

c/o CIC, 26 Store Street
London, WC1E 7BT

T. 020 7399 7412
F. 020 7580 6140
E. kdunne@strategicforum.org.uk

PRESS RELEASE

SFfC Health and Safety Performance in the Construction Industry Report

The Strategic Forum for Construction is pleased to release the fourth report since the Safety Summit of February 2001, *Health and Safety Performance in the Construction Industry*, which shows real progress in the quest to make construction a safer and healthier industry.

James Wates, the new Chairman of the Strategic Forum states that 'the report portrays the success of the many initiatives introduced by the industry, in collaboration with clients, Government and trade unions, are having a positive effect, not just on statistics but the attitudes of workers and employers alike however there is more work to be done'. He adds that the core Forum will follow up the report in May, with a focus meeting with Lord Hunt of Kings Heath OBE, the Minister for Health and Safety, Department for Work and Pensions.

It is the first report to be published by the Strategic Forum for Construction's Health and Safety Task Group, which is chaired by John Spanswick. The preparation of this report was undertaken by the industry Working Group, rather than its regulator, the HSE and emphasises the industry's commitment to this cause and determination to tackle the issues confronting the industry.

The report contains three telling statistics that chart the progress made to date:

- The rate of fatal injury to workers in construction during 2004/5 fell to 3.4 per 100,000 workers – the lowest rate on record.
- The rate of major injury to workers in construction during 2004/5 fell by five per cent to 3,760 – again the lowest rate on record.
- Since the 2001 Safety Summit, accident rates have fallen by 42 per cent for fatal accidents, 21 per cent for major injury accidents and 35 per cent for over three day injury accidents.

Looking ahead, The 2012 Olympics offer a real opportunity to drive the safety agenda forward. The Olympic Commitments which will be published by the Strategic Forum sets out the six key areas considered vital to delivering the Games safely, to time and to budget, of which Health and Safety is one. The document clearly highlights that Health and safety concerns must be addressed and dealt with throughout the project process, from the out-set and involved in every aspect of the project.

John Spanswick states that 'much still remains to be done, but we are making headway in the cause of safety and the Strategic Forum's Health and Safety Task Group will continue to promote and support all ideas and actions that help to create a safer working environment on Britain's construction sites'.

The report may be found at the following link <http://www.strategicforum.org.uk/report.shtml>

For more information please contact Kate Dunne at kdunne@strategicforum.org.uk