

On the 18th June we will have to notify the University of the number of delegates attending Hazards. After giving that confirmation, we have to pay the full cost for all those delegates, whether they attend or not. If you have to cancel your booking before 18th June we will refund your delegate fee, less 20% to cover our administrative costs. We will be unable to make refunds to anyone who cancels after 18th June. Delegates who cancel can send a substitute in their place without any additional fee or penalty. Please try to let us know the substitute's name beforehand if possible.

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

**Hazards 2010 telephone line: 0161 636 7558**

## Hazards 2010 Workshops & keynote meetings

Hazards 2010 opening plenary session will be on Friday evening. On Saturday we have our main speaker session, followed by 2 workshop sessions and one keynote meeting. On Sunday there will be another meeting session and the closing plenary. There are 25 workshops and 3 keynote meetings to choose from now, and you can sign-up to the Sunday meetings when you register at conference.

### Choosing your Workshops and Debate

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

### More conference event information

For more information about the programme & events visit the 2010 Conference pages on the Hazards Campaign website at <http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk>

We hope to post-up the initial programme and amendments as it develops, and more details and outlines of the programme and events as we get them, to supplement the brief outline on this form. We will also post up the Sunday morning meeting topics as they are decided.

### Four practical workshops about the safety reps job

#### 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 follow-up action.

#### 02 Inspecting an incident or injury

Key steps in inspecting the scene of an incident or injury. What you need to do to ensure you can undertake this function. Effective investigation ensures the prevention of further harm & helps future compensation claims.

#### 03 Safety reps functions & facilities

This workshop will clarify the statutory functions that safety reps have been given; and explain the duty on the employer to provide time-off, facilities and assistance for reps to undertake their functions effectively.

#### 04 Organise & recruit around H&S

Health & safety improvements at work have an immediate and positive impact on all workers. This workshop will share ideas about how we can use these to help us recruit non-members, and build and strengthen union organisation at the workplace.

### General workshops

#### 05 Globalisation & health & safety

Global capital and the 'free-market' system means that the abuse of workers health and safety is global too. What are the effects of this? How do we take some control of what happens? What should we do to build links with workers overseas?

#### 06 Engaging with older workers

Normal retirement age stands in the way of workers who wish to continue working. Are older workers unsafe? Do they face increased risks? How should employers engage with older workers who wish to continue at work. What are the key issues for unions?

#### 07 Getting the best from the HSE

Contacting and building a working relationship with your inspector; what the HSE requires of inspectors; what reps expect from them, and what inspectors expect from reps; if you are unhappy with the way your inspector acts, what can you do about it?

#### 08 Violence at work

Many workers face the risk of violence from clients and the public. The workshop will consider the level of risk and its assessment, and the policies, strategies and effective controls that employers should have in order to manage and prevent worker injury.

#### 09 Work & cancer

HSE and official figures vastly underestimate the level of work-related cancer. This workshop considers what harms workers, and how; looks at alternative projections using worker-friendly assumptions, and ways of preventing damage to workers' health

#### 10 Risk Assessment

The foundation that underpins safe working practices, but still employers don't do them, or they are inadequate. How should we deal with such employers over risk assessment failures? How do we ensure safety reps play an effective role in the process?

- 11 Shiftwork & Health**  
What are the health hazards of shiftwork; do the economics justify shifts; rotating shifts or regular nights - can health surveillance and medicals reduce the impact of shiftwork on health & wellbeing.
- 12 Stress risk assessment**  
Using stress risk assessments & the management standards; what are the key stress factors; estimating the level of risk; implementing controls; rep's involvement in assessments.
- 13 Dealing with stress at work**  
What do we do when primary interventions fail? Are secondary interventions and tertiary good enough? Representing members who have been damaged; return-to-work strategies and support.
- 14 Gender equality in H&S**  
Identifying gender issues that affect workers' health & safety; "gender-neutral" standards and their effect on men & women; how do we improve standards and protection for all.
- 15 Long hours and more work**  
UK workers work the longest hours in Europe, while workloads continue to grow. How do we deal with long hours and excessive workload? Can regulation help? What must be done to tackle this problem?
- 16 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.
- 17 Reorganisation & change**  
Change is a key HSE stress management standard. How do we deal with employer who impose change and reorganisation in the workplace to ameliorate the stressful effects on workers?

- 18 Mental Health at work**  
Help to develop your knowledge on mental health & wellbeing, look at prevention of mental ill health caused by work, and identify a strategy for supporting members.
- 19 Using the media**  
Crucial for all campaigners to help them get the message across: press releases; letters to the editor; doing an interview and effective means of communication.
- 20 Everyone a DSE user**  
How widespread are DSE risks; can assessments and regulation control them? How unions can organise to change the work environment for prevention and support for victims.
- 21 Health promotion & wellbeing**  
What should employers do to promote good health—yoga at lunchtime? How do we ensure "wellbeing" stays within the H&S agenda so employers don't undermine safety reps involvement.
- 22 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?
- 23 Behavioural safety**  
The ultimate worker-blaming scam. Begins with a mis-diagnosis of the problems, and follows up with the wrong prescription for the solution.
- 24 Managing sickness absence**  
We need procedures and policies that support sick workers, not penalise them. What do unions need to do to defend workers threatened with discipline.
- 25 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?

**Keynote meetings**

- 1 Enforcers—servants of the state or servants of the people?**  
Critics of state enforcement agencies complain their actions are ineffective in protecting the interests of workers. Are there state agencies who see enforcement in a different light? Is there a better way than educating and persuading employers to comply with the law?
- 2 Green jobs & greening the workplace.**  
Capitalism promotes private enterprise and economic growth as the only way to organise society. What happens when the resources run out and the planet overheats? Is sustainable development possible? What reps can do to 'green' the workplace and help secure the future
- 3 Wellbeing or worse being?**  
Dame Carol Black's report shifted the focus to wellbeing - a bandwagon that government & employers have both jumped on. How can we stop employers refocusing away from workplace risks and towards a pie & chips-free canteen with Indian head massage for pudding?

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

W/shop1	W/shop2	Reserve	Keynote meeting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Delegate Registration form - Hazards 2010

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 (£225.00)  Non-residential (£135.00)

I enclose a cheque for £.....payable to **Hazards 2010**, 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:-----  
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Access and other needs: please tell us what you need to make the conference  
accessible to you :-----  
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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 keynote meeting numbers** in the boxes in priority order)

W/shop 1	W/shop 2	Reserve	Keynote meeting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Return this form with your cheque, made payable to Hazards 2010, to:  
Hazards 2010, C/o Greater Manchester Hazards Centre, The Windrush  
Millennium Centre, 70 Alexandra Road, Manchester, M16 7WD.