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**BRITISH SAFETY COUNCIL**

## **BSC Level 6 Diploma in Occupational Safety and Health**

**Unit 1 Examination**

**Tuesday 16 June 2009**

**9.30am – 12.30pm**

**RESOURCE BOOKLET**

**(for use with Question 1)**

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Do not open this booklet until the invigilator tells you to do so.

You may make notes in this resource booklet, but the booklet must be handed in at the end of the examination.

## Scenario

Golden Clouds Care Enterprises operates seven nursing homes in the UK offering both residential and nursing care for the elderly and infirm. Each home has up to 45 residents. Assistance and nursing cover is provided to recognised care home standards during the day. However, in order to cut costs, the Finance Director has reduced staff levels on the night shift and reduced nursing cover during the night to a call-out only basis. Staffing levels have been further affected by high rates of absenteeism linked to stress and back problems.

One of the homes was recently the subject of national media attention following a prosecution under Section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. An elderly patient slipped while getting out of a bath and died. It was shown that the bath hoist had failed due to a lack of routine maintenance. Families of the residents are threatening to remove their loved ones if improvements are not made.

Typical equipment and services provided by Golden Clouds Care Enterprises include:

- Stair lifts and standard passenger lifts in each home
- Air conditioning in each home
- Hoists to lift patients
- Weekly collection of biological wastes and soiled dressings by a contractor
- Disinfectant gels for visitors in each reception
- Full catering facilities at each site



(Source: Health and Safety Executive)

## Facts

- Air conditioning units frequently fail.
- All staff receive a basic safety induction. No refresher training is provided.
- Only some baths and sinks have thermostatically controlled tap units.
- Gloves and disinfectant gels are provided but not routinely used.
- Fire risk assessments have not been carried out.
- Flooring in most of the homes is in poor condition.
- There have been three recent cases of infection including MRSA.
- No specific risk assessments have been carried out.
- Soiled dressings have been observed in the kitchen.

## Your Remit

As the newly-appointed health and safety adviser for the company, you have been asked to analyse the current situation and put forward suitable recommendations. Specifically you should:

- outline the main health and safety risks and the potential injury or harm to people;
- outline the main legal breaches that could apply;
- outline the policy and organisational issues that will need to be reviewed;
- outline the possible safety culture failures that could have led to this situation;
- describe and justify suitable controls to minimise the risk of an incident occurring;
- develop a management action plan based on current and future risks.

**Note:** any reasonable assumptions about the existence or otherwise of controls can be made as long as they are justified in the context of the scenario.

