



## Health and Safety Policy

OE attaches the greatest importance to the health, safety and welfare of its employees at work. Every effort is made to provide safe working conditions and to prevent fire or other damage. However, no safety policy is likely to be successful unless it has the co-operation of all employees.

Everyone should do everything possible to prevent injury to themselves or others. The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and subsequent regulations place the duty on every employee, while at work, to:

- take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and others
- co-operate with OE in meeting the duties and requirements of the relevant statutory provision

If you think or notice that something is contravening these regulations you must immediately bring it to the notice of the Operations Manager, e.g. a faulty fixture, fitting, piece of equipment or state of the premises.

The named health and safety representatives for OE are:

Tom Saunders - Managing Director

Stephanie Day - Operations Manager

Jake Collings - School Exchange Programme Manager

This information can also be found at the OE office.

### a. Introduction

OE recognises and accepts its responsibility as an employer to maintain, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety and health of its employees, and of other persons who may be affected by its activities.

It is your duty as an employee not to put at risk either yourself or others by your acts or omissions. You should also ensure that you are familiar with the Company health and safety arrangements.

A full Company Health and Safety policy document is published on our website.

Should you feel concern over any health and safety aspects of your work, this should be brought to the attention of your line manager immediately.

### b. Procedure in the event of an accident

An Incident Reporting form is available from the Managing Director and it is the responsibility of each individual employee to report and record any accident involving personal injury. Any accident or near



miss occurrence (i.e. no one was injured but the incident had the potential to injure or kill) at work should be reported immediately to your line manager.

All employees who are absent from work following an accident must complete a self-certification form, which clearly states the nature and cause of the injury.

For any employee who suffers an injury at work which results in them being away from work, or unable to do their normal work, for three days or more (excluding weekends, rest days or holidays) it is important that the Managing Director is informed as the Health and Safety Executive also need to be informed by the Company. Form 2508 (available from [www.riddor.gov.uk/f2508.dot](http://www.riddor.gov.uk/f2508.dot)) should be completed in conjunction with your line manager. Employees are not expected to complete these forms themselves.

### c. First Aid

OE believes that best practice is to ensure that students and staff have access to a trained First Aider. The Managing Director and School Exchange Programme Manager are both First Aid trained, as are other members of staff.

Opportunity Education also keeps and issues First Aid kits to staff members during each programme it runs.

### d. Fire Safety

Employees should follow these steps to help prevent fires:

- Before you use any electrical appliances carry out a quick check to make sure that the cables, plugs etc are not damaged.
- Do not use any electrical equipment that shows signs of damage, even if you think it is only minor. Report any faults you find to your line manager and find an alternative appliance.
- Ensure that you place your rubbish in the proper waste bins. Do not overfill the bins, and ensure that your waste bin is accessible to the cleaners at the end of each day.

Action to take when the fire alarm goes off:

- Immediately stop what you are doing and walk (do not run) to the nearest available safe fire exit. If your nearest exit/route is obstructed, choose another route. Make sure that you are aware of the fire exits and routes in your area.
- Direction signs should indicate the route to your fire exit. These comprise a white arrow on a green background sometimes accompanied by the words 'FIRE EXIT' and also a pictogram of a running man. The arrows indicate the direction of the nearest fire exit.
- Do not use a lift to leave the building - always use designated stairs.
- Make your way to the appropriate assembly point.



- Once you are at the assembly point you should report to the designated Fire Officer (the appointed Senior Management Team staff member on duty), so that they can account for the people in their designated area.
- Do not leave the designated assembly point, or attempt to re-enter the building, until you have been instructed to do so by the Fire Officer.

Action to take if you discover a fire:

- Raise the alarm. This can be achieved by breaking the glass on the call points or by shouting the instruction “Fire – call the fire brigade”.
- Raise the alarm even if the building is fitted with an automatic fire alarm system, which has not yet activated - you must not wait for it to do so of its own accord. The alarm must be raised for every occurrence of a fire, no matter how small it appears to be. This will ensure that people in the building have adequate notice to evacuate should it begin to spread quickly. In addition, modern furnishings may allow the fire to develop unnoticed, so time is of the essence if everyone is to get out safely.
- Call the fire brigade at the earliest available, and safe, opportunity and do not attempt to tackle the fire. Unless you have been trained you could be putting yourself or somebody else at risk.

#### e. Personal Safety

Generally, you should try to avoid working alone whenever this is possible. However, if you have to work alone, then you need to develop an awareness of the risks and how to minimise them.

Prior to making an appointment with someone you do not know, obtain as much information as possible about the person you are meeting and arrange to meet the person in Company premises. Always ring back the telephone number you have been given to confirm that it is legitimate. If a mobile number is given you should always ask for an alternative fixed line number.

If visiting, let your colleagues know where you are going, with whom and what time you are expecting to return. If you think that you are going to run over your original timescales, let your colleagues know.

If you are at all concerned that you are being placed in a dangerous situation through your employment, you must discuss this with your line manager.