

With environmental legislation constantly changing BESST host an annual legislation update event. This year's event had a focus on pollution prevention specifically fire control. The event provided members with an overview of legislation updates from the Environment Agency followed by a presentation and practical demonstrations on the importance of pollution control in the workplace.



Andy Whyte – BESST chair

Andy opened the event; he introduced the speakers and welcomed members. He explained the importance of the annual legislation update event.



Paul Hayward

Paul gave an overview of new and upcoming environmental legislation. He talked about the importance of good management plans in the case of fires. He gave details of two recent cases where not meeting legislation and a lack of an effective and tested management plan led to massive damage and prosecutions.



Roy Smith

Roy gave a 90 minute presentation on the importance of pollution prevention in the workplace. He combined information about the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations with practical demonstrations of dangerous reactions that could occur in the workplace.



He demonstrated how just one eye drop full of oil could pollute a beaker of water to the extent that delegates could easily smell the difference when two beakers were passed round.

Another experiment showed how the vapours of petroleum ether could ignite the cloth at the top of the tube from the t-light at the bottom within seconds.

Further experiments demonstrated how the vapours of dangerous substances can remain in containers even though they are considered empty. If the ratios of fuel, heat and air are right then this can still cause an explosion.



He also explained that some chemicals that are not labelled as flammable can be given the right conditions. Conditions that are not unlikely to occur within workplaces. Roy also used videos of experiments to demonstrate how some reactions could damage buildings. He then told delegates how following safety regulations regarding the safe storage of chemicals and maintaining safe working conditions can prevent fires and explosions.



Delegates then had the opportunity to ask any questions that they had, and to discuss the presentations with people from other organisations.

All of the presentations delivered at the event can be viewed in the download library For further information on any of the environmental topics discussed please contact the BESST Coordinator:

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