

Workshop highlights UK safety



The Aluminium Federation UK (ALFED) Health and Safety Workshop was held on 11th – 12th March 2015 and brought together aluminium professionals to discuss maintaining a safe working environment. **Nadine Firth** was in attendance and spoke with **Neil Birt*** of **Bridgnorth Aluminium**, about how environmental and safety issues can affect a workforce.

1. How important is environment health and safety (EHS) in a processing environment?

With further changes in legislation it is now more than ever essential that changes to processes and procedures be made, otherwise companies leave themselves open for possible prosecution.

2. What is the most important aspect of EHS that workers should adhere to?

Realise that they have responsibilities of their own and that it is important they follow any procedures that are put in place to ensure their wellbeing.

3. In your experience what is the most common area to be neglected by either workers or companies?

Taking shortcuts either intentionally or because they are not fully aware of what they are supposed to do and do not ask for more information.

4. Has there been a particular incident that you have known that has formed your views on safety?

One of our people decided not to follow a system of work and left out a vital step, which caused a serious incident and highlighted the need to investigate all incidents.

5. What is the biggest challenge when implementing EHS in a plant?

Ensuring that procedures and practises are achievable and sensible.

6. Are there any specific areas that Bridgnorth is investing in to improve EHS?

Changed the structure so that the different sections can influence their general duties.

7. In terms of safety, what are you most proud of at Bridgnorth?

Last year we managed to operate for 571 days without a lost time incident. ■

*EHS Manager, Bridgnorth Aluminium Limited, UK
