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# Introduction

July 2021 - STOP Think!



Hello and welcome to our July STOP Think! Cascade Briefing. I hope you have all had a good month and have been enjoying the more relaxed restrictions that we have all been given to be with our friends and family.

Although "Freedom Day" was delayed due to the increasing prevalence of the Delta variant, there is increasing confidence that this will go ahead in just over two weeks. With the end in sight, please can I ask you all to remain vigilant. The risks of Covid are still widespread, with many people in our Business being asked to self-isolate as a result of test and trace contact. Please continue to work in accordance with the Covid Secure Guidelines and the Site Operating Procedures until the Government has confirmed their next step.

## Leadership and Collaboration

As I write this introduction, the nation is becoming gripped with football fever! The England team has captured the hearts of our country and brought people together in a way that we so desperately needed.

It remains to be seen as to how far we can go in the tournament, but I am impressed by our approach. Just as he has in previous tournaments, Gareth Southgate continues to lead the team with courage, humility, empowerment and transparency, creating an environment for his young team to flourish. He has clearly created a unity within the team, putting the team ahead of any individual and ensuring a level of togetherness and a collective vision of success.

This collaborative approach has so many parallels to our industry and our business; the importance of creating unity between our people and those from our customers and suppliers, whilst expertly managing the relationships with key stakeholders.

I was delighted this month to see that our Business has continued to score really well in our Employee Engagement Survey. Despite all the challenges of the

past 16 months and the sacrifices that we have had to ask people to make, we have almost sustained the same high levels that were attained in 2019. Equally impressive, were the high scores received from our Suppliers in our Supplier Satisfaction Survey. Such surveys are critical to checking whether we are creating the environment for success in which we can come together to win our own Euro 20!

## Summer Working

Thank you for your continued focus through the summer months to deliver a high standard of safety performance. I am aware that this time of year brings additional risk to the safety of our people working on our sites. Industry data shows that there tends to be a peak in accidents over the summer, and whilst we have had a really good month it is important that we keep that heightened level of focus. No matter what the pressures of the job, nothing is more important than the health, safety and wellbeing of each and every one of you. Please reflect on what you can personally do to ensure that all our people return home safely every day.

## Please Care For Each other

This time last year we learnt of the tragic news that one of our former colleagues in Osborne, had taken his own life. For all of us that knew him, this was a devastating reminder that we simply do not really know what others may be going through.

This year the Samaritans Awareness Day is raising the importance of really listening, and of creating opportunities for people to talk openly. The challenges of the last 16 months have brought about significant additional pressures for so many people. It is really important that we try and walk in each other's shoes to truly understand how each other might be feeling.

Please do not suffer in silence. There is so much support available if you feel you need a little help, such as our Mental Health First Aiders, our Employee Assistance Programme and support from the charity MIND. Please continue to support each other in the incredible way that makes our business special. That is the inclusive and caring environment that we always look to create in Osborne, together with our customers and suppliers.

Stay safe and well over the coming month.

John Dowsett  
Managing Director Infrastructure



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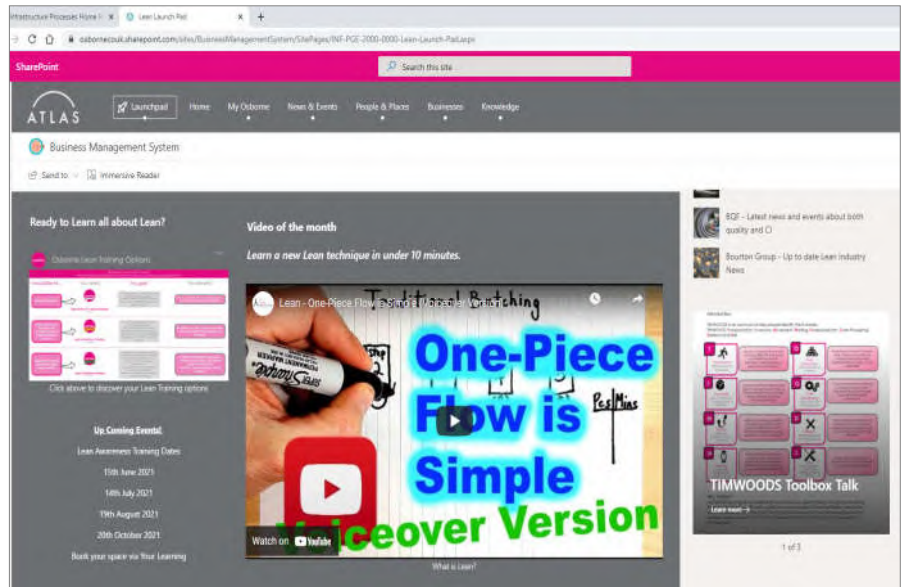
## Lean Launch Pad – “One Piece Flow”

To assist you on your Lean journey, the Lean Launch Pad has now been recreated in Atlas and looks even better!

Within the Launch Pad you will find links to training, guidance, templates, advice, and so much more, so please do take a look;

### Lean Launch Pad

This month a new video is available on the Lean Launch Pad, that looks at “One Piece Flow. Please do check it out and see if this is something you need to think about in your work activities.



Please give **Lean** your full support, lead the way and embrace the concept and value it can bring. If you have any questions, please do contact our Lean Lead, Kimberley Wild.

## For Information – STIHL TS 410 & TS 420 Product Recall



A small number of STIHL cut off saws are being recalled as a precautionary measure.

Machines in the following serial number range are affected: 189442634 – 190001700.

If you own a cut-off machine TS 410 or TS 420 in this serial number range, please discontinue using the machine immediately. Please contact your local STIHL dealer for a flywheel replacement.

Further information can be found via the link;

[STIHL TS 410 & TS 420 Product Recall](#)





## RESPECT Your Neighbours

When the weather gets a little warmer, many people may be keeping their windows open at night and will therefore be likely to hear more noises including from any neighbouring works. The most common categories of complaints received from site works includes;

- Lack of advance notification.
- Noisy engineering works.
- Worker Behaviour.

that you notify your neighbours of your project activities. If approached by a member of the public, please be helpful, respectful and sympathetic to their issues.

Please make every effort to be a good neighbour. Visit the Respecting our Neighbours Toolbox Talk as available from the Southern Shield website library;

[Southern Shield Library](#)

Please consider when and how your works might impact your neighbours and ensure

Lights

Litter and rubbish

Fumes and smells

Access

## Respect – Worker Behaviour

- R** Revving – keep engine noise to a minimum. No engines idling or make unnecessary revving, especially at night. Close vehicle doors quietly.
- E** Empathy – ensure our neighbours know how seriously we take our role among local communities. If you receive a complaint, deal with it with understanding and courtesy
- S** Shouting – loud conversations or shouting on site, especially at night is disturbing for neighbours, please keep to a minimum
- P** Parking – obstructing private driveways, or parking on grass verges is not permitted – please think before you park
- E** Eating – Eating and **smoking** should always be undertaken off site and during agreed meal breaks – not in public
- C** Clean up – Clean up after yourself, and leave no litter on site, or in car parks.
- T** Toilets – only use provided toilets or agreed welfare facilities, making use of neighbours trees, fences or hedges is not acceptable



## Highways Safety Hub Newsletter, Passport, Alerts and Much More!



The latest edition of the Highways Safety Hub Newsletter is now available as linked below;

[Highways Safety Hub - June '21 Newsletter](#)

The Newsletter includes useful links, alerts and news updates and this month looks at innovations in hand protection and barrier cleaning. Well worth a read! Please visit the library of briefings on the Highways Safety Hub which also includes much useful information for working on the road network along with all the Highways England Safety Alerts;

[Highways Safety Hub](#)

## Wellbeing Wednesdays

Don't forget to visit the Rail Wellbeing Live website each month for new and FREE bespoke informative materials that focus on improving the physical and mental wellbeing of everyone who works in our industries.

