CURRENT NOTES

Divinylbenzene incident – Grangemouth

40/3401 From 23 to 26 August, emergency services in Falkirk District issued regular updates concerning an incident involving an escape of vapour from a container at the port of Grangemouth. The incident took place in a container storage area on a quayside within the area of the docks and separate from the main petrochemical industry in the town.

Overnight (23-24 August) and through the course of the day, Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service kept the storage container cooled with water jets in order to dissipate vapour escaping from the tank. The large plume of vapour originally seen escaping had (by the morning of 24 August) stopped, although the container continued to be closely monitored and cooled with water jets by emergency services and industry technical specialists.

Between 4pm and 9pm on 24 August, it was established that the chemical was divinylbenzene - a monomer which can cause irritation to eyes nose and skin and which is the subject of HSE Chemical Hazard Alert Notice 32 (accessible at http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/chan32.htm).

No-one was injured as a result of the incident or reported any ill effects. An exclusion zone of 500 metres around the container (progressively reduced to 150 and 50 metres) was finally lifted on Friday evening (25 August).


Environmental incidents – SEISS Annual Report

40/3402 This issue of the HPS Weekly Report incorporates the 2005 annual report of Health Protection Scotland's environmental incident surveillance system – SEISS.

By the end of 2006, SEISS will have established an archive of five years of environmental incident data from across Scotland.

Future SEISS Annual Reports will focus on the analysis and interpretation of trends in incident occurrence across Scotland and highlight potential areas for intervention and improvement to reduce the occurrence of incidents.

Probable human anthrax death in Scotland - update

40/3403 Further to Current note 40/3302, NHS Borders announced on 25 August that sampling at the home of (probable) anthrax case would start during week commencing 4 September 2006.

The procedures will be carried out by external experts commissioned by NHS Borders who will take appropriate samples for testing and analysis. A full briefing to inform the public, stakeholders and the media will take place this week.

VTEC associated with home paddling pools

40/3404 Four children who were part of a recent E.coli O157 outbreak in England, had shared home paddling pools, according to a Health Protection Agency report (accessible at http://www.hpa.org.uk/cdr/archives/archive06/News/news3306.htm#vtec) which includes advice on minimising the associated risks. The index case may have acquired infection by falling into a stream.

Indistinguishable E.coli O157 organisms have been isolated in Scotland (as reported in VTEC in Scotland 2004 at http://www.documents.hps.scot.nhs.uk/cdr/pdf/2005/0551.pdf) from clinical cases and associated burn water, indicating another, preventable source of risk.

Enter-net annual report for 2004

40/3405 The first Enter-net annual report (for 2004) has been published and will shortly be followed by that for 2005. This was ratified at the first Enter-net workshop attended by all Member States, in Berlin in 2004.

Enter-net (http://www.hpa.org.uk/hpa/inter/enter-net_menu.htm) is well known for the ascertainment and investigation of international outbreaks of enteric infections, but this report concentrates on trends in incidence. The report is laid out by section, with summary results from the Enter-net databases, then surveillance systems, microbiological methods, Salmonella, Vero cytotoxigenic Escherichia coli (VTEC), and Campylobacter, broken down by country. The report will provide a valuable resource for anyone needing an overview of the surveillance of Salmonella, VTEC and Campylobacter infections. This report is a useful adjunct, with additional analyses and information, to the routine quarterly reports.

The incidence of salmonellosis is declining, although with over 135 000 laboratory-confirmed cases in 2004, the disease remains a major public health problem within Europe and other Enter-net participating countries (Canada, Japan, New Zealand and South Africa). The decline in salmonellosis is predominantly within Salmonella Enteritidis, but this is only part of the story: phage type (PT) 4 was the most common type in 1998, responsible for over 60% of all strains identified. By 2004 this proportion had fallen to 30%. Non-PT4 types increased in both proportion and actual numbers.

