**Activity 38**

**Gristle and Bone Engineering - Case study**

**Aims:** To help us-

* Identify possible symptoms/causes of the conditions & their associated hazards/ risks that contributed to the accident in this case study & reflect on their own workplace conditions.

Day: Tuesday

Date: 17th February 2009

Time: 09.15

Place: Gristle & Bone Engineering Wallsend Tyne and Wear

OUTLINE:

Two trainees, both 17 years of age, are working un-supervised with a small firm. They have been told by a supervisor to clean a large piece of old production machinery, containing heavy steel rollers, which have become contaminated with oil.

To carry out the job they have been provided with what is believed to be paraffin in an unmarked container and waste rags. They have also been supplied with absorbent cotton overalls but no other Personal Protection equipment. The work involves reaching to a height (not working at height) to clean the rollers.



During the course of this activity their overalls become soaked with a mix of the oil and paraffin. It is a cold day and during their break they go and stand in a nearby rest area next to a portable gas stove. The stove had been donated by another employee two years earlier after several members of the workforce complained of the cold in rest area.

The paraffin on the overalls of one of the trainees vaporises and his clothing bursts into flame. He tries to beat the flames out with his hands, but quickly becomes engulfed. The other trainee runs off to try and find a fire extinguisher, he cannot locate one. Several other employees roll the burning trainee on the floor and extinguish the flames.

The fire brigade are not called nor are the Police. The injured trainee has suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns and is removed to hospital in a taxi called by the security officer. You have attended the scene and now need to consider your next steps.