

Wealden District Council Health and Safety Policy

Wealden DC recognises and accepts its responsibility to provide and maintain the safest and healthiest work conditions as are reasonably practicable. It is also recognised that every accident/dangerous occurrence, however slight, is a matter for concern.

Equally important is the need for constant alertness by all Directors, Heads of Department, managers, supervisors and employees in identifying potential hazards and removing or minimising them whenever practicable.

To this end it has been decided that the Health and Safety Policy for the Council shall be:

- To institute and maintain safe working systems throughout the Council, including the introduction of permit to work systems (i.e. for hazardous situations or workplaces) where required.
- To take all necessary measures to establish the causes of accidents and impairments to health occurring throughout the Council and to institute all practicable remedial measures to prevent recurrence.
- To provide all reasonable facilities to mitigate the effects of accidents and impairments to health and safety when they do occur.
- To ensure that no process, plant, or machinery, is introduced in the Council unless it has conformed with any relevant statutory testing or examination requirement and it has been established, so far as is practicable, the safety or health of employees will not be impaired.
- To disseminate information on safe working relating to specific areas of work and on general safety and health matters relating to all employees.
- To provide proper and adequate training facilities in order to ensure that all employees are fully instructed in the safe working methods applicable to their jobs.
- To encourage and foster the closest possible liaison between Management and employees in all matters affecting safety and health, including the formation of Safety Committees and appointment of Safety Representatives as appropriate.
- To ensure that all requirements of legislation relating to Council activities are fully complied with in regard to safety and health, it being recognised that these in the main constitute only a minimum standard of achievement.
- To improve progressively upon the levels of safety and health performance by the adoption of newly-developed safety and health measures and codes of practice.

- To advise and keep employees informed of their duties and responsibilities under legislation, including:
 - > the requirement to adopt and follow safe working systems and practices;
 - > the requirement to make use of facilities and equipment provided for their protection;
 - > the requirement to abstain from any act which could endanger the safety or health of themselves or any other person;
 - > the requirement to refrain from intentionally or recklessly interfering with or misusing anything provided in the interests of health, safety or welfare;
 - > the requirement to report any known defect which could endanger the safety or health of themselves or other persons;
 - > the requirement to co-operate with the Council or any other person as far as is necessary to ensure that statutory duties or requirements are performed or complied with.

Standards

The standard that this policy aims to achieve is to consider that any Improvement or Prohibition Notice, accident or 'near miss', caused by the failure to follow procedures which ensure compliance with current health and safety legislation, is a management failure. Any incident will be investigated and reported upon by the next level of line management.

____Mr. C. Lant_____
Chief Executive
Wealden District Council

Date: __2003____