

Hazards 2006

**The 17th
National Hazards
Conference**

Hazards 2006
**Workers strategies
for
Healthy Workplaces**

**14th - 16th July 2006
at
University of Manchester**

**Organised for the
National Hazards Campaign
by
Greater Manchester Hazards Centre**

Hazards 2006
Workers strategies for healthy workplaces
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General Information for delegates.

The 17th National Hazards Conference: Hazards 2006

Hazards Conference, organised by the national Hazards Campaign, is the UK's biggest event for trade union safety representatives and activists, and attracts 500+ delegates annually. Hazards Conference is a mixture of activities; plenary sessions, campaigning meetings and workshops, with plenty of opportunity to network, make a wide range of contacts and exchange experience and information on health & safety issues. There is a large exhibition area with stalls by unions, personal injury solicitors, the HSE, and campaigning organisations.

This year's theme is the promotion of occupational health in the workplace. We will give some emphasis to current developments in occupational health policy and delivery, and also discuss what we believe workers need to ensure their health is 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 opening plenary session at Hazards 2006 starts on Friday evening at 7.45 pm. The Conference ends with lunch on Sunday, at 12.30 pm.

The conference venue and car parking.

The University of Manchester Sackville Street campus is at the heart of Manchester city centre, and is a short walk from Piccadilly railway station. There is a multi-story car park adjacent to the central campus site. We have negotiated a reduced weekend parking rate this year, and will endorse your entry ticket at Registration. Full travel details with maps will be sent with the delegate's credential 2 weeks before the conference date.

How to register for Hazards 2006.

The absolute deadline for applications is Friday 23rd June 2006.

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 2006** for the appropriate delegate fee, to Hazards 2006, C/o Greater Manchester Hazards Centre, Windrush Millennium Centre, 70 Alexandra Road, Manchester M16 7WD. **Please do this as soon as possible, as we have a maximum number of 550 delegates which cannot be exceeded**, determined by catering and accommodation places. As always at Hazards, places will be allocated on the "first come - first served" principle.

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 posting 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 Final joining instructions and delegates credentials will be sent out by first-class post on Friday 30th June.

Registration at Conference

Delegate registration will start at 13.00 and end at 21.30 on Friday 14th July. Delegates can also register between 08.00 - 09.00 on Saturday 15th July. A buffet meal will be provided between 17.00 - 19.15 on Friday, 14th July. **Conference begins formally at 19.45 on Friday evening.**

Hazards campaign

Hazards 2006
C/o Greater Manchester Hazards Centre
Windrush Millennium Centre
70 Alexandra Road, Moss Side
Manchester M16 7WD
Telephone: 0161 636 7558
e-mail: hazconf@gmhazards.org.uk

Please read this carefully — all the information you need 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, all meals, and refreshments at tea and coffee breaks.

- ◆ Residential delegate fee..... £185.00

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

- ◆ Non-residential delegate fee£95.00

Residential Accommodation

Most University accommodation is single rooms. We only have a few twin rooms available, and these will be reserved for pairs of delegates — i.e. where **both partners** are delegates to the conference.

Bringing a non-delegate partner or child.

If you wish to bring a non-participating partner to Manchester, or are bringing children, you need to register as a non-residential delegate and arrange your own accommodation. There are 2 Ibis hotels very close to the conference venue. The nearest is Charles Street, telephone: 0161 272 5000. The other is Portland Street, telephone: 0161 234 0600. You should make a booking as early as possible. Please note that we do not endorse Ibis hotels — they are just convenient for the conference venue and reasonably priced.

Creche and child care.

As usual, there will be a professional creche at Hazards 2006 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, including the Friday evening opening plenary.

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 is provided in the dining room for all other delegates.

Delegates with access or other needs.

If you have mobility difficulties and are coming by car, please tick the box on the registration form. We will arrange on-site parking for you. If you have any other access needs, please let us know on the form and we will do our best to meet them.

Cancellation/substitutes

If you have to cancel your booking up to 1 week before conference, we will refund your delegate fee less 20% to cover our administrative costs. If you withdraw in the final week, or you just don't turn up, any refund will be at the discretion of the organising sub-committee and dependent on the circumstances. You can send a substitute in your place without any additional fee or cancellation charge, but please try to let us know the substitute's name beforehand if possible.

For more information, clarification or queries:

Hazards 2006 telephone line: 0161 636 7558

Hazards 2006 e-mail: hazconf@gmhazards.org.uk

Website: www.gmhazards.org.uk/hazards2006

Hazards 2006 Workshops & Campaigning Debates

For Hazards 2006, we have replaced the Saturday morning workshop session with a plenary session with the H&S minister, Lord Hunt. You can attend 2 workshops and one campaigning debate. There are 21 workshops and 3 debates to choose from.

We have allocated a 1-hour slot for information, campaign and fringe meetings on Saturday afternoon from 4.30 — 5.30 pm, and these will be advertised at conference reception.

More conference event information

For more information about the programme & events visit the Hazards 2006 Conference pages on the Hazards Campaign website — www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/hazards2006

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 limited information on this form. We will also put up the meeting topics as they are decided and given to us.

How to choose 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 practical skills workshops for new reps

01 Doing a Workplace Inspection.

How to use the right to inspect the workplace. The workshop will focus on organising and preparing for the 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 and in the union.