Antimicrobial resistance is a well-recognised problem within enteric bacteria; this is increasing within Salmonella infections. In 2000, 52% of all non-typhoidal infections were resistant to at least one antimicrobial; by 2004 this had increased to 61%.
Surveillance Report

Environmental Health Surveillance Report

Dr Steve Hankin & Dr Colin Ramsay

The 2005 Annual Report and Update on the Scottish Environmental Incident Surveillance System

Contents

- New objectives for the Annual Report and update
- Why HPS conducts environmental incident surveillance using SEISS
- Summary of findings and actions from the 2006 SEISS User Survey
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New objectives for the Annual Report and update

Many of the features of SEISS, described previously in the 2004 Annual Report, (HPS Weekly Report 2005 39 (22)) allow users to determine the number of incidents occurring in their local area and region and review the individual incident information held on the system. As these allow the system to be used as an online, real-time, and agency-specific record of incidents, the Annual Report will no longer detail agency specific activity. In future, the Annual Report will feature information from collated and analysed reports from across Scotland to enhance the dissemination of key information that is of potential value in improving incident preparedness and response. The report will also be used to provide feedback from the activities of the SEISS User Group and as a means of highlighting contributing agencies’ use of the system locally, regionally and nationally.

Why HPS conducts environmental incident surveillance using SEISS

The potential threat from environmental incidents ranges from relatively minor incidents (e.g. the spillage of elemental mercury) requiring only local follow-up by environmental agencies in potentially screening of exposed individuals, to a major incident involving a multi-agency emergency response and potentially involving the exposure of hundreds to thousands of people to toxic chemicals. Examples of such incidents include the oil spillages associated with the Braer tanker in Shetland and a similar incident at Milford Haven in Wales. Similar large-scale scenarios have occurred in relation to major fires, e.g. the recent petroleum depot fire at Buncefield in England resulting in a significant plume of combustion products affecting the surrounding area.

Historical examples such as the aluminium in drinking water incident at Camelford, the Seveso dioxin incident in Italy, and the methyl isocyanate release at Bhopal in India resulting in the poisoning of thousands of local residents, indicate the potential threat posed by large-scale chemical and environmental incidents. Learning lessons in the management of small-scale incidents may therefore assist in preventing potentially much larger-scale incidents and therefore preventing avoidable morbidity and mortality in future.

SEISS is the internet-based system for the surveillance of environmental incidents in Scotland.

Environmental incidents are defined as:

- acute events resulting in the release to the environment of any agent, exposure to which has the potential to, or actually causes, ill health to members of the general public;
- situations involving one or more persons with medical signs or symptoms actually, or potentially associated with an acute exposure to an environmental agent, known or unknown.

SEISS is unique among HPS surveillance systems, in being an ‘event’ based system rather than an individual ‘case’ based one.

The primary objectives of the SEISS programme (see Figure 1) are the collection and dissemination of information on events that actually, or potentially, have an impact on public and/or environmental health. The public health goals of SEISS are:

- to provide an electronic, interactive, online system for the reporting and co-ordination of information on environmental incidents in Scotland, for all relevant stakeholder organisations involved in the surveillance, investigation, control or prevention of such incidents;
- to inform policy makers and practitioners on the nature, extent, characteristics and common features of such incidents in Scotland, with a view to identifying opportunities for intervention, to better control the hazards and risks associated with such incidents and ideally to prevent them from occurring;
- ultimately to reduce the frequency and severity of such incidents and their impacts on the health of a population and the environment, through sharing of knowledge and experience across all relevant agencies in Scotland;
- to monitor trends in these events and identify changing patterns in their incidence, to assist in prioritising opportunities for preventative intervention.

Increased awareness of incidents, access to details of individuals involved in managing incidents, and information on lessons learned, are all essential data collected in SEISS. The intention is to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experience among stakeholders, rather than just being seen as a passive numerically-based reporting system. The intention therefore is to encourage stakeholders to use the system as a knowledge resource with the specific aim of increasing their capability to prevent accidents and incidents in the future.

Identification and reporting of environmental incidents is a vital component of knowledge management, which in turn will lead to a reduction in the consequences of incidents and accidents,
that will inevitably still occur, and ideally the prevention of similar events and their effects in the future.

The public and the media have a heightened awareness of the potential risk associated with exposure to chemicals and environmental agents. Media interest in particular provides SEISS with an additional source of information on the occurrence of environmental incidents, many of which are initially unknown to public health agencies. HPS uses this source of information via SEISS to enhance local agencies’ awareness of environmental incidents in their own areas and across Scotland.

On this basis a deliberate decision was made in designing SEISS to capitalise on the interactive potential of an electronic system, establishing it as a knowledge management system rather than to focus on using it simply as a counting system. A decision was therefore made to limit the data requested of stakeholders to easily collected information on the nature and location of incidents, rather than to request detailed information which they were unlikely to possess at the time of reporting. The aim behind this strategy was to make it as easy as possible for stakeholders to complete the data entry page on the system and hence to encourage a high level of usage of the system by stakeholders.