[www.railwellbeinglive.co.uk](http://www.railwellbeinglive.co.uk)

This month they are focussing on "Men's Health". Most people know that men generally don't live as long as women, but do you know how many men die from avoidable health problems?



Wellbeing Wednesday livestreams are hosted on the first Wednesday of each month. These free 30 minute sessions feature top rail industry professionals alongside wellbeing experts. They can be viewed live at 11am or viewed later on catch-up. Please do subscribe via the website!

**Whilst it is being delivered in partnership with Network Rail, the content applies to EVERYONE and you are all welcome, regardless of where you work.**

REMINDER - Rail Wellbeing Live 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021  
Registration opens 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021



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## The Benefits of Workplace Strategies to Improve Sleep

Sleep is often left behind in many health and wellbeing programmes, but it is so important to our health and productivity.

Basic employer interventions such as educating workers about the importance of sleep and sharing strategies to improve sleep have resulted in increased productivity and reduced absenteeism.

Working in conjunction with “Third Pillar of Health”, The East Cheshire NHS Trust ran a pilot Sleep Improvement Programme to understand whether this type of intervention would yield benefits for them. And the impact was indeed very positive.

Overall, the scores for sleep duration, sleep quality, daytime sleepiness and lifestyle all improved;

- Average sleep prior to a workday increased.
- The percentage of participants saying the sleepiness interfered with their work fell.
- The percentage of people at risk of sleep disorders fell.

52 fewer full-time equivalent days were lost in the participating group in the period following the pilot – an improvement of 40% versus a trust-wide improvement of 3%

### Six habits that can promote better sleep

- 1 Shut off tablets, computers, and TV two hours before bedtime.
- 2 Keep all technology out of the bedroom.
- 3 Put cell phones and computers on mute before going to sleep.
- 4 Limit late night calls when possible. When necessary, use a phone for late night calls (versus a computer).
- 5 Avoid the snooze button, which is worse than waking up to the first alarm. Consider replacing a traditional alarm with a dawn simulator.<sup>30</sup>
- 6 Keep set evening routines. Try to go to bed and wake up at the same time each day.

Research has suggested that running a sleep improvement programme leads to improved sleep and ultimately reduced costs due to less absences, increased productivity, and less mistakes.





Promoting employee sleep health is in everyone's best interests: the employer, the worker, and the customer. For tips and advice on recognising and dealing with tiredness and fatigue please do visit "November" in our Health and Wellbeing Calendar and the NHS website;

## NHS Live Well - Sleep and Tiredness

### Beach Safety - FLOAT to Live

With the holiday season fast approaching, more of us may be having a "staycation" and enjoying the UK coast. The latest fatality figures show that last year, 128 people lost their lives at the UK coast. Just over half ended up in the water unexpectedly – many of them walkers and runners who slipped, tripped and fell in.

If you find yourselves in trouble in cold water;

- Fight your instinct to swim hard or thrash about.
- Lean back, extend your arms and legs.
- If you need to, gently move your arms and legs to help you float.
- Float until you can control your breathing.
- Call for help or swim to safety.

Floating is easier than you think, even if you aren't a strong swimmer. Practise in a swimming pool for up to 90 seconds – this is the duration it takes for cold water shock to pass and could be your lifesaver in open water.

**Stay Calm and Stay Afloat.**

RNLI Beach Safety

### KNOW YOUR FLAGS

**RED AND YELLOW FLAGS**  
Lifeguarded area: safest place to swim, bodyboard and use inflatables.

**BLACK AND WHITE CHEQUERED FLAGS**  
For surfboards, kayaks and other non-powered craft. Never swim or bodyboard here.

**ORANGE WINDSOCK**  
Indicates offshore or strong wind conditions – never use an inflatable when the sock is flying.

**RED FLAG**  
Danger! *Never* go in the water when the red flag is up, under any circumstances.

If you see anyone else in trouble, alert the lifeguards or call 999 or 112 and ask for the Coastguard.





## Crossing a Park, River and Canal Challenging Footbridge Refurbishment



As part of the Hertfordshire Structures Framework, our team have commenced another logistically challenging footbridge refurbishment.

South Park Gardens Footbridge spans both the Grand Union Canal and the River Bulbourne, whilst also being located in a park. The location is providing plenty of obstacles in reaching the work site and involves pontoons, barges and a comprehensive scaffolding solution.

The floating working platform has been constructed and moored underneath the bridge, allowing access for the scaffold to be built on board. A safety boat is on site for the duration of the works.

The concrete structure requires localised repairs, a new waterproof and surfacing system, joint installation and protective coating to the parapets.

Congratulations to all involved and we look forward to learning more about this interesting refurbishment project.





## Milestone Piling Commences for A46 Binley

A significant milestone has been reached by the A46 Binley Team as piling for the new flyover commences in the existing roundabout.



Over the next few weeks the traffic will be switched on to the alignment of the new

slip roads to release further access for construction of the abutments and intermediate supports.

Our specialist supplier VanElle are using a 60 tonne crawler crane and a 103 tonne rotary bored piling rig to install nearly 100 piles a very significant 19 metres into the ground.

*Congratulations to all involved in reaching this significant stage of the project.*

## Swindon Bridge Installation Delighting our Customer

Our team at White Hart Junction continue to rise to the many challenges that come their way.



Despite a last-minute reduction in the available working time for the nighttime rail possessions of the Great Western mainline, they have now installed 6 of 8 precast concrete abutment units on the north side of the railway, much to the delight of our customer and a Local Councilor who commented;

*"This is a hugely significant milestone for the project with credit due to Osborne's construction team..."*

*"That's a fantastic piece of work - well done to all involved."*

The new precast road over rail bridge is part of the major junction upgrade to support the New Eastern Villages (NEV) Development.







## RoSPA Order of Distinction Congratulations



We are delighted to announce that Infrastructure has been awarded the RoSPA "Order of Distinction for Health and Safety" for their culmination of 20 consecutive Gold Awards.

This is the highest possible award and is a massive achievement and demonstration of our commitment to send all our people home safe every day. Congratulations, we should feel rightly proud! The Award will be presented during a virtual ceremony in September this year.

## Congratulations **Period 2** **GOLD** Rated Sites

Congratulations to our teams at;

- Ashmead Downside Embankment
- Woking Downside Cutting
- Huntley and Palmer Bridge Replacement
- Northbrook Substation

For receiving the Network Rail Period 2 Gold Award.

Our High Voltage Switchgear Renewals at Northbrook Substation project was also the top scoring site in the whole of the Southern Region for Period 2.

The project is part of our wider package of renewals on the Wessex route to replace the life expired equipment and provide greater reliability to passenger journeys.

The site was chosen to be the top scoring site for their constant high standard of work and adherence to the Covid measures.

The team have also received unprompted praise from passers-by for their polite and friendly conduct.



These awards are only given to the best sites across Network Rail - not just our Framework, but across the whole country.

**A massive Well Done to all involved!**





## Portsmouth University Awards Congratulations

Congratulations to two of our young talents from the Engineering Team for both receiving awards from the University of Portsmouth.

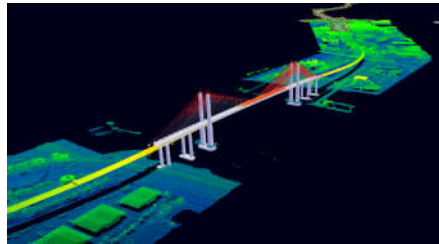
Graduate Engineer, Joshua Mason has been awarded the prize for the best student on his MSc programme "Best Full-time MSc Student in BIM".

