Why Communicating Risk Matters...

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-37637453

Star Wars production company receives £1.6m fine for breaches of Section 2 and Section 3(1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974

Harrison Ford, well known for the Star Wars and Indiana Jones films was seriously injured on set in June 2014 after being struck by a rapidly closing metal door requiring him to be airlifted to hospital for emergency surgery.

Foodles Production (UK) Ltd were sentenced under Section 2, which states “It shall be the duty of every employer to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of all his employees”, and Section 3(1), which states: “It shall be the duty of every employer to conduct his undertaking in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that persons not in his employment who may be affected thereby are not thereby exposed to risks to their health or safety.”

In making his ruling, Judge Francis Sheridan highlighted the fact that the company had failed to communicate the ‘control measures’ of the risk assessment with the actor.

“The greatest failing of all on behalf of the company is a lack of communication, a lack because, if you have a risk assessment and you do not communicate it, what is the point in having one?

That is the most serious breach here. If only they had included Mr Ford in all the discussions, he might have at least been alert to the dangers that he had to avoid.”

In summary - undertaking and recording the findings of a risk assessment is only one element of managing the risk. Communicating those risks and the measures put in place to prevent or reduce them to those who might be affected is an essential part of the process.