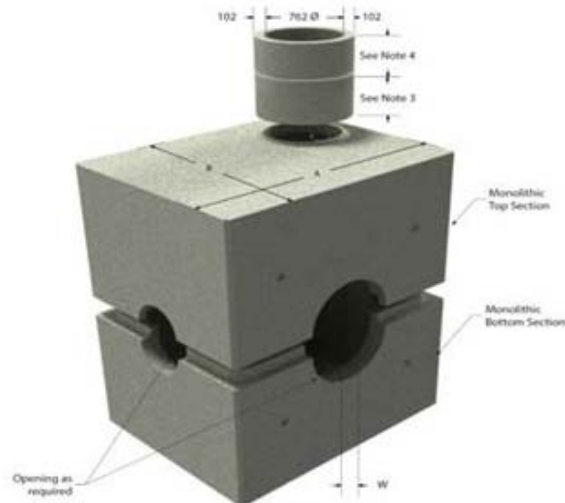


Managing risks to health

Action 73 of the 5 Year Health and Safety Plan relates to long term health risks. In the October edition of this briefing we detailed that a new Raising the Bar (No.33) had been completed in relation to Occupational Cancers. In addition the Raising the Bar documents relating to Manual Handling (No.8) and Dust (No.18) have now also been revised.

Both documents received revised branding to move from Highways Agency to Highways England and now include new case studies. Manual Handling now includes an additional case study in relation to lightweight sand bags whilst the guidance on Dust now includes examples of pre-cast chambers used to eliminate the cutting of concrete drainage rings on site.



These and other 'Raising the Bar' documents can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/health-and-safety-for-major-road-schemes-raising-the-bar-initiative>



Did your suggestion make the gritter fleet? find out on page 3

Highways England alerts

There are no new safety alerts this month, previous alerts can be found at: www.highwayssafetyhub.com/alerts.html

When it rains it kills: warning to drivers



Drivers are being urged to slow down when it's raining after almost 3,000 people were killed or seriously injured when driving in the rain last year.

Highways England is launching a new safety campaign warning drivers that 'when it rains, it kills' after the latest statistics showed that people are 30 times more likely to be killed or seriously injured on the roads in rain than in snow.

The figures also reveal that travelling too fast for the conditions was identified as a factor in 1 in 9 road deaths in Great Britain last year, with drivers failing to alter how they drive in response to changing conditions on the road.

Highways England is warning that even driving within the speed limit in wet weather could be dangerous if drivers don't allow extra space between them and the vehicle in front. And the message is being reinforced with rain-activated paint messages visible to people leaving motorway services when it is raining.

A new road safety video has also been produced, which shows rain falling inside the home of a family imagined to have been involved in a serious road collision.

Highways England's Head of Road Safety, Richard Leonard, said:

Most of us already slowdown in snow, ice or fog but when it rains we consider it normal so don't adapt our driving.

The sad fact is that 2,918 people were killed or seriously injured on the roads when it was raining last year, and not slowing down to suit the current conditions was identified as a factor in 1 in 9 of all road deaths.

Rain makes it harder for tyres to grip the road and harder for drivers to see ahead – significantly increasing the chances of being involved in a collision. We've launched our new campaign to make drivers aware of the dangers and to stay safe.



It generally takes at least twice as long to stop on a wet road as on a dry road because tyres have less grip on the surface. In wet weather you should:

- Slow down if the rain and spray from vehicles is making it difficult to see and be seen
- Keep well back from the vehicle in front as this will increase your ability to see and plan ahead
- Ease off the accelerator and slow down gradually if the steering becomes unresponsive as it probably means that water is preventing the tyres from gripping the road

In total, 197 people lost their lives on roads during rainfall in Great Britain last year and 2,721 suffered a serious injury, compared to 14 deaths and 153 serious injuries during fog, and 2 deaths and 95 serious injuries during snow.

Highways England is aiming to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on England's motorways and major A roads by 40% by 2020 through road improvements, safety campaigns and other initiatives.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/when-it-rains-it-kills-warning-to-drivers>

M25 Gritter fleet named

Connect Plus Services, which operates the M25 road network on behalf of Highways England, has named its gritter fleet after asking its customers and schools to come up with ideas.

The organisation has 35 gritters, sprayers and snow ploughs based at eight winter service depots across the M25 road network and is on standby 24/7 throughout the winter months to keep the motorway and its major trunk road connections running. “With 166 qualified drivers, they are ready to spring into action as soon as the roads need treating,” it says.

“We were delighted by the response” says managing director Brian Johns. “We received more than 200 suggestions from local schools, our customers and staff.”