Assistant Technical Manager, Jack Cottrell has been awarded the "Best Paper 2020-2021" prize for his PhD research paper on the influence of geometry on compressed earth building blocks.

We are very proud to see these great achievements that clearly demonstrate the quality of the graduates we are recruiting and helping to develop.



## Construction News Awards The Finalists



We are pleased that four of the projects that we have been involved in have been shortlisted for the Construction News Awards.

- **Digitising the M25**  
Sensat, Osborne and Connect Plus for "Digital Construction Excellence."
- **Healthier Highways on the M25**  
Connect Plus working in partnership with Steve Perkins Associates for "Health, Safety and Wellbeing Excellence."
- **Area 4 urgent resurfacing for Highways England**  
Connect Plus for "Supply Chain Excellence."
- **Highways England and Supply Chain Sustainability School**  
Sustainable Supply Chain Group for "Supply Chain Excellence."

The awards will be presented at Grosvenor House Hotel on 15 Sept '21.  
**Good Luck to All!**

## Msc Quantity Surveyor Congratulations

Many congratulations to Graduate Quantity Surveyor, Nathan Archer for successfully completing his MSc in Quantity Surveying whilst also working full time in a high-pressure role. Nathan's talents are clearly apparent, as he received a very impressive "Distinction" from the University College of Estate Management (UCEM). Nathan commented;

*"It has been a challenging two years sacrificing evenings and weekends. The flexible and supportive nature of UCEM allowed me to fit my learning around my life (as well as a global pandemic) and has built the foundation from which I can progress my career in quantity surveying."*



### Congratulations Nathan!

For your hard work and dedication to achieving this great result!





## Improving Access to the Underground Transport Network Step-free Access at Ickenham Tube Station



The Step Free Access Scheme at Ickenham Station is our second of four underground stations that has now opened for use by the travelling public, enabling those with accessibility needs to use the station and the wider transport network with greater ease.

The station now has two new lifts and improved signage, giving customers step-free access from street to the station platforms. The completion of accessibility works at Ickenham brings the total number of step-free stations on the Tube to 84 and follows our Debden Station project, which became step-free in April.

Our team at Ickenham were also one of the first sites in the London Underground Renewals and Enhancements Portfolio to have achieved the LUL Quality Benchmark Award, adding to the Beacon Status that was awarded last year for their commitment to improving and maintaining high standards of health and safety. The team were also previously complimented by the ORR for their demonstration of excellent risk control and for their understanding of the impact of works on the operational railway.

**Congratulations to ALL, including our customer and our valued suppliers.**

For working together to support the Mayor of London's commitment to a greener, fairer and healthier transport strategy for London.



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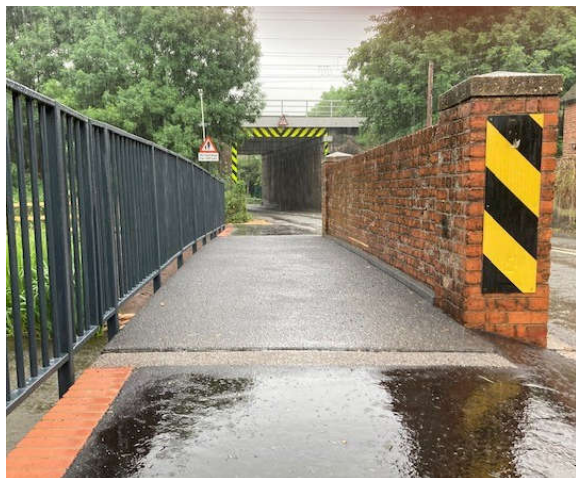
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[www.osborne.co.uk](http://www.osborne.co.uk)



## Innovative, Sustainable Bridge Design and Delivery First Ever Fibre Reinforced Polymer Footbridge at Cadwell

We have just completed the first ever Fibre Reinforced Polymer (FRP) bridge for Hertfordshire County Council at Cadwell, to replace the life-expired timber bridge crossing the River Purwell. This is the first fully FRP bridge that Hertfordshire have ever installed and they will now monitor the performance of the structure over the coming years.



Our partner "Lifespan Structures" worked as part of our collaborative team to help design the innovative bridge and provide thorough installation instructions and support. The deck was made in one piece, with the metal powder coated handrails bolted on afterwards. The use of FRP will reduce the maintenance throughout the life of the structure, is very light and incredibly simple to install.

### **Congratulations to all involved.**

The final result has delighted the council and will hopefully lead to this solution and material being adopted on a wider basis.





## Educational Access for All

Enormous thanks to Anne-Marie Cobb who through the "Access Project" is supporting young people from disadvantaged backgrounds with their studies. The Access Project is an innovative education charity that helps bright young people from disadvantaged backgrounds gain places at top universities. Trained volunteers work with young people aged 14 to 18 for an hour a week to raise the students grades and give them confidence in their abilities. Anne-Marie has been helping a pupil in Birmingham who is studying at GCSE level. Running her tutorial sessions on the bespoke online tuition platform, Anne-Marie commented;

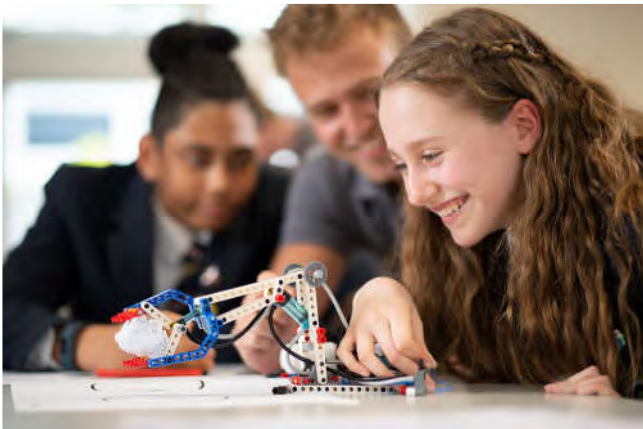


*"It is a rewarding experience and I enjoy seeing the progress made during each session and hope that I can make a difference in helping students achieve better grades and fulfil their ambitions to go on to study at university".*

### **Thank You for Anne-Marie for Helping to Improve a Life!**

Young people in the UK from disadvantaged backgrounds are six times less likely to progress to a top-third university compared to their peers working at a similar academic level. You are helping to change this statistic.

## Capturing the Enthusiasm of our Young People



Tony O'Donnell, Engineering Director at Mabey Hire has recently written a really interesting article on how there is an urgent need to change the way in which we present engineering to the world and our young people if we are to solve the ongoing skills crisis;

### **How to inspire the future generation of engineers - New Civil Engineer**

STEM Education Programmes, such as the Mabey Hire programme that our Romsey team took part in, are critical in bringing the world of engineering

into schools. The immersive 16-week course was launched by Mabey Hire to inspire young children to study Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics subjects and consider careers in civil engineering. The course uses LEGO® Education materials to enable students to learn basic engineering principles in a hands-on, fun and engaging way that is designed to showcase engineering as the amazing, forward-thinking and digitally innovative industry it is.

Many young people lose interest in STEM subjects by their mid-teens, so capturing their enthusiasm early is key. We must continue to raise awareness of the exciting and varied opportunities that a career in engineering can present and highlight the role of the industry in shaping the future.



## A46 Volunteering to Feed the Hungry

Steve Brassey and Bob Pettipher of our A46 Project recently assisted the Coventry Food Bank with their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

To celebrate ten years of amazing community support, the Food Bank hosted an event for civic dignitaries, staff, and volunteers at their warehouse centre. Steve and Bob assisted with the preparations, carrying out activities such as helping them to erect large banners in the warehouse.