Examples of the use of the system include the identification of several geographically dispersed incidents involving the release of styrene gas fumes associated with the laying of plastic water pipes, which had been reported separately by a range of agencies across Scotland over a period of months. Identification of this cluster via SEISS, enabled HPS to highlight to Scottish Water the potential risk associated with exposure to chemicals and similar events and their effects in the future.

The intention had always been that, once SEISS became sufficiently well-established among users and stakeholders, a progressive and balanced expansion of data collection, in line with the user priorities, would take place. Initially, in-depth follow-up would be targeted at appropriate incidents deemed sufficiently serious or severe. This targeted strategy was chosen in order to demonstrate the benefit and relevance of follow-up and to justify the additional effort required to collect exposure and health effects data of good quality.

The commitment to such surveillance activity is evident in the US with continued development of their Environmental Public Health Tracking programmes and from the HPA, the European Union and European Region of the World Health Organisation, who regard the coordination of environmental incident surveillance across Europe as a priority.

The continuing surveillance of public health incidents is an equally important priority at Health Protection Scotland. The attributes of the SEISS system facilitate the dissemination of information on good practice and response resources found useful by agencies contributing to the system. Moreover, SEISS provides a local, regional and national picture of the occurrence of incidents in Scotland, accessible to all contributors, helping to identify priorities which merit further investigation, intervention, preventive action or education and training initiatives.

Summary of findings and actions from the 2006 SEISS User Survey

As part of the on-going development of the Scottish Environmental Incident Surveillance System, a survey of users was conducted to gather feedback on the use of SEISS to help inform the direction that SEISS will take in the future.

The survey, conducted in early 2006, sought opinion using a questionnaire on the general awareness of SEISS, how the system was used, current features of the system, and continuing development. The survey also provided users with an opportunity to suggest other organisations and local partners who may benefit from participating with SEISS.

Table 1: Survey Response

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<tr>
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<th>Individual Respondents</th>
<th>Agency Respondent</th>
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<tr>
<td>NHS Boards</td>
<td>53% (18/34)</td>
<td>53% (8/15)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Authorities</td>
<td>56% (31/58)</td>
<td>75% (24/32)</td>
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<td>SEPA</td>
<td>80% (4/5)</td>
<td>100% (1/1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scottish Water</td>
<td>0% (0/5)</td>
<td>0% (0/1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Services</td>
<td>73.7% (14/19)</td>
<td>100% (3/3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others (SPIB, SEHD)</td>
<td>50% (1/2)</td>
<td>50% (1/2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- a. Survey conducted prior to the amalgamation of NHS Argyll & Clyde with NHS Greater Glasgow which now reduces the NHS Board denominator to 14.
- b. Emergency Services included Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS), Strathclyde Fire Brigade-Technical Support Team (SBFT-TST), Fife Fire and Rescue Service (Fire F&RS).
- c. Scottish Executive Health Department (SEHD) is registered to access SEISS but does not contribute incident reports.

The survey questionnaire was sent to 123 named individuals in 54 organisations (see Table 2 for agencies contributing to SEISS) who have been registered to use SEISS. In total, 68 completed questionnaires were returned yielding an overall return rate of 55.3%. A breakdown of the return rate by individuals and by agency type is provided in Table 1. Results from the survey are presented below along with actions for HPS.
1 Purpose of SEISS

In general, respondents were clear concerning the purpose of the system, thought it met its objectives, and was beneficial to them.

- 92.6% of respondents indicated that the purpose of SEISS was clear.
- 84% of respondents stated that SEISS meets its objectives either mainly or completely. No respondents indicated that the objectives were not met at all.
- 67.6% of respondents indicated there was benefit in using SEISS.

Action: HPS will provide additional information and/or discuss personally with those respondents ‘not clear’ about the purpose of SEISS.

2 Accessing and using SEISS

Respondents use the system to record incidents but make lighter use of it pro-actively to support incident response and as an information resource, as would be desirable. This may be a consequence of a lack of awareness of the system’s potential, as suggested by the lack of awareness of the guidelines.

- There is some evidence of SEISS being made more widely available than the principal contact in each agency. This was greatest among NHS boards.
- SEISS is used most frequently on a monthly basis or when prompted by the email reminder. More frequent use was evident among emergency services and a minority of local authority users.
- Incident recording and nil-reporting are the most frequently used active features of SEISS, particularly amongst the local authorities.
- Regional Incident Awareness and the Search facilities were the most frequently used active features by emergency services respondents.
- Of the active features, least use is made of the search facility.
- 83.8% of respondents indicated the features accessed were easy to use.
- 58.8% of respondents found the User Guidelines helpful, but 32.4% were unaware of their existence. No respondent indicated that the Guidelines were not useful.