02 Communication and negotiating skills for reps.

Most negotiators are made, not born, so this workshop is about understanding communication skills, and how to be an effective rep. Preparing and presenting a case on behalf of members; verbal and non-verbal communications, tactics and timing; and how to reach and implement an agreement with the management.

Workshops with a political slant

03 The EU and Health & Safety.

The EU model; role of the EU in setting standards, with particular reference to the Services Directive; is the EU good for UK workers; how can we intervene at governmental level to influence developments.

04 Provisional Improvement Notices (PIN's).

Experience in Australia, and how PIN's were won. What do we want here; how would PIN's work; what training would reps need; role of the HSE & inspectors in a PIN's system; what should we do to accelerate the campaign for PIN's.

05 Extending Worker Involvement.

Research confirms that trade union organisation and involving workers leads to improved safety standards. How can we use this to increase our influence; what tactics can we devise to overcome employer resistance; will the new HSE worker involvement unit help. What do we need to campaign for to extend our impact.

06 Enforcement: prospects for regulation in the future

What will be the impact of the HSC/E's Strategy to 2010 and beyond, the Hampton Report and other current initiatives and potential developments undermining the regulatory regime; identifying key campaigning ideas and targets for better regulation.

07 Compensation for work-related injury.

Compensation is a lottery with few winners. How compensation works; the state and civil systems; who should pay; the role of employers liability insurance; is there a case for a "no-fault" system.

08 Cancer & prevention.

The incidence of work-related cancer is hugely under-estimated and under-reported. What is the real scale and cause of the problem, and how can we get accurate information. What can we do to address problems in the workplace. What action do we need to take to reduce the toll of work-related cancer.

General Workshops for all

09 Toxic substances & health.

What harms workers, and how; finding safer alternatives; how to interpret and use sources of information; organising to clean-up the work environment; what is happening with the European Union REACH proposals.

10 Risk Assessment.

Safe systems & the employers duty to assess risk; what is a competent person; getting effective assessment done, monitored, and updated; the role of the safety rep in ensuring that risk assessments are effective.

11 Shiftwork & Health.

What are the health hazards of shiftwork; the 24-hour society - 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; do we need to campaign against shiftwork.

12 Stress Risk Assessment.

Using stress risk assessments; what are stress factors; estimating the level of risk; safety rep involvement in assessments; negotiating and ensuring action to address issues.

13 Using the HSE Stress-management standards.

Reviewing the standards and evaluating how useful they are; what role for the HSE inspector and EMAS; devising strategies to use them to improve working conditions.

14 VDU's and the prevention of health problems.

Getting a proper assessment done; how the worker should be involved in the process; defining standards; practical advice and demonstrations on making your own adjustments to improve workstation set-up.

15 Backpain — prevention and treatment.

Backpain affects 60% of workers; what causes back pain; safe systems to prevent injury; effective means of treatment.

16 Rehabilitation.

Is rehabilitation part of the obsession with getting injured workers back to work? Shouldn't the emphasis be on prevention before rehabilitation; who gets rehabilitation, where from and who pays; what role for the union.

17 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.

18 Life-Work Balance.

Benefits and pitfalls of flexibility; who benefits from re-organising working time, and how; positive options for change; setting some objectives and making a plan for workplace action.

19 Workers with disabilities.

Employers have used disability as an excuse to both exclude and dismiss disabled workers. What remedies are available to workers; how do we get employers to act quickly; what should the union do to protect and advance disabled members rights.

20 Repetitive strain injury (RSI).

The causes of musculo-skeletal injury and its consequences. Regulation and assessments; organising to change the work environment and protect and support victims.

21 Workplace & the Environment.

Effects of work on the community & environment; key issues & problems; regulation; role of unions and safety reps; building community links.

Campaigning Debates

1 Privatisation and fragmentation: what about health & safety?

Increasing privatisation of public services, including the HSE and its associated functions, has had serious implications for workers health & safety. The debate is about how we can strengthen the campaign to reverse the decline in standards.

2 Campaigning on work-related cancer.

Recent reports show that work-related cancer is hugely under-estimated and so under-reported. This debate is about what we need to do to develop an effective campaign on cancer, and to press for more effective action to overcome it.

3 Occupational health developments; which way forward?

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:

1	2	Reserve	Debate
<input style="width: 50px; height: 30px;" type="checkbox"/>	<input style="width: 50px; height: 30px;" type="checkbox"/>	<input style="width: 50px; height: 30px;" type="checkbox"/>	<input style="width: 50px; height: 30px;" type="checkbox"/>

Registration form - Hazards 2006

Family Name:

First Name:

Address:

.....

.....

-----Postcode:

Daytime Telephone :

Evening Telephone :

E-mail:

Trade Union:

Employer/organisation:

Tick the appropriate box below for your accommodation & delegate fee

Residential (£185.00) --- Non-residential (£95.00) -----

I enclose a cheque for £.....payable to **Hazards 2006**, 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 -----

(We need to know roughly how many car parking spaces we will need)

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 2006, to:
Hazards 2006, C/o Greater Manchester Hazards Centre, The Windrush
Millennium Centre, 70 Alexandra Road, Manchester, M16 7WD.