Coventry Food Bank is one of the largest in the country and not only helps local people, but also sends aid to numerous countries. Our team on the A46 have been making regular food donations to the centre to assist them in their fantastic work.



**Great work team!**

Thank you for helping to improve the lives of people in need.

## Admiral Behaviours at Wanborough



Thanks to the quick thinking of the team at Wanborough, they have prevented a much more serious fire in an adjacent farmer's field from occurring.

As one of the team was travelling to our works he noticed a fire in a farmers field. He immediately phoned the landowner who was un-aware of the danger. While waiting for the landowner to arrive, Danny Jeans, Andrew Sackley and Joe Tamani of Suttles used the site fire extinguishers to put the fire out and ensure no further spread.

This really does demonstrate how easy it is for fires to start and spread, especially during spells of hot weather.

**Thank you Team**

For your quick reactions to prevent the situation from becoming any worse.







## Caring for your Skin

July's Health and Wellbeing topic is about caring for your skin.

- Like a snake that sheds, **your skin renews itself Every 28 Days.**
- Your skin can respond **Negatively to Stress,** just like your mind.

Work-related skin diseases, for example dermatitis, are very common and can affect people in a wide range of occupations.

Work-related skin problems are caused or made worse by exposure to, or from coming into contact with substances such as chemicals, and also through having wet hands for long periods. Exposure to the sun can also cause problems.

Although dermatitis is by far the most common skin disease, urticaria and skin cancer can also be work-related.

But they are preventable through taking simple measures;

- **Avoid** direct contact between unprotected hands and substances, products and wet work.

- **Check** hands regularly for the first signs of itchy, dry or red skin.
- **Protect** the skin.

For more details and advice on how to keep your skin healthy visit the HSE and NHS websites;

[HSE Skin at Work](#)

[NHS Look after Your Skin](#)

### Skin contact

Distance your skin from chemicals and wet work  
Use a Safe Working Distance (SWD)

## Save Your Skin

## Safe Working Distance

### Chemicals & wet work

- Avoid skin contact
- Do not immerse hands
- Use a tool
- Use suitable gloves

[www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)



British Association of Dermatologists

## A GUIDE TO CHECKING YOUR SKIN

# SKIN

Most skin cancers can be cured if detected early. The best way to detect skin cancer is to check your skin regularly, about once a month. You should examine the skin all over your body, from top to toe.

Look out for moles or patches of skin that are growing, changing shape, developing new colours, inflamed, bleeding, crusting, red around the edges, particularly itchy, or behaving unusually.

1

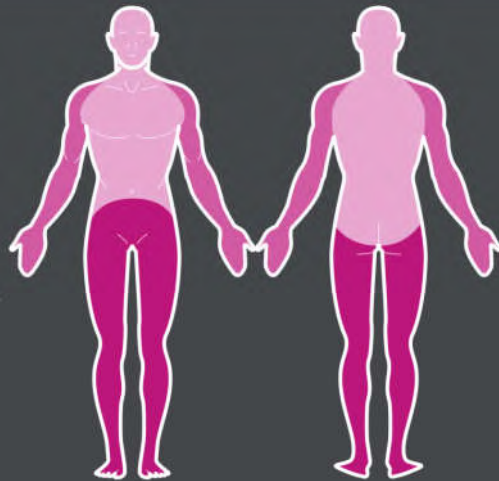
Look in a mirror and carry out a full upper body examination, checking your face, neck and chest right down to your hips. Ask a friend or family member to check your scalp, ears, back and all of the areas you can't easily see yourself.

2

Check your arms and elbows, including underarms and both sides of your hands.

3

Examine all of your lower body, checking your legs front and back, your feet, soles and even between your toes.



### IF IN DOUBT, CHECK IT OUT!

You should tell your doctor about any changes to a mole or patch of skin. If your doctor thinks you have a skin cancer or is not sure, they can refer you for free through the NHS to see a skin cancer specialist, usually a Consultant Dermatologist, who is an expert in diagnosing and treating skin cancer.

  
**LA ROCHE-POSAY**  
LABORATOIRE DERMATOLOGIQUE  
Sole Sun Protection  
Brand Partner of

  
**SUN SAFETY PROGRAMME 2016**  
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of Dermatologists

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## Did you know that **Sunscreen** goes Out of Date?

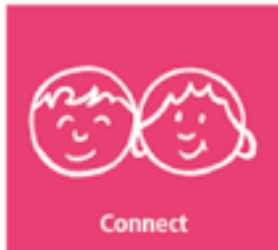


Sun creams generally need to be used within 12 months of when it was first opened.

The expiry date will normally be on the bottle or packaging with the number of months it can be used for shown as, for example "12m".

### Top Tips

- Always apply sunscreen 15 to 30 minutes before going out in the sun and reapply regularly, particularly after swimming or towel drying.
- At least six teaspoons of cream is needed to cover an average adult.



Connect



Be active



Keep Learning



Give to others



Take Notice

## Connect - Five Ways to Wellbeing

The Five Ways to Wellbeing are a set of simple activities that we can all do in our everyday lives to help find a balance, build resilience and boost mental health and wellbeing.

July's way to wellbeing is very appropriately "to connect".

There is strong evidence that feeling close to other people is a fundamental need that contributes to overall wellbeing. So why not;

- Talk to someone instead of sending an email or texting.
- Put five minutes aside to find out how someone really is.
- Ask how someone's weekend was and really listen when they tell you.



Investing time in developing relationships will support and enrich you every day.



## Samaritans Awareness Day 24 July 2021



### The Big Listen

Each year, Samaritans Awareness Day is celebrated on the 24<sup>th</sup> July to raise awareness that the Samaritans are there to listen to anyone who's struggling to cope, at any time of the day or night 24/7.

The Samaritans is a free to call number and they offer a safe place for you to talk in your own way – about whatever is getting to you, without judgement or pressure.



When life is tough, the Samaritans are there to listen.

### Supporting You

For all our permanent employees, you have the use of our completely free "Supporting You" Programme. We also have many Mental Health First Aiders you can talk to.

For more information, please go to the SHE and Sustainability page of Atlas.

### Your Employee Assistance Programme





## Toolbox Talk – Adders and the Dangers of Snake Bites



### Infrastructure Projects Southern Toolbox Talk



#### Did you know?

- Adders are the only venomous snake native to Great Britain. They are extremely widespread and can be found on some of our construction sites
- They are unlikely to bite unless they are alarmed or disturbed; bites can be painful but are rarely fatal
- Adders are protected by law from being killed or injured



#### What is the danger?

Only 10 cases of human death from an adder bite have been recorded in the last 100 years. However, although an adder's venom poses little danger to a healthy adult human, the bite is very painful and requires urgent medical attention.

Bites appear to happen when adders are surprised and they don't have time to retreat.

#### How do I recognise an adder?

- A stocky snake, the adder is easily identified by the dark zigzag line passing along the back bordered by rows of spots
- The adder is typically active during the day when it hunts, mainly for small mammals
- The adder hibernates in winter, typically from September/October to March

#### What are the symptoms of a bite?

- Pain, redness and swelling in the area of the bite
- Nausea and vomiting
- Dizziness and fainting

**Seek urgent medical attention**

#### Do

- ✓ If you see an adder, stop work and report it to a supervisor
- ✓ The adder should be left to move of its own accord
- ✓ Any harm or injury that does occur to an adders must be reported
- ✓ In the event of being bitten by an adder, seek immediate professional medical help

#### Do not

- ✗ Injure or harm the snake in any way – this is illegal
- ✗ Handle adders – if this is necessary leave it to trained professionals

**This and other  
toolbox talks can be  
downloaded from:**

[www.southernshield.co.uk](http://www.southernshield.co.uk)

**For further information please contact a member of your Environment Team**



## Toolbox Talk – Caterpillars of the Oak Processionary Moth

**Toolbox Talk - Environment**

### Ecology – Oak Processionary Moth

**What?**

- Caterpillars of the Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) are a pest which can be a hazard to the health of people.
- The greatest risk period is May to July, but nests should always be avoided.
- They have been recorded in the following IMDM areas;
  - ◆ Clapham
  - ◆ Croydon
  - ◆ Euston
  - ◆ London Bridge
  - ◆ Orpington
  - ◆ Reading
  - ◆ Saltley
  - ◆ Tottenham
  - ◆ Wessex Inner
  - ◆ Bedford

**Why?**

- Their tiny hairs can be blown about by the wind and cause itchy skin rashes, eye and throat irritations and, occasionally, breathing difficulties.

