

Apprentices scoop safety award for hazardous waste initiative

A team of apprentices from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) who examined how hazardous waste is controlled at their manufacturing site has been honoured by IOSH.



RNLI apprentices show off the trophies and certificates they won in this year's IOSH South Coast Branch Apprentices Safety Awards

The apprentices' efforts to standardise the storage of hazardous waste at the RNLI All-weather Lifeboat Centre in Poole, Dorset in May has led them to be named this year's winner of the IOSH South Coast Branch Apprentices Safety Awards.

They referred to the Hazardous Waste Regulations and their recommendations led to improved storage, management and disposal of hazardous waste, improved signage and hazardous waste poster, plus the creation of a toolbox talk to be delivered to the workforce.

The award was one of three won by apprentices at the RNLI, who also received highly commended and merit awards for their work around battery lifting, handling and storage and for a trailer electrical wiring modification.

John McCallion, Head of Department for the RNLI All-weather Lifeboat Centre, said: "I'm delighted that our RNLI apprentices have again been successful in this competition. The

awards reflect their efforts over recent months, particularly the high standard of the respective projects.

“In addition to congratulating our apprentices, I’d like to acknowledge the coaching and support of ALC Manufacturing Manager, Daniel Sharp and SHE Manager Andy Byers.

“We should reflect on this success as an encouraging sign that we are making continuous improvement towards embedding a good safety culture in the RNLI, although we know we still have a long way to go.”

IOSH South Coast Branch has been running the Apprentices Safety Awards since 2014, which aim to encourage more apprentices to demonstrate an understanding of hazard and risk in the workplace.

Long standing IOSH South Coast Branch Committee Member Charles Cole handed out the awards during the branch’s AGM on Monday 20 May. The winners received a trophy named in honour of Allan St John Holt, a past president of the Institution.

Charles said: “The quality of entries in this year’s awards was very high and covered an extremely broad spectrum of topics. What was obvious across all of the entrants was an interest in safety and health, which was great to see.

“I hope that through participating in this the apprentices will all understand the positive benefits of integrating safety and health into daily work and that they might also consider the profession as a future career option.”

Entries to the awards were open to apprenticeship organisations and apprentices within the IOSH South Coast area.

They had to demonstrate a basic understanding of hazard and risk, and how they could be managed.

They were judged around four key themes – content, presentation, relevance and practicality – by a panel consisting of current and past members of the IOSH South Coast Branch’s executive committee.

Charles Cole, has been in health and safety since 1971 and was past Chairman of the South Coast Branch for 4 years and Branch representative to Council from 1984 – 1995.

He said: “This year’s winning entries from the RNLI were of an exceptional standard and a great credit to them.” Charles stated it was a proud and honoured occasion for him to make these 2019 South Coast Branch Safety Award presentations.

During these presentations there was a special award given to Charles for his 45 years association with IOSH and the South Coast Branch.