



## Statutory Liability

### Health & Safety at Work Act #1

The insured ran a carpet-laying business. An employee was laying flooring in a premises which had a gas fired water heating cylinder in a cupboard. The water heater had a naked flame pilot light burning. Volatile fumes from the flooring adhesive built up and an explosion resulted causing the employee to suffer burns and bruising.

The insured was prosecuted by under Health & Safety legislation and the matter was reported to VL under the insured's Statutory Liability cover. In the course of investigations the VL lawyer uncovered the fact that there had been an earlier similar occurrence (not resulting in injury) in the same premises.

The prosecution was dropped on the grounds that the insured had no knowledge of the hazard and the property owner should have warned about it. VL paid for legal defence costs.