**DO**

- ✓ Keep away from caterpillars
- ✓ Report any suspected sightings
- ✓ Use EcoReporter app and send to [opm@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:opm@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)
- ✓ Call NHS111 or seek medical advice for serious allergic reactions

**DON'T**

- ✗ Start work on a suspected tree until you have written authorisation from the Forestry Commission
- ✗ Process or remove arisings from site without written authorisation from the Forestry Commission

V2 2019

For further information please contact a member of the Environment Team





## Toolbox Talk – Hypodermic Needles



Infrastructure Projects Southern

### Toolbox Talk

#### Hypodermic Needles

14 March 2016

#### Beware they bite!



A member of a Network Rail Works Delivery Team was renewing a lineside signalling cable. As the cable draw rod exited through the cable route, a member of the team put his hand down to retrieve the end and came into contact with a discarded hypodermic needle that was hidden in the leaves.

The needle punctured the individual's glove and came into contact with bare skin; however, it did not puncture the skin.

***In this case, the use of gloves prevented a far more serious injury by stopping the needle from puncturing the skin.***

#### What can I do?

- Be aware that sharps may present in your working environment
- Always wear the correct PPE; in particular boots and gloves
- Be especially vigilant if you can't see what you are doing with your hands
- If you see a sharps or signs of drug use, report it.
- Quarantine any sharps and the area it was found in – there may be more that you can't see
- Raise a Close Call even though no one was injured

#### What should I do if I am injured by a needle?

- Do not panic; gently squeeze the area around the wound to encourage bleeding
- Do not suck the wound; clean the wound under running water or cleansing wipes provided in first aid kits
- Cover the wound with a dry plaster or dressing
- Keep the needle that caused the injury in a safe place, it may be needed by the doctor
- Contact with a needle can cause infection or spread disease so always seek medical advice and treatment immediately

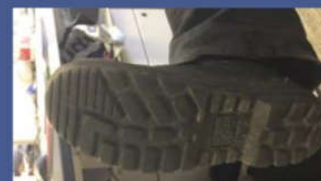
#### What are sharps and where can they be found?

Sharps' is the generic term for Hypodermic needles and syringes. Sharps have been found in salt bins, bags of rubbish on track, under bridges, station areas, station toilets, rubbish bins, litter bins on trains and even inside cigarette packets or drinks containers.



For example: An individual found a syringe needle sticking in the sole of his safety boot. He thought that this had occurred at Victoria Station.

His boots were in good condition, with a steel sole plate. As a result, the needle did not penetrate through the boot to his skin.



## SHE Performance Summary – May 2021

<b>Improvement Opportunities Frequency Rate (IOFR)</b> the Current Rolling IOFR is: <b>3.14</b> (Target of 2.5 per 1000 hours worked)			
<b>Accident Frequency Rate (AFR)</b> Days since the Last RIDDOR Accident: <b>132</b> The Current Rolling AFR is: <b>0.12</b> against a threshold of 0.01			
<b>Service Strike (SSFR)</b> Days since the last Service Strike: <b>5</b> The Current Rolling SSFR is: <b>0.39</b>			
<b>May Total Number IOs</b> <b>408</b>		<b>May No. Safety, Health &amp; Environmental IOs</b> <b>353</b>	
<b>May No. Business IOs</b> <b>55</b>			
Reference Number	Date	Project	Initial Incident Description
<b>Injury</b>			
11522021-20-05	20/05/21	A46 Binley	Traffic Management Operative slipped whilst picking up sign, falling and hurting his arm. Continued working, no time lost.
<b>Operational Close Call</b>			
11392021-12-05	11/05/21	Kent Reactive Works	Operative observed carrying out survey on platform within 1.25m of platform edge with no protection in place.
<b>Service Strike – Gas</b>			
11542021-24-05	24/05/21	Swindon WHJ	Medium pressure gas main damaged by excavator bucket. Bleed nipple was struck.
<b>Environment - Waste</b>			
11402021-12-05	07/05/21	CP Joint Replacement	Planer removed the bridge deck waterproofing which contained asbestos.
<b>Near Miss / Close Call</b>			
11312021-06-05	05/05/21	A46 Binley	Vehicle spotted travelling in the wrong direction down the A46 northbound carriageway from Walsgrave island towards Binley junction.
11462021-17-05	13/05/21	Merstham Viaduct	Site Welfare Van left the traffic management through the cones without using the vehicle beacons or indicators to enter a live lane.
<b>Property Damage</b>			
11432021-17-05	09/05/21	Swindon WHJ	Driver claims to have hit a pothole in our works areas that caused damage to the vehicle.
11442021-17-05	15/05/21	Swindon WHJ	Driver claims to have hit a pothole in our works areas that caused damage to the vehicle.
<b>Theft</b>			
11492021-20-05	20/05/21	HV Feeder Renewals	Theft of redundant cables awaiting removal from site.
<b>TM incursions</b>			
11382021-11-05	10/05/21	A46 Binley	HGV driver used the closed layby to take his break.
11352021-10-05	10/05/21	A46 Binley	Broken down vehicle entered the traffic management.







## Improvement Opportunities

### June IO Statistics

Unfortunately the level of engagement with the IO System continues to decrease, with IO's reducing in quantity and quality. IO's are critical to our learning culture and to ensuring everyone returns home safely every day. Please do continue to submit your IO's and thank you for recognising the importance of your continued engagement.

This month the IO Panel noted the standards of site cleanliness and housekeeping to be slipping, along with the security of gates and fencing. With the school holidays fast approaching, please ensure that your site is secure and that all risks to children are properly controlled.

### Top Projects in June

- A46 Binley 73
- Gade Valley Viaduct 32
- Ashmead 2 Embankment 23
- Upper Halliford Platform Works 23
- New Malden Embankment 20

### Top IO Originators in June

- John Bowers 43
- Hakeem Ali 29
- Jon Blackman 28
- Gene Payne 21
- Ben Lamb 12
- Nigel Howell 12

### Top Suppliers in June

- Collins Project Delivery UK 3
- Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd 3
- Deploy UK Rail Ltd 1
- Lightning Electrical Inst. Ltd 1

### Top SHE Categories in June

- Access / Egress / Site Security 38
- Site Housekeeping 34
- Site Welfare 23
- Tools and Equipment 20
- Moving Plant and Machinery 17

## Infrastructure Improvement Opportunities

Month	Total No. IOs	Total No. People Raising IOs
April	445	95
May	408	94
June	353	78
How many did your site submit last month?	?	?



 **SAFETY ALERT A99** Stay **Safe** 

 **Issue 01**

Further information contact : Craig Short 07875 114 420

## FATALITY OF AN INDEPENDENT CONNECTIONS PROVIDER OPERATIVE

### OVERVIEW

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2021 an Independent Connections Provider (ICP) Jointer was undertaking streetlight transfers for the Local Authority when they received a fatal electric shock.

Our thoughts are with the family, friends and colleagues of the person involved.