Action: HPS will make a more overt effort to encourage use of the system to support local awareness-raising and learning. This may be facilitated by developments designed to enhance the system content with links to technical resources and relevant evidence-base.

3 Information provided to SEISS

Many users do have other in-house procedures for recording incidents, hence SEISS does require them to invest additional effort to record data. This remains an issue in terms of decisions to increase the quantity or nature of the information collected. The desirability of collecting more information routinely must be balanced with the users’ ability to resource any such change.

- 82.4% of respondents indicated that SEISS collects appropriate information about incidents.
- 63% of respondents indicated that they do not use SEISS to record information that may be used for other purposes in their organisation. However, SPIB and SEPA indicated that they did record information in SEISS that is collected for other purposes. Responses from the Emergency Services also tended towards this use. Other purposes specified include:
  - Annual Report
  - Service Planning
  - Blue-green algae (BGA) Monitoring Programme
  - Investigations
  - Trend reporting
- Use of SEISS as the primary record of local environmental incidents was most evident amongst local authorities (51.6%), and least evident amongst SPIB and SEPA. Some of the NHS board and emergency services respondents indicated that they used SEISS as their primary record. Reasons why SEISS is not their primary record include:
  - Lack of awareness across other departments
  - SEISS is viewed as an external agency tool rather than an internal monitoring tool
  - In-house system used
  - Limited detail can be entered due to confidentiality
  - Not all environmental issues fit the definition

Action: The SEISS User Group will be consulted on developments and activities that would enhance the system and...
its content to ensure the system i) provides users with unique value and ii) that use is sustained and expanded.

4 Features of SEISS

Respondents value having access to information about incidents that can be searched on an internet browser. Information is presented in an appropriate format and in a timely manner and the current active and discretionary features of the system are useful.

- Internet access to SEISS was reported to be of value by 85.3% of respondents. None indicated it was not of value.
- 73.5% of respondents found it useful having access to the full information about incidents.
- 67.6% of respondents found the user-defined search facility of value.
- 83.8% and 79.4% of respondents indicated that the information is present in an appropriate format and in a timely manner, respectively.

Action: HPS will provide additional information to users on the benefits of the features and information from the system to encourage use.

5 Support to SEISS Users from HPS

Respondents were generally satisfied with the system, the support offered by HPS, and the level of current training.

- 81% indicated that they were satisfied with the level of support offered by HPS. No respondent indicated they were dissatisfied.
- The majority of respondents indicated that they did not require further training. However, this was not the case particularly for the NHS Board respondents with the majority (44.4%) requesting further training or support.

Action: HPS will continue to provide support and liaise with any respondents requesting further training.

The membership requirements of the User Group will be discussed along with options for further active recruitment as part of an expansion of the network of users.

In summary, the findings from the 2006 survey were positive and provided valuable feedback to inform development and actions for HPS and the newly established SEISS User Group. The findings from the 2006 SEISS Stakeholder Survey were presented by Dr Steve Hankin to the SEISS User Group on 29 June 2006.

SEISS User Group established

A user group for the SEISS has been established.

The group will act as a forum for dialogue between HPS and representatives of the community of SEISS users, specifically to:

- provide information in respect of the future requirements of users;
- consider and comment on the nature, scope and effectiveness of SEISS;
- comment and suggest how SEISS or its features may be improved; and
- review and agree substantive developments of SEISS.

An invitation to join the group was offered to all contributing organisations at the time of conducting the 2006 Stakeholder Survey. The following organisations are currently members of the User Group:

- Argyll & Bute Council
- Fife Council
- NHS Ayrshire & Arran
- NHS Fife
- Scottish Ambulance Service
- Strathclyde Fire & Rescue Service - Technical Support Team (representatives from Glasgow Scientific Services and Strathclyde Fire & Rescue Service)
- Scottish Poisons Information Bureau
- Health Protection Scotland

The User Group met for the first time on June 29 in HPS at Clifton House when it discussed the findings of the 2006 SEISS Stakeholder Survey, future system developments, and agreed priorities for future meetings.

