

Hospital death highlights the risks

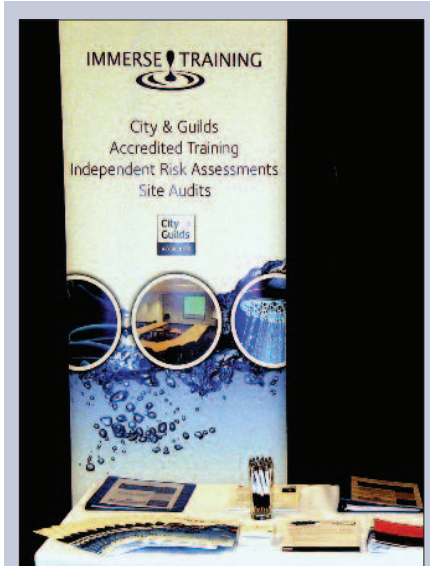
The death of a pensioner after contracting Legionnaires' disease in Bath's Royal United Hospital has again highlighted the need for specialist training to prevent further outbreaks, an expert training company and consultancy has warned.

Develop Training (DTL) says the case shows that facilities managers in the health sector and beyond must 'not lift their guard', and that organisations should ensure that they keep up-to-date with current legislation and invest in effective training to prevent hazards such as poorly-maintained air-conditioning units. DTL offers a free downloadable *Legionella* Prevention Guide (visit <http://tinyurl.com/jlrskao>), and various training courses on the subject.

Lee Yearwood, DTL's delivery manager of safety training, explained: "*Legionella*

bacteria found in air-conditioning and water systems present a real risk for any facility in health, hospitality, and almost any industry sector. Recent years have seen outbreaks in hospitals, manufacturing facilities, leisure establishments, and garden centres. It's important that you put in place the right steps and measures to protect both your staff and any visitors from the dangers that surround exposure to *Legionella*."

DTL says it is pioneering 'training for life' techniques to ensure that responsible persons are 'trained more effectively in the maintenance of systems than with traditional, classroom-only training'. It said: "This, coupled with new competency qualifications and compliance processes, gives management flexibility over how and where training is delivered."



Bespoke water safety training

Immerse Training describes itself as 'a forward-looking, dynamic training company established and run by experts in the *Legionella* field'.

All trainers are working industry consultants – including international speakers and global co-authors on *Legionella* controls and Water Safety Plans. Courses can be delivered at customer sites; the training portfolio includes nine 'very competitively priced' City & Guilds-accredited courses specifically designed for those responsible for maintaining safe, healthy, high quality water systems.

The company said: "Our recently accredited Water Safety Plan (WSP) course is directed at healthcare organisations wishing to ensure the safety of their patients, staff, and visitors by using a WSP to comply with health and safety legislation and guidance, and prevent infection due to contaminated water and related assets. The staff to benefit most will be those involved with patient safety; notably estates and facilities and infection prevention and control teams.

"A WSP is now recognised internationally as the best approach to ensuring the safety and continuity of a healthcare facility's water supply, and is recognised and promoted in key healthcare guidance documents, such as the HTM 04-01: Addendum – *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* – advice for augmented care units, and the HSE's HSG274 Legionnaires' disease Technical guidance (HSG274) Part 2. If your training requirements are very specific, or are not covered directly by our courses, we can create bespoke training packages to meet your needs."

CPD seminar on emergency lighting

CIBSE and self-testing emergency lighting specialist, P4, say they are working together to improve professional standards through the introduction of a Continuing Professional Development seminar programme 'for the imperative and key safety area' of emergency lighting scheme design, installation, and operation.

Alan Daniels, P4's technical director, delivered the first formal CIBSE-approved CPD seminar, 'Emergency Lighting: Five Ways to Avoid Breaking the Law', at the November 2015 CIBSE conference.

He said: "Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is a long-term commitment. It refers to the 'systematic maintenance, improvement and broadening of knowledge and skills', and is about learning and putting into practice new competences year after year, and investing in your future. P4 is delighted to be working with CIBSE to deliver seminars reflecting the latest thinking in Risk Assessment, Fire, and Safety."



P4 and CIBSE say the seminars will offer 'detailed information and guidance on compliance with emergency lighting requirements in the UK and Ireland'. Areas covered will include an explanation of the legislation to which installations must comply, the photometric requirements and required location of emergency lighting, and testing the maintenance that must be undertaken to satisfy legal requirements.

