

M25 lifecycle and COFA frameworks one million hours riddor free

Connect Plus working in collaboration with Highways England, Connect Plus Services and their industry partners (including Temporal Consulting, Aggregate Industries, Balfour Beatty, BAM Nuttall, Jackson Civil Engineering, Lafarge Tarmac, Osborne, Skanska) recorded one million hours RIDDOR-free in June 2015.

The achievement, over 18 months of work, has been underpinned with good quality collaborative relationships, best practice sharing and lessons learned workshops. To support this way of working Connect plus use

- Mock-up trials of planned works to identify safer ways of working
- Collaborative forums to develop and share best practice, innovation and lessons learnt including safety
- Clear and transparent work allocation and contract administration methods

- Early contractor involvement from feasibility stage
- Annual performance reviews aligned to the balanced scorecard to drive continual improvement in all areas.

This joint approach to development has created an integrated community and unique relationships based on trust and mutual respect between Connect plus and its partners. Solutions to problems are developed by the community, trials are run jointly between first, second and third tier suppliers. This way of working maximises contributions from all partners in respect of design, buildability, safety and environment. It has enabled the whole community to become a learning organisation which shares best practice, innovation and lessons learned.

Connect Plus has achieved the delivery of key projects for Highways England including

Dartcharge and the M4 elevated strengthening. In addition, the framework has achieved BS11000 accreditation for collaborative business relationships.

“Safety should never be taken for granted”, says Connect Plus chief executive Tim Jones. “The safety culture all parties share has contributed to this achievement”.



Occupational health campaign focusses on personal wellbeing in September

Thank you to all who have embraced the blood pressure campaign over the last month, we have seen skipathon challenges, CPR training and blood pressure testing, all enabling people to proactively manage their health. During September we aim to build on blood pressure campaigns widening to other aspects of personal wellbeing.

The microsite highwayssafetyhub.com provides links to resources on a variety of subjects including hydration, healthy eating, mental health and cancer awareness. The topics are provided to enable a subject relevant to your contract to be selected. Please choose one topic to promote on your contract during September. The resources will remain online for future use.

Be healthy and have fun in the process!
Promoting exercise and five pieces of fruit or vegetables a day with a smoothie making bike.

Fit for work service introduced to aid employers, employees and GPs

Employees who have been on sickness absence will have a much quicker and smoother return to work thanks to a new support service which is now available across the whole of England.

Fit for work is a free and confidential scheme which will provide the services of occupational health professionals to employed people if they have been, or are likely to be, off work for four weeks or more.

Independent research has identified that, without adequate support, a significant proportion of employees will struggle to return to their jobs following extended absences.

For further details please view <http://fitforwork.org>



Wild parsnip hazard

Wild parsnip grows alongside railways and highways and poses a significant risk if it comes in contact with skin. It grows up to 1.5m tall and its yellow/green flowers produce sap which can cause human skin to react to sunlight, resulting in burns, rashes or blisters.

Wherever possible contact with the plant and its sap should be avoided, however if you can't eliminate working in an area where wild parsnip is present, cover any areas of skin that may come into contact with it with appropriate PPE and ensure good hygiene is adopted

For further details and advice on plant dangers please view the following website:
www.nhs.uk/Plant-dangers-garden-countryside

Technology eliminates working at height

The M1 construction team are using innovation in form of a pole camera system to detect and identify nesting birds prior to vegetation clearance. The pole camera system eliminates the need to work at height and enables works to progress where nests are no longer in use. Although the innovation eliminates work at height risks considerations should be given to using the equipment in high winds or in proximity to overhead utilities and structures.



Highways England alerts issued this month are:

Guidance: Stability of reinforcement cages prior to concreting
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/highways-agency-safety-alerts/stability-of-reinforcement-cages-prior-to-concreting>

Previous Safety Alerts can be found here
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/highways-agency-safety-alerts>

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