

Missing manhole cover - Injury to member of the public

SafetyAlert

January 2016

Incident description:

A vehicle broke down on the network and whilst awaiting recovery the occupants moved to an adjacent embankment for their safety. A member of the public stood on a raised manhole ring on the top of the embankment which was covered by timber boarding. The boarding gave way and the individual fell approximately 8 metres to the bottom of the chamber suffering serious potentially life changing injuries including multiple fractures.



(Post Incident)



(Made Safe)

Investigation/findings:

The manhole is owned by a 3rd party utility company. An investigation is ongoing and further information will follow.

Actions:

- Service providers to be aware of 3rd party assets on the strategic road network
- Where undertaking maintenance work including grass cutting, litter picking etc. on verges and embankments ensure risk assessments and method statements (RAMS) include reference to any 3rd party assets and specific hazards
- Walk the site prior to commencing work activity to ensure all hazards have been identified in the RAMS
- Report any hazards immediately and make safe
- Brief all relevant staff on this incident

Further Information:

For more information about this incident please contact Ross Kennedy, H&S Team, Professional & Technical Services. 0300 4702479 or email

ross.kennedy@highwaysengland.co.uk

Information about alerts process contact PTSPprogrammeOffice@highwaysengland.co.uk