

Name: Diane McGivern
Job Title: Site Safety Manager
Company: Syngenta
Hometown: Cumbernauld



What attracted you to the industry you are in?

I enjoyed chemistry and chemical manufacturing and felt it would be interesting work with lots of future opportunities.

Describe your day –to-day role:

My role can be very reactive, no two days are the same! I am responsible for ensuring Health and Safety Legislation is followed. But the job also involves training others, investigating incidents and reporting HSE performance.

How long have you been with the Company?

I have been with the company for 8 years.

What kind of training have you done?

Lots of training both on-site and attending courses off-site run by Health & Safety Specialists. These include health and safety legislation, how to put legislation into practice, how to assess risks, problem solving and investigations, to name just a few.

Have you completed any professional qualifications?

BSc Hons Degree in Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry. NEBOSH General certificate (H&S Qualification).

What skills are the most important for you to do your job well?

Being able to engage with people and show them that I care. It's not just about complying with legislation but making sure everyone is safe and no-one gets hurt at work.

Is there anything unusual about your role?

Part of my job involves predicting how people behave when carrying out high hazard activities and when responding to incidents. Not always an easy thing to do!

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Do you like living & working in Forth Valley?

I work in Forth Valley and live in North Lanarkshire. The commute is not bad and Forth Valley provides good opportunities in the industry.

What is your favourite part of the job?

The people! We have a great team and the environment is supportive. I also like that no two days are the same.

Did you always want to pursue a career in this industry?

My interest in school was Chemistry and therefore it was always the route I was taking.

What is your advice for school leavers looking to start an apprenticeship?

Gaining on the job practical training and experience while learning is the benefit of an apprenticeship. It is a great way to gain industry experience and insight into what the job is like.

What is your career goal?

My goal is to continue to work in Health and Safety management and continually look to make the workplace a safe environment for all.

How does it feel to be a Keyworker supporting the Country's fight against Covid-19?

I feel proud that I have been able to continue working during the Covid-19 and that my industry is recognised as key business. Work is very different now as I work from home where possible and only attend site when I need to. Social distancing measures have made significant changes to the way that we are working. My job now includes helping to ensure our workplace protects employees from Covid-19 as well as the chemical hazards. I feel safer in my work than I do when I go food shopping.

Tell us what makes you proud to be a Keyworker?

Our business is critical to ensuring the global food supply is maintained now and viable in the future. I am proud to be part of this ensuring food security for all.

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