



SUBJECT: Cheaper to Wash in Champagne!

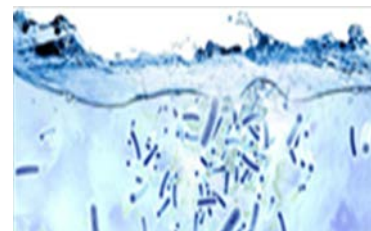
RECIPIENTS: All Council Directorates

ISSUE DATE: May 2018

REF: HSB 107

£800k Fine for Water Hygiene Failings

A car parts manufacturer has been fined £1.6million after a Legionnaires' disease outbreak and an explosion occurred at the same plant within a year. The HSE prosecuted the company in relation to both incidents, following an investigation. Five people fell seriously ill following the Legionnaires' disease outbreak and one worker suffered serious burns from the explosion incident.



Illness

The Crown Court was told that between October 2014 and June 2015, several employees and a local resident fell seriously ill with Legionnaires Disease. HSE found the illness was caused by the companies failure to effectively manage its water cooling systems within the factory, causing the legionella bacteria within the water supply to grow to potentially lethal levels.

Charges

In relation to the legionella incident the company pleaded guilty to breaches of Section 2 (1) and 3 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSWA) and was fined £800,000. Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspectors said: "The outbreak of Legionnaires' disease at the factory had a major impact on the several people, with some suffering long-term ill-health as a result. In addition, the incidents raised concern amongst other employees and the local community. Supported by colleagues from Public Health England and the Local Council, HSE investigated and identified breaches. In pleading guilty to charges under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 the company have acknowledged these breaches."

Further Information: [HSE Legionella Webpage](#) [LCC G34 Legionella Bacteria](#)

If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact: Corporate Health & Safety Advisers (see George section: Corporate > Information for Working > Risk Management > H&S Advisers)