### DETAIL

An ICP had been awarded a contract to carry out street lighting transfers for a local authority under a Competition in Connections agreement. Whilst undertaking works to extend a service to one of the lighting columns, an ICP jointer received an electric shock.

Paramedics attended the scene but unfortunately could not resuscitate the injured person.

The incident is under investigation by the relevant enforcing bodies and will be investigated as a Very Serious Incident (VSI) by UK Power Networks.

The above information is without prejudice to any investigations and is provided to remind all our staff and contractors of the requirements when working on the LV network.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- Live working must have a Site Specific Pre Work Assessment whenever it is practicable to do so or the reason for not undertaking it should be identified on the Task Instruction.
- Every job must have an On Site (Point of Work) Assessment completed before work starts.
- When live working is being undertaken, HSS 40 045a LV Live Work or Testing Assessment shall be completed. If any of the requirements of HSS 40 045a cannot be met, work shall not start.
- LV Live Working Electrical Gloves shall be worn when any conductors are exposed.
- A support person shall be in attendance with a clear view of the work being undertaken.
- Shrouding shall be applied to any conductor not immediately being worked on.

It is the responsibility of line management to ensure all appropriate employees are issued with this document and to check their understanding of its content. This document will be subject to compliance audits within 14 days from the date of issue.

ALERT A99

Issue no: 01

Issue date: 03/06/2021

Page 1 of 1



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Feedback to: [julie.king@osborne.co.uk](mailto:julie.king@osborne.co.uk)

[www.osborne.co.uk](http://www.osborne.co.uk)



## SHE ALERT



SHE H197 A 2021 Road Traffic Incident  
Issued by: Kier Highways SHE Department  
Date: 03/06/2021

### Road Traffic Incident

On Saturday afternoon, 29<sup>th</sup> May, one of our operatives was struck by a member of the public's car within the shuttle lane which was under stop and go traffic control. The operative had entered the live lane to sweep up material that had been spread onto the road by a previous vehicle passing through the shuttle lane.

Traffic had been stopped but the driver of the first car, an 85-year-old deaf man, became confused by the actions of another driver and set off again. Despite shouts for him to stop, he accelerated to a speed in excess of the reduced speed limit and struck our operative.

Despite our operative suffering significant head and torso injuries, we are pleased to confirm that none were life-threatening, and he is at home with his family recovering.

This incident serves as a reminder that we must always strive to make our works safer.

### General Actions to prevent recurrence:

- Review the hierarchy of control – if possible, eliminate the risk with a road closure.
- If live lane working cannot be avoided, ensure task specific controls are in place to minimise the risk of traffic incursion.
- Only enter a running lane under appropriate traffic control (all stop, full closure, rolling roadblock etc) and ensure safety zones are in place around the works area to create a sterile working area.
- Ensure changes to planned work activities are risk assessed, agreed by management and recorded via a POWRA (including changes required to the safe system of working) before the work takes place.
- Always consider abnormal situations that may arise when developing risk assessments and safe systems of working.
- Rebrief all operatives involved on changes to planned works.



**Graphic Content Covered**

### Action Required from all contracts:

Please share this safety alert with your site teams and use the following prompts to discuss the incident.

- How do you ensure that the scope of works, the limit of your risk assessment and safe system of work requirements have been adequately communicated and understood by all?
- How do you ensure you work in accordance with training and safe systems of work at all times?
- What emergency / abnormal events might arise during your work?
- How do you deal with these situations?
- What work equipment do you need / is available to help you deal with these situations?
- How do you reach a clear and common understanding with others regarding the sequence of operations to adopt when things change on site?
- How do you safely stop work if anything has changed?
- How significant does a change need to be to prompt a safety stop to re-plan the works?
- What do you do if in doubt about anything you are being asked to do?

**Remember – Nothing is so urgent or important that we cannot take the time to do it safely!**

Neil Wilson  
Head of Safety, Health, Environment & Assurance



## Internal Safety Alert

### Ringway South West M&R

Date 03/06/2021  
Time 13.11pm  
Location 251/9 S/B M5



A maintenance crew were tasked with routine vegetation clearance of comms steps. A near miss was reported with regards to a syringe needle that had been stuck (with chewing gum) to a handrail, pointing upwards. The handrail leads down to a comms box out on the network.

As you can see from the pictures, the hazard was placed with the intention to cause harm to anyone using the handrail by coming into contact with the exposed needle, which if used, could have caused the risk of transmitting blood borne diseases such as Hepatitis B and C, Syphilis and Aids to name a few.

To avoid any potential incidents; management, need to discuss safe working procedures with the aid of briefings and risk assessments.

Should an incident occur out on the network, regarding needles, the IP needs to seek medical advice immediately from their nearest Accident and Emergency department.

Managers responsibility is to -

- Ensure all operatives have sharps awareness briefing.
- Ensure appropriate training is up to date (if ops have needles and sharps training).
- Carry out a specific briefing for day and night shift, as part of the five minutes of safety briefing.





## Safety Advice

Action required following a serious incident



### Derailment risk following engineering work

Issued to: **All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and accredited contractors**

Ref: NRA21-09

Date of issue: 08/06/2021

Location: Barnehurst, Kent

Contact: [Geoff Norman](#), Principal H&S Manager, Southern Capital Delivery



### Overview

On Monday 7th June 2021, having given up a possession around an engineering train, the train departed Barnehurst when the driver observed an obstruction across an adjacent line. After speaking to the Signaller and blocking the line, the driver identified two sleepers chained and padlocked to the running rails. The actions of the driver prevented a potentially serious passenger train derailment.

The sleepers were subsequently removed by a Network Rail response team.

Initial investigations have identified that the sleepers were left down following works within the worksite, and were being used to create a barrier for controlling runaway risk from rail mounted plant leaving the site of work.

Controls must be put in place where the risk of runaway has been identified, as detailed in Network Rail standard NR/L2/OHS/019 section 9.2.

The Technical Authority will be carrying out a Post Implementation Review (PIR) of Module 5 of NR/L2/OHS/019.

### Immediate action required

- In complying with NR/L2/OHS/019, **you must not use any immovable object or derailing device**, except where already detailed in the Rule Book, for example Handbook 13 Duties of the Persons in Charge of the Siding Possessions (PICOS).
- All Engineering Supervisors must comply with duties to check the line is safe for the passage of trains before handing their worksite back.



## SHEQ ALERT



Reference number:	006/2021	Date:	07/05/2021
Title:	Roller Emergency Stop Brake Failure		

An investigation is ongoing to establish the root causation of a brake failure on a 10 tonne Hamm Roller HD 90i.

The roller was being used on an incline and the operator had already raised a defect regarding a fault in the forward/reverse control lever, stating the roller was still creeping when in neutral.

Clee Hill attended site and after greasing the lever said the roller was fit for use. Soon afterwards as the operator attempted to stop on the side of the road the roller started to roll backwards uncontrollably.

In an attempt to stop it he pushed the emergency stop button which caused the engine to cut out as intended but the brakes failed to stop the roller and it clipped a Colas vehicle before coming to a stop approximately 80 metres down the road.

The engineer who later inspected the roller stated the brake mechanisms had completely failed though the hydraulic system was intact and working.



