

ESTATES SERVICES BRIEFING

LEARNING AS WE GO

JULY 2010

A key thing for us all is to continually learn and improve. One opportunity for this is to record and share the key learnings from any incident, event or near miss which occurs.

By doing this we can put things in place to protect our customers and ourselves from similar hazards in the future.

2010/001 SAFETY LEARNING LESSON

Estate Services - Directorate of Facilities Management

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www.york.ac.uk/estates

Safety Incident Learning

What happened?

Finishing piece between two potential asbestos containing sheets was removed without precautions and risk assessment being put in place.

Where did it happen?

Vanbrugh College Eric Milner White Court - Toilet

When did it happen?

Between April 2009 and 22nd April 2010

Why did it happen?

Either unauthorised removal or removal with inadequate risk assessment. No consultation for this removal was carried out with the University Asbestos Management Team.

Although the risk in this case is minimal the fact that this activity was carried out is unacceptable. We have not been able to determine who carried out the works. We need to learn from these events and any volunteering of information relating to this will be looked upon favourably and help us learn for the future.

What can be done to prevent it happening again?

Following of the University estates procedures for works which involve disturbing the fabric of the buildings. This includes the completion of a suitable risk assessment and method statement for all jobs and liaising with our asbestos team (Richard Walker 2190/ Marc Newsome 4249 or Julia Fitzgerald 4249)

Under no circumstances carry out work altering the building fabric without a risk assessment being in place assessing any potential hazard

Paul Bushnell – Estates Works Manager



Imagine that you had a near miss where you nearly seriously trapped your hand whilst working on a window fitting.

Now imagine how you would feel if you didn't report the event and your work colleague or a customer broke their hand whilst working on the same window.

Imagine now they were working on some steps and they fell off the steps due to the shock of their hand being broken.

How would you feel knowing that something could have been done to prevent the incident from occurring?

It is so important that we are open and honest and continually learn. This is the way we will improve.

Please report all Near Misses and other events we can learn from.

It should be noted that the production of one page lesson sheets does not negate the need to complete an incident report form and investigation in SOLAR.