The agreed remit and minutes from the 29 June User Group meeting are available on the SEISS page of the HPS website (http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/enviro/surveillancesystems.aspx). Requests for further information or membership enquiries should be directed to Dr Steve Hankin at HPS (tel: 0141 300 1117, email: Steve.Hankin@hps.scot.nhs.uk).

Summary analysis of the 2005 dataset

The overall agency participation rate in 2005 (i.e. the proportion of agencies continuing to submit reports over the course of the year) was 85%. Eighty percent of the contributing agencies send surveillance data electronically with 11 contributors continuing to use the paper-based reporting method in 2005.

A total of 516 submissions were received in 2005 from 63 contributing sources. Of these, 438 (84.8 %) were nil-reports indicating no awareness of relevant incidents occurring for that month, and 78 (15.1 %) reported at least one incident that met the inclusion criteria for the surveillance system, accounting for a total of 170 incident reports.

Of the 170 eligible reports, 10 were multiple-reports (eight dual; one triple) associated with nine discrete incidents yielding 160 discrete incidents reported as having occurred in Scotland in 2005. The 160 reports of environmental incidents are stratified in Table 2 by incident type and pathway of exposure for each of the six SEISS regions in Scotland. (Refer to Figure 2 for the composition of the six SEISS regions.)

The multiple-reporting relationships are shown in Table 3. The proportion of incidents where more than one agency was aware of the incident and made a report to SEISS has decreased marginally to 5.8% from 6.2% in 2003 and 8.8% in 2004. The number of multiple-reports is a very small proportion of the total number of reports submitted and as a consequence minor fluctuation should not be over interpreted.
Table 4 provides the number of reported chemical, microbiological, and radiological incidents stratified by location-type. Chemical incidents were reported to have occurred in all of the location categories included as options in the minimum dataset, as shown in the table. Chemical incidents were most frequently observed in industrial, commercial and residential locations and jointly accounted for 63% of chemical incidents. Microbiological incidents were most frequently reported as occurring in recreational locations, consistent with previous years, accounting for 53% of the reports, followed by incidents involving open spaces, water supplies and commercial locations.

Of those incidents reported to involve a chemical or microbiological agent, the identity of the agents most frequently involved are listed in Table 5. Chemical incidents involving asbestos, ammonia and hydrocarbon fuels (petrol, diesel and fuel oil combined) continue to be the most frequently reported. The frequency of mercury and chlorine citations remained consistent with that observed in 2004 (HPS Weekly Report 2005 39 (22)). The analysis reveals a high number of incidents involving a single substance encountered only once. This finding emphasises the importance of responding agencies having robust support and access to scientific information to assess the risks from a hazardous material incident. Blue-green algae (BGA) remains the major microbiological agent reported to SEISS. As reported in 2004, not all incidents involving BGA were associated with a species or concentration that presented a significant risk to health. A review of the prevalence of BGA incidents that had the potential to present a risk to health, and the reporting criteria for incidents involving BGA, is being developed.

By the end of 2006, SEISS will have established an archive of five years of environmental incident data from across Scotland. Future SEISS Annual Reports will focus on the analysis and interpretation of trends in incident occurrence across Scotland and highlight potential areas for intervention and improvement to reduce the occurrence of incidents.
System developments

Several new features were introduced in 2004 to improve the user-friendliness and functionality of SEISS. A significant asset of SEISS is the internet-based User Interface. This facility provides access to reports collated according to geographical location. This is a useful feature that enables the system to be used as a resource for local feedback regarding incidents. The provision of secure access to the complete dataset held within SEISS enables agencies to access detailed information on incidents occurring in their region and to use this facility as a tool to improve local awareness of past incidents, to highlight opportunities for closer liaison and areas where there is scope to improve preparedness for future incidents.

The enhanced functions described previously in the 2004 Annual Report allow the system to be used as an on-line, real-time, and agency-specific record of incidents. The system is also being used by numerous contributors as an up-to-date local surveillance system for chemical and environmental incidents. SEISS continues to be complemented in a systematic way with media reports of incidents sourced by HPS that are subsequently linked to appropriate information submitted by a contributing agency. These features enhance significantly the power of the system for the purposes of improving nationwide surveillance coverage and disseminating key information which is of potential value in improving incident preparedness and response.

On-going developments in 2006/7 include:

- a ‘data dictionary’ of agent names using standardised terminology to enhance categorisation and searching incident reports;
- enhanced query capability for local, regional, and national analyses;
- tools to enable the follow-up of exposed individuals and enhanced data collection for epidemiology / health tracking.

