



# Safety 4 HEd

## Vincent Theobald-Vega

FIIRSM, FRSPH, CMIOSH, MISTR, EurOSHM, BSc, MSc, PgDip, Cert Ed(LLS)

### Health and Safety Expert Witness and Consultant

Standing out from many other experts because of the breadth of his experience, rather than only being a specialist in one, narrow area, Vincent has worked in many health and safety disciplines for over 30 years, starting prosecutions for the HSE in 1990.

#### Multi Award Winning

Since 2015 Vincent and **Safety 4 HEd** have been winning awards for the breadth and quality of their work: over 20 significant awards including the “*Lawyer Monthly Expert Witness Awards*” and “*Lawyer International Legal 100*” awards, both for three years running. This is supported by the excellent feedback from clients.

See the list of awards at [safety4hed.co.uk/awards/](http://safety4hed.co.uk/awards/).

#### Registered and Vetted

A Member of the Federation of Forensic and Expert Witnesses, registered on the Government-backed Occupational Safety and Health Contractors Register (OSHCR) and with the European Network of Health and Safety Professional Organizations (ENSHPO), as a European Occupational Safety and Health Manager (EurOSHM).

Registered and Vetted by UK Register of Expert Witnesses.



#### Specialist Experience

From Asbestos and Construction through to laboratories and genetic modification – a very wide range of issues and experience.

Involved with emergency planning at a regional level for the 2003 SARS outbreak – which is now being replicated by the 2019 COVID pandemic.

#### Key Topics

- Accidents** in the workplace
- Asbestos** in the workplace
- Biological and Chemical Safety**
- Construction Safety**
- Falls, slips, trips** at work
- Manual Handling** at work
- Specialist Fire Risk Assessments**





## Memberships

### FIIRSM

Fellow of the International Institute of Risk and Safety Management

### FRSPH

Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health

### CMIOSH

Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health

### MISTR

Member of the Institute for Safety in Technology and Research

### EurOSHM

European Occupational Safety and Health Manager

### Health and Safety Lawyers' Association

Member

CV available from [safety4hed.co.uk](http://safety4hed.co.uk)

## Contact

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Based outside Newcastle-upon-Tyne, working nationally.

## Selected Cases

The following cases and pre-case considerations have been selected to give an impression of the range of cases Vincent has been involved with in the last few years. This list is not exhaustive. For confidentiality reasons none of the cases will be discussed in any detail.

- Member of the public injured falling down a concealed manhole whilst crossing an unsecured construction site.
- Asbestos survey failed to find patent asbestos on premises, prior to work commencing and exposing workers.
- CDM management failures leading to multiple delays on a large construction site.
- Worker slips and is injured whilst travelling between sites, following blizzard conditions.
- Safety standards at a car wash installation following HSE inspection and service of multiple Notices.
- Worker seriously injured falling from upper level of construction site.
- Asbestos found in plant during factory refurbishment.
- Accident resulting from manual handling of materials during maintenance operations.
- Electrical explosion in 3000A 415V circuit, with potential to have killed four people working on the system.

# Federation of Forensic & Expert witnesses



*Award*  

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*2019*



## Vincent says:

“My diverse experience allows me to take tools and techniques from one discipline and work with them in another. Finding solutions to problems involves applying the tools from one area or situation into another.”

“Health and safety is all about finding answers to problems.”

“Real life doesn't classify problems for you, you need to be flexible and understand that situations are often complex. To get to the bottom you need an in-depth look that isn't obsessively looking at things from one perspective only.”



## Charges from the HSE

The HSE charges a Fee for Intervention at **£157/hr**, that is over **£1200/day** per Inspector. Often several Inspectors will be involved.

**Vincent's** charges are much more modest, and by agreeing charges in advance he can assist with preventing costs rising out of control. Legal aid cases undertaken.

Any change?

This is what 2 hours of HSE time look like.



## Experienced with difficult working situations

Having worked with most things from Asbestos exposures to electrical explosions, Vincent is ideally placed to help you with difficult cases.

Vincent is also an experienced lecturer and qualified teacher, used to explaining things in straightforward ways and pitching to people of all walks of life and backgrounds.

## Micro CV

2014 onwards –

Providing expert witness services, including investigation reports and witness statements for both Civil and Criminal cases. Appeared in Court including Crown Court.

2012 – Consultancy as **Safety 4 HEd** for Audit, Inspection, Investigation, Training, Mentoring and more.

Clients include Universities, specialists, international companies, other consultancies, and charities.

1999 – Newcastle University and Head of Safety from 2002 to 2012

Renewed the health and safety culture, reducing accident rates, even with dramatic increases in the numbers of students and staff and increased complexity of the work undertaken.

Developed skills in fire safety, chemical safety, and biological issues, including genetically modified organisms and high-hazard pathogens.

1989 – HSE as an Inspector of Health and Safety

Undertook numerous prosecutions (including defended cases) on various areas such as construction, asbestos and dangerous machinery, as well as systems development at HQ.