[March 2021]	[Uncontrolled when Printed]	HS-SHEQ-002	v1.1
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## SHEQ ALERT



### Learning Outcomes

At this point we have not fully established the root cause of the failure and are seeking expert advice however, to ensure we operate this type of equipment safely the following information should act as a guide:

- All equipment, hired or otherwise must have up to date inspection and maintenance records
- Pre-use checks must be carried out by all plant operators prior to start of shift, this must be documented, recorded and available
- Where applicable, brake functionality must be checked as part of the pre-use checks. Where required the manufacturer or hire partner must provide guidance on how to achieve this safely without compromising the integrity of the item or the safety of others
- Where an emergency stop function exists this should be checked in accordance with the manufacturers or hire partners guidance
- Other than the above, only use emergency stop for real emergencies
- When parking items of plant on inclines ensure they are chocked or parked in a manner that they cannot roll

[March 2021]

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v1.1





## SIEMENS

Audience: Siemens Mobility Limited, Rail Infrastructure

# Fast Facts Alert

Subject: Victoria 3 RRV Derailment

### What Happened?

On 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021, two RRVs were utilised for undertaking piling installations at the Up Brighton Fast, as part of the Victoria 3 project.

The sequence of piling installations was for RRV 1 to lift and vibrate the piles, prior to RRV 2 using a 6T hammer to finish the installation. During the shift, RRV 1 completed vibro driving for the first two sections of the piles and moved clear to enable RRV 2 to move into position to commence hammering.

Prior to RRV 2 commencing hammering activities the outriggers of the machine were deployed with the front and rear outriggers on the CESS side being placed on timber bearers to counter the gradient of the site.

Whilst undertaking this activity RRV 2 placed weight onto the outriggers, causing the front left outrigger to slip off the the timber bearer. This resulted in derailment of the machine, which then came into contact and caused minor damaged to the conductor rail and three pots.

There were no injuries sustained as a result of this incident. The team were stood down and piling activities ceased onsite immediately. The investigation was initiated and is currently under investigation.



### Discussion Points / Considerations

1. Are we assessing the work environment, track conditions, proposed way of working and potential risks where a RRV is setting out its outriggers?
2. Have we given consideration to any temporary works to support piling or hammering operations?



Produced By EHS Department  
Siemens Mobility Limited, Rail Infrastructure  
Any queries please contact your local EHS Specialist

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UKI-RI-HS-TM-006  
November 2020 Issue 4



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## Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place



### Kings Cross remodelling runaway MEWP

Issued to: **All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and accredited contractors**

Ref: NRB21-04

Date of issue: 17/06/2021

Location: Kings Cross Remodelling, East Coast route

Contact: [Lewis Robinson](#), Head of Health & Sustainable Development, Eastern Capital Delivery



### Overview

On 16th May 2021 at around 03:30am Pod-Trak were on-tracking their Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs) for OLE works. While on-tracking the third MEWP, it ran away approximately 600m into Canal Tunnel. The MEWP ran through the worksite marker but remained within the possession limits. The team working with the MEWP were unharmed.

RAIB inspected the MEWP to establish if there was a mechanical failure. The initial findings were that there appeared to be insufficient brake force to hold the MEWP on the Road Rail Access Point which had a 1.55 gradient.

Later, under test conditions, the MEWP started to move at a gradient of 1.50. A further test was conducted with the hydraulic brake bypass valve closed during the test. When retested, the MEWP braking system worked correctly. The cause of the runaway appears to be that the override valve for the rail wheel parking brake system had been left in bypass during maintenance sometime before the shift.

A second Safety Bulletin will be issued if any further learning is identified.

### Discussion Points

- What checks are undertaken after maintenance to ensure plant is correctly set up to be used on site?
- What assurance is done by plant providers to confirm that maintenance checks are completed correctly and it is ready for use?
- What simple checks can be undertaken at site to assure users that kit has been safely maintained?
- How should we consider runaway risk during planning?





## Items left in Verges

No 414

June 2021



Safety

There have been several incidents over the past few years where vehicles have been damaged due to items being ejected or caught in machinery when cutting grass along the verges. This could have serious consequences for the operatives cutting the grass and for members of the public travelling on the network, who could potentially be struck by flying debris.

Items that are causing damage range from a metal clip from a ratchet strap to sign frames and redundant post foundations



Recently when an operative was strimming the grass on the roadside verge, there was a bottle lying in the grass. When the Operative went to move the bottle, they felt a sudden pain in their hand and noticed an Adder nearby. The Operative was driven straight to hospital where they received an anti-venom injection for the bite.



We have also had instances when Operatives have been walking along the verge and they have stepped into old post holes which has been left exposed and not infilled correctly after being removed through previous works. Luckily their injuries were not of a serious nature.

### Action to be taken:

- It is important that all equipment and materials are uplifted from the verges at the end of each shift to make sure the area is safe for any grass cutting activities or inspections that may follow on.
- Anyone who walks along the network as part of their job, are asked to be vigilant and identify any materials in the verge that could be a danger and place them to the side and inform Supervisors to ensure they are picked up as soon as possible.

experience that delivers







## INFORMATION



# Safety Alert Vehicle Immobilisation

1 June 2021

## Background information

As part of the A27 Arundel bypass scheme, ground investigation (GI) & survey works were being undertaken on the golf course, within the grounds of a hotel. Access had been granted to the hotel carpark to enable work vehicles to park during the surveys.

At the end of the shift, the driver moved their vehicle (50m) closer to the hotel reception to sign out. As it had been a wet day, the driver had placed their coat over the driver seat to keep themselves and the seat dry (as shown in the picture).

Whilst in the reception area, signing out, a member of the hotel staff entered and informed the driver that their vehicle had rolled backwards approx. 4 metres into a bush, at the front of the hotel.

Fortunately there were no injuries and no damage caused, however there was potential for personal injury, damage to vehicles and or the hotel.



## Investigation Findings

- It would appear that the vehicle handbrake had not been engaged, or fully engaged. The driver believes that the coat may have prevented them from effectively engaging the handbrake.
- The vehicle was subsequently checked and the handbrake was found to be working correctly.

## Lessons Learnt

- Never cover any safety or control devices of a vehicle.
- Ensure the parking brake is fully engaged prior to exiting your vehicle.

HEi245

If you have any queries about this safety alert information announcement or any other safety announcement then please contact [Eddie.Eaves@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:Eddie.Eaves@highwaysengland.co.uk)

home safe  
and well



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## INFORMATION



# Safety Alert

## Tensioned VRS- potential for injury if persons not competent to dismantle

14 June 2021

### Background information

In May, following a Road Traffic Collision (RTC), a Highways England Asset Incident Watchman (AIW) arrived on scene to find the Vehicle Restraint System (VRS) had been dismantled by a vehicle recovery operator. This had been undertaken to aid the recovery of a 3<sup>rd</sup> party HGV that had collided with and damaged the VRS. No injury occurred, however there was the potential for serious injury as the section of VRS dismantled was a tensioned corrugated beam type, meaning by design it is post-tensioned. Tensioned VRS contains stored energy and must only be dismantled by competent and trained persons.

In late 2019 a Kier operative working on damaged VRS in Area 3 sustained significant bruising, when they were struck by a VRS barrier that had an unexpected release of stored energy.



### Lessons Learnt

- VRS should only be worked on by a trained competent member of the service provider's VRS team, with a suitable safe system of work.
- Emergency services have been given advice on how to dismantle tensioned VRS in a life and death scenario.
- Please continue to report safety observations, near misses and incidents.
- Share this bulletin with relevant teams, suppliers and vehicle recovery operators.
- Challenge / report unauthorised VRS alterations when and where safe to do so.

If you have any queries about this safety alert information announcement or any other safety announcement then please contact [Gavin.Williams@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:Gavin.Williams@highwaysengland.co.uk)

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## INFORMATION



# Safety Alert

## Refuelling activities and risk of fire

14 June 2021

### Background information

In recent months, our supplier chain partners have had a number of incidents, involving fires with plant and equipment, linked to refuelling activities. On one occasion this led to burns to an operative's torso, which subsequently, led to a RIDDOR reportable incident.

