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CROUDACE HOMES RAISES THE ROOF WITH EXEMPLARY SAFETY PERFORMANCE

Privately owned house builder Croudace Homes has not only won its 31st consecutive International Safety Award, but also picked up a distinction with an impressive 100% pass rate.

The prestigious accolade from the British Safety Council was awarded in recognition of the Company's outstanding commitment to the health and safety of its workers and was judged by an independent panel of experts. Awards were given at a banquet at the Grosvenor House in Park Lane, London on Friday 20 May and distinction winners were presented with a special trophy by Julie Nerney.



Russell Denness, Managing Director, says the award has inspired all 222 employees. "We are delighted to have won this award. It is recognition for the contribution made by everyone towards establishing and maintaining a culture of safety that is integral to our business, not imposed upon it."

The International Safety Awards were enhanced to make them even more robust this year, with distinctions and merits being introduced for the first time to recognise exceptionally high standards.

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“The new format provided an excellent opportunity to catalogue the good work Croudace Homes do in managing health and safety, and our subsequent success feels even better. We will use the information produced for in-house training, goal-setting and policy reviews,” Russell added.

Croudace built 342 homes in 2010 and the company has to manage a full range of hazards, from working at height, slips trips and falls and falling objects, through to manual handling, hazardous substances and working with power tools and machinery.

Health and Safety Manager, Matthew Stubblefield said, “To minimise risks we use a wide range of risk assessments, safe systems of work, regular training and awareness campaigns and strong leadership. We also have toolbox talks and task briefings and follow many specific safety plans, linked to site inspections and registers covering scaffolding, plant, lifting and excavations.

“Our bi-annual worker safety forums have been very successful in engaging workers in safety issues. There is no set agenda and everyone is involved in suggesting improvements and solutions to specific issues and problems. The feedback from workers has been very positive indeed.”

But there is no room for complacency, says Matthew.

“Good safety has a momentum to it, driven from the top by strong leadership and from the bottom by a positive safety culture. We strive to keep ahead of the game and keep coming up with new ideas. We continually analyse for relative strengths and weaknesses, and set action plans and priorities accordingly. Work at height is our biggest risk and will never be far from our number one priority.”

Congratulating the business on its success, Julie Nerney, British Safety Council Chief Executive, said:

“This is yet another remarkable achievement by a company that puts worker safety first. To have won this award for so many years shows they are totally committed to maintaining and improving their health and safety management systems. I am particularly pleased, given our own emphasis on young worker safety, that Croudace also insists on its graduate trainees and apprentices spending time with their health and safety manager. A thoroughly deserved distinction they should be proud of.”