Specialist water system safety training

The Water Management Society (WMSoc), based in Tamworth, has provided practical and technical training courses to individuals and companies within the water management industry for over 20 years.

Its City & Guilds-accredited courses 'cover all aspects of water management within water systems and cooling systems', including *Legionella* risk assessment, *Pseudomonas* control and prevention, cleaning and disinfection, and temperature monitoring, sampling, and inspection. The Society said: "Our expertise in *Legionella* and *Pseudomonas* awareness enables us to give the most up-to-date training relating to various water systems, including cooling towers, closed systems, and hot and cold water systems."

The WMSoc Training Centre incorporates its own Practical Training Area (PTA), where traditional instruction on the industrial and commercial management of water and systems is carried out. With two cooling towers and a simple water system set-up, course



attendees can gain hands-on experience and demonstrate their competence.

The Society can also offer bespoke training on site at a company's premises for a number of delegates. Courses can be tailored to suit experience, and are available at both basic and advanced levels. All WMSoc courses include temporary membership of the Society, which gives attendees access to membership benefits and discounted rates on courses and events.

Ensuring boiler house safety

Boiler house safety is being prioritised by Spirax Sarco with the introduction of a new training course. The company said: "The Introduction to Boiler House Risk Assessment is designed to equip anyone involved in the safe operation and assessment of a boiler house with the knowledge required to complete a detailed risk assessment."

Running in accordance with the Health and Safety Executive's *Safe management of industrial steam and hot water boilers* (INDG436), the new programme covers specific safety considerations appropriate for operatives and managers. Spirax Sarco added: "By paying close attention to the potential safety issues, those tasked with

managing the operation of a boiler house can adhere to the 'Guidance on Safe Operation of Boilers' (BG01), and Regulation 3 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, which clearly defines the need for a risk assessment within the workplace.

"The bespoke course material extends far beyond basic hazards, and provides a unique and comprehensive approach to safe operation in the boiler house. Hosted in a working boiler plant, the practical training will develop a range of skills for attendees in a real-life environment – from defining a Competent Person in the boiler house environment, to understanding the key principles of risk assessment."

Dubai deal for Eastwood Park

Eastwood Park has announced a partnership with Dubai-based Aras Medical Devices & Equipments Co, a division of the Aras Group, which will see a new business – operating as Aras Eastwood Park Training – deliver medical gas training to professionals in the region.

The Gloucestershire-based training establishment says the partnership 'reflects a collaboration that has developed over several years, combining the skills and knowledge of two world-leading experts, both well-established and highly regarded within medical equipment, education, and training'.

John Thatcher, Eastwood Park's CEO, said: "Working in partnership with Aras Group enables both organisations to ensure that effective accredited medical gas training is more accessible to a much wider audience than before. Access to accredited training, coupled with learning on a simulated medical gas pipeline, will enhance the quality of support and learning for engineers able to access Dubai more easily than the UK."

KC Babu, CEO at Aras, added: "The breadth of our business throughout the Middle East, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma etc, in African countries, and further afield, will enable us to work with many organisations who wish to improve their skills in the design, maintenance, and safety of medical gas pipelines."

Courses will be delivered by highly experienced medical gas trainers in the new, fully equipped, medical gas Dubai training centre. Aras Eastwood Park medical gas courses have been accredited by City & Guilds.

Addressing the BIM knowledge gap

Manufacturer of lightweight building materials and systems, Knauf, is delivering one-day courses introducing Building Information Modelling (BIM) to first and second tier contractors.

The company believes the course is urgently needed because the Government has stated that centrally-procured public projects should be adopting BIM from April this year, yet, it says, 'there is a lack of training or support being offered through accredited training bodies'. Knauf also notes 'the lack of understanding in the marketplace from second tier contractors'.

The BIM training 'has been warmly welcomed by the industry', Knauf reports. "So far all the attention in introducing BIM has been aimed at the developers, specifiers, and architects, with not enough emphasis on specialist contractors," said Joe Cilia, technical manager for FIS, which represents the finishes and interior sector. "This course developed by Knauf makes a significant contribution to redressing the balance."

"Being BIM-ready or BIM-compliant is the buzz phrase we hear with increasing regularity as we approach the deadline for Government projects to be delivered to



BIM Level 2, but so far there has been little information on what the specialist contractors have to do, and where they can get relevant information from."