



THE SOCIAL HOUSING  
SAFETY NETWORK  
SCOTLAND



## The Social Housing Safety Network Scotland NEWSLETTER

### Welcome!

Our Autumn 2024 newsletter will bring you up to date with what's happened since the last edition and what we've got coming up over the coming months.

## Tenant & Resident Safety Annual Conference 2025

This year's Tenant & Resident Safety Annual Conference is up and running at Hampden Park Stadium!

Thank you once to again to those who are in attendance - we hope you have a great couple of days!



## Tenant & Resident Safety Annual Conference 2024

20th & 21st November 2024  
Hampden Park Stadium, Glasgow



## Women in Tenant Safety Scotland (WiTSS)

Women in Tenant Safety Scotland (WiTSS) has been established to bring together other women working in the sector in Scotland.

The group is the brainchild of our co-founder/director Vicki, who recognises that networking with female colleagues across member organisations, and who may be on a journey and at different career stages in tenant safety/property/asset maintenance (and use different skills), will help to empower them, inspire them and give them an opportunity to form a collective voice to help and learn and develop from each other.



Please [visit the website](#) for more information and to join the group!



## Welcome to our new members!

Since our last newsletter, our Network has grown and we're delighted to welcome the following organisations:

**Rural Stirling Housing Association**

**Forgewood Housing Co-operative Ltd**

**Rosehill Housing Association Limited**

**Molendinar Park Housing Association**

## Fine for council after man killed by falling tree

Cheshire East Council has been fined £500,000 after 'the most amazing man' was killed by a falling tree.

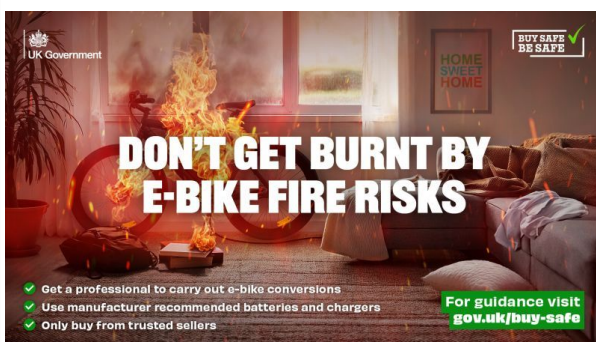
Christopher Hall, 48, from Wilmslow, was walking his dog in one of the town's parks on 28 August 2020, when the large limb of a tree fell and struck him. He received multiple injuries and sadly died at the scene.

Less than a year before, another large limb from the same tree had fallen off but the incident was never investigated by the council or its ground maintenance company Ansa Environmental Services Limited.

You can read more on the [HSE website](#).



## Buy Safe, Be Safe: avoid e-bike and e-scooter fires



While most e-bikes, e-scooters and their batteries are safe when used correctly, lithium-ion batteries can cause serious fires, particularly if of poor quality, when damaged or improperly used. There has been an increase in the number of fires in the UK and around the world linked to lithium-ion batteries, some of which have sadly led to people losing their lives.

The UK government has urged consumers to "Buy Safe, Be Safe" when purchasing e-bikes and parts, in order to avoid rogue online sellers, and stop the rise in related fires.

The campaign is aimed at raising awareness about the dangers of buying faulty and unsafe e-bikes and their components.

[You can find out more here.](#)

## Residents put at risk of deadly disease as company fined £900k

A company has been fined following an outbreak of legionella at its sheltered housing accommodation in Birkenhead, putting vulnerable residents at risk of contracting Legionnaires' disease.

The deadly bacteria was detected at Vincent Naughton Court following the sampling of its water systems in the communal areas and flats in July and August 2018. With all 44 samples testing positive for legionella, the residents were then evacuated from the Sanctuary Housing premises in August 2018, before returning in October and November 2018 after the water system was remedied through the installation of a chlorination unit.

A HSE investigation found Sanctuary Housing poorly managed the risk of legionella in the water system of Vincent Naughton Court, with staff inadequately trained and supervised. The residents were a particularly vulnerable group, putting them at a higher risk of contracting Legionnaires' disease.

Read the full story [on the HSE website](#).



## Sprinkler Protected Buildings: A Guide for Responsible Persons and Duty Holders

The British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association (BAFSA) have recently launched a new guide to help responsible persons and duty holders of sprinkler protected buildings.

The freely available publication, entitled Sprinkler Protected Buildings: A Guide for Responsible Persons and Duty Holders, summarises the main obligations imposed on the owner or occupier of a building or structure fitted with a sprinkler or water mist system. [You can download the guide here](#).



## SHP AWARDS MOST INFLUENTIAL 2024

We're delighted that our director and Network co-founder Vicki Cutler has been nominated for SHP's Most influential person in the safety profession of 2024.

If you've worked with Vicki and benefited from her guidance then we'd be delighted if you could please take a moment to [cast your vote here](#).



## In case you missed it: Expert Insight updates

Our 'Expert Insights' are exclusive member documents which are written by specialists in the sector and provide 'answers to the questions you should be asking'.

Our Expert Insights on fire safety, gas safety and asbestos have all recently been updated by their respective authors, and the new versions can be downloaded from [The Social Housing Safety Network Scotland website](https://www.scotlandsafetynetwork.scot) now.



(Login details required)

## Exclusive benefit reminder

Network members are entitled to use our EXCLUSIVE member benefits:

- Self-assessment checklist
- Legislation Tracker and KPI Scorecard
- 'Big 6' Policy and Procedure 'Sense Check'
- Training Matrix Template - Tenant/Landlord Safety

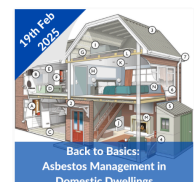
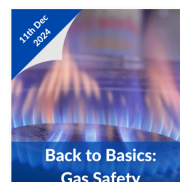
To find out more, [visit the website](https://www.scotlandsafetynetwork.scot) or email [network@scotlandsafetynetwork.scot](mailto:network@scotlandsafetynetwork.scot)



## FREE member webinars

Our 'Back to Basics' series of webinars which will take a look at a specific safety-related subject and tell you what you should be doing to comply with the Regulations and standards – sometimes, it's about more than holding a certificate or assessment and ticking a box...

[Visit the website](https://www.scotlandsafetynetwork.scot) to find out more and book your place.



## Discounted training from Housing H&S Compliance UK

We'd like to share the current Housing H&S Compliance UK Ltd & HHSC Learning training brochure, which showcases all public training courses until the end of April 2025. Members of The Social Housing Safety Network Scotland can book any of these courses at a discounted rate.

You can also visit the [HHSC Learning Hub](#) for further information (including the training banners on the homepage, training calendar, plus a copy of the brochure). [Download the brochure here](#).

It's the last chance to book your place on the next training course - 'Introduction to the Legionella Responsible Person' (click the banner to find out more).



### Introduction to the Legionella Responsible Person

'Live online' public course

29th November 2024

Click the banner for more info and to book places...



Housing H&S  
developed course

## Network 'Get Togethers'...



Recently a small group of Network members got together to visit West Whitlawburn Housing Co-operative and hear more about the co-operative's biomass district heating system from Director, Grant Clayton.

The group heard from Grant about the district heating project, from the funding, through its development and how the system has benefited tenants and reduced their heating bills.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Grant for his time in delivering the talk and visit, and supporting colleagues from network member organisations, for what was a very informative 'Get Together'.

**Would you like to host a Network 'Get Together' for members?  
If so please contact Vicki for an informal chat: 07974 578103**