

Minutes of the Safety Group Fife

Held on Monday 10th December at

Dunfermline Building Society,, Caledonia House, Carnegie Avenue, Dunfermline

Present

John Johnston	FMC Technologies
Graeme MacMillan	Fife Council
Ian Norton	North British Distillery
Neil Holden	Forbo Nairn
William Miller	Strath Safety
Cathy Welsh	Fife Council
John Auld	Quaker Oats Ltd
David Jones	Velux Company Ltd
David Cant	Lauder College
Peter Ager	Fife Council
Colin Sparling	Lauder College
Alan Harwood	FMC Technologies
Andy Fowler	AF Associates
Mark Russell	Dunfermline Building Society

Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from David Birrell, Martin Brown, Sheena Johnston, Tom Cunningham and Annette Torley.

Chairman's Opening Remarks

Andy Fowler opened the meeting by welcoming everyone along to what was the last meeting of 2007, AF thanked Davy Cant for standing in for him at the last couple of events. AF went on to welcome Duncam McNab of McNab Sports to his first meeting of the group and hoped that he would enjoy the presentation.

AF introduced Mark Ramsay of Ionactive Consulting who presented on his role as a Radioactive Protection Advisor. A modified presentation as a PDF will be available by email from Mark Ramsay shortly.

Mark Ramsay started his presentation by talking about the training and education work that he has been conducting recently with Police Forces and the Fire Brigade throughout the UK on the "Dirty Bombs". He went on to say that it was likely that if one of these devices was used in the UK, the potential radiation hazards would be minimal when compared to 'scare factor' - since this would likely be a greater issue than any potential irradiation of individuals. However, he also

pointed out that the clean-up costs for contaminated land and buildings would be immense, and the likely clearance criteria would also likely be dominated by public perception rather than actual calculated values.

Mark Ramsay talked about the recent poisoning of the Russian, Alexander Litvinenko. Mark Ramsay estimated that Mr Litvinenko would have received at least 10 Gy (Grays) of ionising radiation via the Polonium 210 (Po-210) which was administered to him in a cup of Tea, (3-5 Gy is normally fatal without prompt medical treatment). He went on to explain how other staff at the Café where the poisoning was alleged to have taken place, were likely exposed to Po-210 after the cup that was used went through a dishwasher contaminating the rest of the crockery.

Mark Ramsay then ran through his presentation which was extremely interesting and educational.

AF thanked Mark Ramsay for his presentation, he then opened the floor for questions.

A number of questions were asked from the floor, Mark Ramsay commented on one interesting case he was recently involved in where a mother was flying with her infant on a long haul flight, during the security check in process the mother absent mindedly put the baby on the conveyor through the x-ray machine (about 10 μ Sv per scan). Mark Ramsay explained that pacifying the mother involved explaining that the baby would be exposed to more radiation during the flight (30 μ Sv) than there had been through the baggage scanner. He did comment that the mother probably wasn't convinced.

Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the 12th November 2007 were approved.

Conference Update

MR and AH updated the Group on the progress made with the planning for the conference, MR highlighted that the exhibition space was filling up fast and encouraged anyone who wished to display on the day to contact him as soon as possible, the leaflets publicising the event were distributed and again MR urged members to get in touch about attending the conference.

Open Floor

Comment was made about the HSE visiting premises to look at Lock Out/Tag Out procedures and safe systems of work.

AF highlighted a current credit card scam that is ongoing at the moment, the apparent supplier of your card will phone you up and convincingly give you your card details. What they are phishing for is the three digit security number on the rear of your card. AF encouraged members to be aware of this scam and warn others.

The Date of the next meeting is Monday 14th January 2008 at 7.30pm and the speaker for the evening is David Mercer of Exxonmobil talking about Disaster Management. AF thanked everyone for attending, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and brought the evening to a close.

Mark Russell
Secretary
Safety Group Fife