While refuelling plant and equipment, please consider the following:

- Always turn off the engine prior to refueling.
- Do not re-fuel a hot engine, this could cause a fire.
- Ensure the fuel cap is fully secured and check for leaks, do not start the engine if there's a fuel leak.
- Check that the spark plug boot is secure, a loose boot may cause sparks that could ignite any combustible fumes and cause a fire.
- Check that all connections which could cause a spark are secure.
- Ensure approved fuel containers are used.
- Ensure that the fuel source – petrol/Jerry can are removed from the area before re-starting the equipment.
- Do not overfill the fuel tank – 95% full is a good guideline to follow.
- After refueling, start the engine outdoors and away from where refueled (at least 3 metres).



### Lessons Learnt

- Consider the use of flame retardant clothing, during refuelling activities.
- Ensure a suitable and sufficient risk assessment and safe system of work are known, understood and implemented, for refuelling activities.
- Ensure operatives are trained and competent to undertake refuelling activities.
- Ensure emergency procedures are in place, to deal with any issues when refuelling activities.
- Ensure adequate firefighting equipment is at hand, during refuelling activities and any hot work activities.
- Ensure adequate assurance activities are carried out.

If you have any queries about this safety alert information announcement or any other safety announcement then please contact [Andrew.Stagg@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:Andrew.Stagg@highwaysengland.co.uk)

HEi248

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and well



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## Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place



### Fire involving Network Rail laptop

Issued to: **All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and accredited contractors**

Ref: NRB21-05

Date of issue: 22/06/2021

Location: Employees' private house

Contact: [Debbie Simpson](#), Head of IT Technical Services



### Overview

On 7th June 2021 at around 03:00am a Network Rail colleague woke to find a fire had broken out in the living room of their house. The Network Rail colleague was asleep in the room where the fire broke out and contained it before the fire brigade arrived. The family escaped the house with no injuries.

The exact cause of the fire remains under investigation by the fire service. However, the fire involved a Network Rail laptop and charger. The laptop was closed, plugged into a domestic mains socket, and had been left to charge on a carpet floor, and near to or under a curtain.

The manufacturer of the laptop and charger have confirmed that they have had no other reports of fire. There is visible damage to the laptop charging cable, but it is not clear whether this was caused by hot curtain debris falling onto it, or if it was the cause of the fire.

An internal investigation will be led by Technical Authority. Another Safety Bulletin will be issued if any further learning is identified.

### Discussion Points

- How often do you check power supply cables to look for signs of damage or heating?
- Is electrical equipment safely connected while charging or in use? Could an extension lead be overloaded?
- Are your devices always used and charged on an appropriate hard, flat surface with adequate airflow (i.e. with the fan or exhaust ports not being obstructed)?
- Have you got adequate ventilation around your electrical equipment?
- If electrical equipment has been dropped or damaged, what would you do to report that and get it checked to be certain it remains safe?
- If devices are not being used for a long period of time (e.g. multiple days), do you switch them off and disconnect the power supply?
- How often do you check the smoke alarms in your home?







## INFORMATION



# Safety Alert

## Mobile phone and seat belts

15 June 2021

### Background information

Using a mobile phone while driving and not wearing a seat belt are part of the **Fatal 4**.

Operation Tramline\* demonstrates the prevalence of such behaviours on the SRN, with over 50% of its identified offences being mobile phone and seat belt non compliance.

We're trialling the use of systems in a live, on-road environment to better understand compliance. We're developing interventions to help us understand and subsequently mitigate against behaviours which pose risks to road users and workers.

**Early data suggests these offences are happening at scale, with an average of 126 mobile phone offences and 56 seat belt detections per day. This data was taken from lane 1 only and therefore the scale of this risk could be much higher.**

Directors and managers have responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, to ensure any driving risks are minimised, underpinned by appropriate policies and procedures. These policies must be communicated to all drivers, so they are able to follow them. Policies regarding mobile phone use should be clearly explained, including in circumstances where staff may have cause to phone a colleague whilst driving.

For more information visit:  
[www.drivingforbetterbusiness.com](http://www.drivingforbetterbusiness.com)

\*<http://assets.highwaysengland.co.uk/Commercial+Vehicles/Operation+tramline+leaflet.pdf>



Driver using phone, passenger without a seat belt

### Lessons Learnt

- You are 4 times more likely to be in a crash if you use a phone, with your reaction time being 3 times slower.
- If you're caught using a handheld phone while driving, you'll get 6 penalty points and a £200 fine. If you're a professional driver, you could be fined up to £2,500, increased insurance costs and risk losing your job.
- Using a hands-free device (e.g. for navigation) is not illegal, but can distract you and affect your ability to drive safely and therefore should be avoided.
- In a collision, you're twice as likely to die if you don't wear a seat belt.
- Drivers and passengers who fail to wear seat belts are breaking the law and could face on-the-spot fines of £100, and in some cases, more severe penalties.

If you have any queries about this safety alert information announcement or any other safety announcement then please contact [Amelia.Kirwan@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:Amelia.Kirwan@highwaysengland.co.uk)

HEi250

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and well



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[www.osborne.co.uk](http://www.osborne.co.uk)



## INFORMATION



# Safety Alert

## Incidents involving overhead Assets

18 June 2021

### Background information

- In the past 12 months there have been 13 reported Airsweb incidents involving collisions with overhead structures and services, from our supply chain.
- These have been the result of a combination of strikes (hits) and near misses attributed to mobile plant equipment and vehicles and/or their respective loads, travelling beneath, directly beneath or working adjacent to overhead assets, structures.
- Examples include; a mobile tower lighting unit and a raised HIAB in collision with structures and a 360-degree excavator coming into contact with a temporary low voltage cable.
- Safe clearance relies on adequate procedures and safe systems of work being in place to prevent possible contact and those procedures being followed alongside supervision to ensure those procedures are followed.
- As a result of these recent incidents, we would like our supply chain to re-enforce their safe systems of work in relation to overhead structures and vehicle movement and review supervision to ensure those procedures are being followed.



### Lessons Learnt

- Raising the Bar document 1, Plant and Equipment, and document 7 Overhead Structures and Service Protection should be considered.
- Further guidance and specific case studies are available within the Overhead Protection campaign in the initiatives folder also found on the H&S hub alongside the Raising the Bar documents.
- <https://www.highwaysafetyhub.com>

If you have any queries about this safety alert information announcement or any other safety announcement then please contact [Steve.Garrod@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:Steve.Garrod@highwaysengland.co.uk)

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## INFORMATION



# Safety Alert Faulty DNO Cabinet

24 June 2021

## Background information

On 15 April 2021 during a planned visit by a BMJV sub-contractors, it was identified that a 600c electrical cabinet was faulty with heat and burn damage to cables, which in turn, was sending 240v through the outside cabinet.

## Immediate actions taken

- Incident reported and investigation began
- All outgoing circuits from the cabinet were isolated to reduce the risk of electric shock
- Checks of the internal wiring to determine the cause of the fault were completed

## Findings

The investigation found the electrical interface unit, situated on the project boundary was faulty and the neutral conductor had become live.

This fault led to the external cabinet being live to 240 volts.

Further checks were made and identified that, the incoming DNO (Distribution Network Operator) supply cables were both live and neutral conductors were both carrying a supply voltage.



## Lessons Learnt

The following are the recommended checks that electricians / technicians who interface with electrical cabinets, should do:

- A Non-Contact voltage detector should be used to check if the shell of the metal cabinet is live
- Once satisfied that the cabinet is not live, open the doors and remove the covers to the MCX0164 box
- Using an approved voltage tester and proving unit; check polarity and voltage present on the correct conductors
- Close up covers and doors
- Record and leave site

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If you have any queries about this safety alert information announcement or any other safety announcement then please contact [Ian.McMillan@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:Ian.McMillan@highwaysengland.co.uk)

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