



Occupational Health & Safety Authority

## Media Release

### Training for 'Life'

01.12.04

The Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHSA) is noting that while many employers specify the need for experienced workers in their vacancies, they are overlooking their legal obligations of offering training to the employees in the area of occupational health and safety.

OHSA would like all employers to note that failure to provide relevant and ongoing training will be considered as a serious wilful violation of the law and offenders will be prosecuted by OHSA. Those employers who do not fulfil this obligation will be considered as putting their employees in a situation where there is a substantial probability that either death or serious physical harm could result.

"We simply cannot allow anymore such flagrant disregard for occupational health and safety where workers are placed in hazardous and potentially life-threatening work conditions due to their lack of training. Employers should ensure that employees are adequately instructed and trained in safe systems of work, including safe ways to carry out their work, the use of equipment or substances, the use of health and safety control measures and of personal protective equipment as well as on reporting and emergency procedures, amongst others. This is one case in point where one really trains for life - in its literal sense" Dr Mark Gauci, Chief Executive Officer of OHSA said.

"One sector where this legal provision is blatantly contravened is in the construction sector, which not surprisingly, claims the highest number of lives every year and where occupational accidents are still very widespread. This is unacceptable. Enough leeway has been allowed for all employers to pull their socks up and put their house in order. We cannot continue sacrificing human life, irrespective of the reasons. OHSA will take a very strict approach when dealing with these issues and will take appropriate action against all those who contravene the law," Dr Gauci stated.