And finally…

The effective surveillance of environmental incidents relies on combining information from a variety of sources. The true value of the information obtained depends on multi-agency collaboration. The aim of surveillance should always be to collect useful information for the identification, assessment, communication, control, and prevention of hazards and risks to the public health. SEISS as a surveillance system seeks to satisfy these aims by adding value through the analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of contributed data on environmental hazards. We acknowledge gratefully the continuing involvement and contribution of agencies and organisations across Scotland.

Current notes (Contd)

VTEC infections are increasing within the Enter-net countries. **E. coli O157** has decreased by 6% between 2000 and 2004, while non-O157 serogroups have increased by 52% during this period. These serogroups are under-diagnosed and hence under-reported in the majority of countries, so the full importance of these is not yet being recognised.

**Campylobacter** infections have overtaken the number of **Salmonella** infections in most of the countries participating in Enter-net, and have a greater burden of illness within the community, although outbreaks are rarely seen.

Travel is a known risk factor for enteric pathogens, and this is demonstrated particularly clearly in Scandinavian countries, where travel-associated cases account for between 70%-80% of **Salmonella** cases when travel history is available. Travel association is often under-reported, because of failure to collect this information from patients. [Source: Eurosurveillance Weekly, 24 August 2006. http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ew/2006/060824.asp#3]

Precautionary measures against ‘Bluetongue’

**40/3407** The Executive and the State Veterinary Service have been taking precautionary steps to check recent imports of Bluetongue susceptible animals following the recent outbreak in central Europe. In particular the State Veterinary Service has been considering all imports to Great Britain since July 1 and inspecting those animals originating from the affected countries.

The Executive and the State Veterinary Service have increased surveillance for the disease in Scotland. A consignment of cattle imported to Scotland from the Netherlands was tested as a precautionary measure for Bluetongue virus. The test results received confirmed that the cattle do not have Bluetongue. A high level of vigilance will be maintained and animal keepers have an important part to play in this.

Defra and the Welsh Assembly Government have also increased surveillance in England and Wales with a view to identifying consignments of sheep and cattle from the affected European countries.

Bluetongue is an insect-borne viral disease which affects all ruminants, such as cattle, goat, deer and, in particular, sheep. Bluetongue does not affect humans. [Source: Scottish Executive News Release, 18 August 2006. http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/08/24133201]

Scottish bathing water quality

**40/3407** The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) announced on 25 August that water quality at bathing waters has improved this year. With three weeks to go until the end of the bathing season, conditions have been classed as good or excellent for most of Scotland’s designated beaches.

Compliance with European standards is now essentially assured during fine dry weather, but at some beaches there remains a chance of pollution during or after wet weather.

The EC Bathing Water Directive was created to protect and enhance the quality of bathing waters throughout Europe. Scotland currently has 63 identified bathing waters, which SEPA tests annually between June and mid-September. Further information about the criteria used in monitoring Bathing Waters Standards can be found at [http://www.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters](http://www.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters) [Source: SEPA Press Release, 25 August 2006. http://www.sepa.org.uk/news/releases/view.asp?id=433&y=2006]

Work-related Illness survey 2004/05

**40/3408** The latest detailed analysis of information on work-related ill health were published earlier this month by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). **Self-reported work-related illness in 2004/05: Results from the Labour Force Survey**, generally confirms patterns which have emerged from previous Self-reported Work-related Illness
Statutory Notification of Infectious Diseases

Week ended 18 August 2006

An ISD Scotland National Statistics release

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<th>25 - 34</th>
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<td>207</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>26</td>
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</table>

The estimated number of working days lost due to work-related illness during the 12-month period was 28.4 million. On average, each person suffering took an estimated 23 days off work in that 12-month period. Averaged across the working population this represents an annual loss of 1.2 days per worker.

Musculoskeletal disorders followed by stress, depression or anxiety were by far the most commonly reported type of work-related illnesses with corresponding prevalence estimates of 1.0 million and 0.5 million for people ever employed. The ranking was reversed for incident cases, with an estimate of 206 thousand for musculoskeletal disorders and 245 thousand for stress, depression or anxiety. Furthermore, although the estimated annual working days lost were of a similar order for the two conditions, the average annual days lost per case was higher for stress, depression or anxiety (31 days) than for musculoskeletal disorders (20 days). [Source: HSE Press Release, 3 August 2006. http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2006/c06017.htm]