

July 2009

## **CONSTRUCTION MINISTER BACKS NFB 'STAY SAFE, STAY AWAY' CAMPAIGN**

The Minister for Construction has backed the National Federation of Builders (NFB) nationwide campaign warning children of the risks and dangers of playing on building sites.

The 'Stay Safe Stay Away' campaign, supported by B&CE Benefit Schemes, is aimed as a timely warning for youngsters as they get set for this summer's school holidays.

According to statistics from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), 16 children have been killed and more than 800 injured in the past ten years as a direct result of playing on building sites.

**Commenting on the importance of the 'Stay Safe Stay Away' campaign, Construction Minister Ian Lucas MP said:** "The safety challenge is relentless and government and industry have to ensure that every effort is made to keep children safe from harm.

"The potential safety hazards and risks lying in wait for youngsters who may be tempted to stray on to building sites to play, cannot be overstated. The NFB's Stay Safe, Stay Away campaign has an important role in providing effective ways to keep children engaged with the life-saving messages they need to learn."

**Julia Evans, chief executive of the NFB, said:** "With the summer holidays almost here it is important that children and their teachers and parents are fully aware of the hazards and potential dangers found on construction sites.

"This is the time of year when accident numbers involving children on building sites peak. The NFB's safety campaign, which has run for the past six years, will raise awareness of the risks children take when they play on a construction site. "It is also vital that builders and contractors carry out thorough risk assessments, as this simple process can help reduce the risk of accidents if a child does gain access to their site."

This year's campaign was launched by 11 year-old Molly Broughton from Badger Hill Primary in Brotton, Middlesbrough who won the national prize in the NFB's 'Stay Safe, Stay Away' school poster competition.

Molly's design won £1,000 for her school after beating hundreds of other entries from across England. Her poster has been printed on waterproof boards and is being displayed on hundreds of building sites. A giant sized canvas version of the poster design has been reproduced by Molly and her classmates and is being displayed on a building site hoarding provided by North East

NFB member Walter Thompson (Contractors) Ltd at Archibald Primary School, Ayresome Green Lane, Middlesbrough where they are building an extension to the school. In the autumn, the Stay Safe Stay Away campaign will be boosted by an online competition for primary schools.

B&CE Benefit Schemes, the UK's largest supplier of personal financial services and employee benefits to construction industry, is sponsoring the NFB's campaign.

- **Walter Thompson (Contractors Ltd) have also been running their own safety poster campaign at Archibald School with prizes for winners in each year group. These were presented to the children by the larger-than-life industry mascot Ivor Goodsite who represents the Considerate Constructors Scheme.**

**Notes to Editors:**

**1. NFB's 'site security' checklist for builders**

- Ensure boundary fencing is as secure as possible and discourages access. Make sure there are no weaknesses or gaps in the fencing that a child could use to gain access.
- Make sure there are no stacks of materials alongside fencing that could be used to provide access to the site.
- Secure any temporary storage areas.
- Stacks of bricks, concrete blocks or timber are a temptation for children. Make sure these are solidly secured so there is no potential for collapse.
- Prevent access to any scaffolding structures.
- Look out for any children attempting to gain access during the working day.
- Remove any potentially dangerous machinery from the site if possible or lock it away out of sight at the end of a working day.
- Secure or lock away building materials, such as cement.
- Remove ladders or stacks of materials that could be used to gain access to structures.

**2. NFB's 'site security' checklist for children**

- Stay Safe by Staying Away from building sites!

3. Nationally, the NFB represents around 1,500 builders and contractors in across England and Wales.

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