

TECHNICAL NEWSLETTER – 18TH APRIL 2013

GAS BLAST – LUCKY ESCAPE

Property development firm, PJ Livesey Group Ltd, was prosecuted by the HSE and fined £100,000 following a major gas explosion that destroyed dozens of homes in Didsbury, South Manchester in December 2009.

The former Withington Hospital building was being converted into houses and apartments when a worker cut through a six-inch gas pipe in an underground tunnel. About an hour later, gas that had continued to leak from the damaged pipe ignited causing an explosion that destroyed a large part of the site.

The emergency services evacuated residents from hundreds of homes following the initial gas leak, including 21 occupied apartments at the development. Businesses, three schools, a hospital, two health units and a police station also had to be evacuated and the Urban Search and Rescue team was brought in to search the rubble to see if anyone was trapped.

The court was told that the PJ Livesey Group, the Principal Contractor for the development, had obtained a diagram from National Grid during the planning stages of the project which showed a gas main running into the site. However, the company did not arrange for a detailed survey to be carried out to find out where the pipe ran and wrongly informed workers on the site that the gas pipes had been decommissioned.

PJ Livesey Group Ltd pleaded guilty to two breaches of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 after failing to ensure people's safety. The company was fined £100,000 and ordered to pay prosecution costs of £21,404.

DRIVER CRUSHED AT OLD TRAFFORD

A 33-year-old worker suffered sustained fractures to both legs and severe cuts and bruising when a two-tonne concrete slab landed on his vehicles cab after part of a stand collapsed at Old Trafford Cricket Ground in April last year. Warrington-based Excavating and Contracting (UK) Ltd was prosecuted by the HSE following an investigation into the incident.

The company had been hired to demolish a two-tier stand at the stadium but the work had not been planned properly and the excavator had been positioned too close to the stand being demolished.

Excavating and Contracting (UK) Ltd pleaded guilty to breaching the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 by failing to ensure the safety of workers and failing to plan and carry out the demolition work safely. They were fined £5,000 and ordered to pay £12,000 in prosecution costs.

FATAL FALL FINE

Russell Samuel was contracted by Febrey Ltd to work as a scaffolder on a Swansea housing development when he fell to his death whilst dismantling a scaffold ladder access platform in January 2008. He fell 19 metres to the ground and suffered multiple injuries from which he died.

HSE investigations found that Febrey Ltd had inadequate health and safety management arrangements in place and there was little or no communication, information or instruction provided to its workforce. The management team on site was not adequately trained in health and safety and this led to persistent failures to control work at height risks on site.

Carillion Construction Ltd, as Principal Contractor, was aware of many failings in the safety management of Febrey Ltd but failed to ensure the safety of its employees and those under its control.

Carillion Construction Ltd was fined a total of £130,000 and ordered to pay £52,500 in costs after pleading guilty to breaching Section 2(1) and Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. Febrey Ltd also admitted to breaching Section 2(1) and Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and was fined a total of £85 although the judge said he would have fined them £250,000 had it not become insolvent.

KEELAGHER OKEY KLEIN – CHARTERED QUANTITY SURVEYORS

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ESTABLISHED:

In Warrington in April 1980 as
Pheasant Keelagher Partnership

QUALITY ASSURANCE:

BS EN ISO 9001: 2008

CORE SERVICES:

Quantity Surveying
Building Surveying
CDM Coordinator
Project Management
Site Waste Management Planning
Measured Term Contract Administration
Training
Fire Risk Surveys
Bills of Quantities
Quality and Safety Auditing and Training
Quality Assurance Consultancy
Design Services
Procure 21 and PFI
Builders Quantities

SAFETY SERVICES/TRAINING:

CDM Awareness
Risk Assessment
Confined Spaces
NEBOSH Construction Certificate
IOSH Managing Safely (Adapted for construction)
Conflict Management
Manual Handling (CIEH Validated)
Controlling Hazardous substances (CIEH Validated)
Patient Manual Handling
Bespoke and in-house courses
See our website

ACCREDITATION INCLUDES:

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
Association of Project Safety
Association of Building Engineers
Institution of Safety and Health
Constructionline - Registration Number 17436
North West Consortium for NHS Trusts
Link-Up, The Rail Industry Supplier Qualification and Registration
Daresbury Laboratory
The University of Manchester
The University of Salford
Alder Hey Children's Hospital
Golden Gates Housing Trust

SYSTEMS:

Implementation of Health and Safety Management
Implementation of Quality Management Systems

AUDIT/RISK ASSESSMENT:

Provision of CDM compliance audits and action plans
Site Safety Audits and Inspections
Quality Management audits
Fire Risk Surveys

CLIENT QUOTES:

".. how much I have appreciated working with you during the last sixteen years. It is with your help and co-operation that Matalan has achieved the targets and tight schedules which at times have seemed almost impossible".

".. Keelagher's commitment to our project has been considerable and their professional conduct exemplary".

"We would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your professional services over the past years".

"This talk was the best of any sort we have attended"

"We have always had a relationship based upon mutual trust and professional appreciation".

".. like to thank you for your sustained efforts on our behalf".

TYPICAL COMMISSIONS:

CLIENT: Alder Hey Children's Hospital
COMMISSION:

Construction Partnering Contract:
Quantity Surveying/CDM Coordination
VALUE: Various orders totalling over £22M

CLIENT: Golden Gates Housing Ltd.

COMMISSIONS:

CDM Coordinator on all repair, alterations, extensions,
maintenance
VALUE: 13M

CLIENT: Network Rail

COMMISSIONS:

An urgent survey of 464 Vehicle Incursion risk sites
Training in CDM Regulations

CLIENT: Matalan plc

COMMISSIONS:

73 Stores throughout the UK
Project Management/Quantity Surveying
CDMC/Design

CLIENT: University of Manchester

COMMISSION:

Framework agreement for CDM Coordinator
VALUE: Over £160 million

CLIENT: Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd.

COMMISSION:

Preparation of Quantities for Tesco Stores
and Health Centre

CLIENT: Halliwell Jones Ltd.

COMMISSION:

Alterations to BMW and Mini Dealerships
Quantity Surveying/CDMC
VALUES: up to £4,500,000

CLIENT: Bolton NHS Foundation Trust

Confined Spaces Risk Assessment Survey
Building Surveying/Training
Whole of Ducts

CLIENT: 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
COMMISSION:

33 urgent projects total value £650,000.00
Building Surveying/Project Management/Quantity Surveying/
Design completed within 8 months of commission