Suggestions included:

- Ready Salted
- Everest
- Gritney Houston
- The Grit Escape
- Gritterball



The newly named winter fleet

Polar Express	Dartford, Kent
Gruffalo Gritter	Blunts Farm, Essex
Snow Surrender	Denham, Buckinghamshire
Blizzard Basher	Leatherhead, Surrey
Sir Gritalot	Swanley, Kent
Gritty Gritty Bang Bang	Scratchwood, Greater London
Salt-a-saurus	South Mimms, Hertfordshire
Roger Spreaderer	Sunbury, Surrey

Intelligent PPE Innovation

Ongrade and Visijax have launched the newest addition to wearable anti-collision technology. Visijax high-visibility jackets light up to warn the wearer and oncoming vehicles of their proximity to each other.

As part of the innovation the Ongrade’s SiteZone radio-frequency identification (RFID) proximity warning alarm system is integrated across the full range of Visijax PPE jackets and vests, which feature embedded washable electronics to enhance worker safety.

Like SiteZone, the Visijax garments contain a two-way RFID warning device; transmitters contained within both the vehicle and the worker’s high-visibility jacket or

vest communicate with each other, providing a full 360° detection zone and the ability to see around corners.

The vehicle’s on-board receiver detects the location of RFID tag-wearing personnel and alerts the driver and worker to each other’s presence to prevent a collision between the two.

The technology adds a visual dimension to the proximity warning system so the wearer is instantly warned and identifiable by vibration, sight, and by sound.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.wearable-technology/index.php/contact>



Traffex – Registration now open

The 2017 Traffex event will be held at the National Exhibition Centre from 4th – 6th April 2017. This year's event promises to be re-energised, bigger and with more content than ever before. Organised in association with the DfT, Highways England, CIHT, IHE, ITS and Adept.

Over 350 suppliers will showcase 1,000s of new ideas, new technologies and new ways of working and offer countless networking opportunities. New features include high-level 'Director Briefings', 'Industry Round Tables' and the 'Traffex Smart Street', which will bring your local urban environment into the middle of the exhibition.

Delegate admittance is free.

Further information and registration can be found at:

<https://registration.n200.com/survey/0s16e7edp8cvz?actioncode=LNEM1>



New cross-industry commitment agreed to tackle silica dust

Industry leaders, academics and safety and health experts committed on 22nd December to a 12-month plan of action to tackle one of the enduring threats to people's health at work.

Representatives from the construction, rail and mineral products sectors will join trade and health bodies, researchers and regulators in 2017 in raising awareness of, and taking preventative action against, harmful exposures to respirable crystalline silica (RCS).

RCS, or silica dust, is commonplace in industries that work with rocks, sand and clay, and products such as bricks and concrete, but significant exposure can cause silicosis and lung cancer.

Simple controls can prevent deadly exposure but studies have found that tens of thousands of people are still dying each year worldwide from occupational cancer caused by RCS.

Participants in the talks have signed a global commitment that will see businesses and hundreds of thousands of working people receive new information and advice on how to protect themselves, from exposure to silica dust.



Representatives from the UK's Health and Safety Executive, the Office of Road and Rail (ORR), Crossrail Ltd, the Mineral Products Association and Unite the Union are among those to have joined IOSH in signing the commitment.

It has also been backed by representatives of the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS), Network Rail, Park Health and Safety Partnership, Tideway, International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH), from Singapore the Workplace Safety and Health Institute, and experts at Imperial College London and Institute of Occupational Medicine (IOM).

The signatories have agreed:

- To work together to reduce exposure to RCS through effective monitoring and management of dust
- To increase awareness and understanding of the potential health risks associated with exposure to RCS in order to change attitudes and behaviours
- To share good practice on the management of RCS across industry sectors

The agreement details a range of planned activities, including promotional work, sharing of good practice and educational activities. The group has agreed to meet again in November 2017 to review progress against the three main objectives.

Further information can be found at: www.notimetolose.org.uk

Highways safety hub

The highways safety hub website www.highwaysafetyhub.com is available for use by all parties wishing to view current information, guidance, best practice, safety alerts and current Highways campaigns connected with Health, Safety and wellbeing.

The site offers specific Highways information and has links to useful information, such as Raising the bar guidance, health and safety toolkits,

Blue Star initiatives and numerous case studies and links to Health, Safety and wellbeing initiatives.

Contributing to the site's development and information resources are the following champions who would be happy to help with any topics within their defined area to improve health, safety and wellbeing and share good practice and innovations further in to the highways community:

Champion Contact Details;

Occupational Health & Wellbeing:	Ian.Nixon@costain.com	07920 494267
Plant / Managing Risks	Mark.Lowe@BAMNuttall.co.uk	07802358602
Road User / H&S Performance	James.Bird@Kier.co.uk	07825 316136
Services / Leadership & Culture	Liz.Brathwaite@skanska.co.uk	07718 164395
Overhead Hazards / Managing Risks	Ray.Bentley@morgansindall.com	07771 653560
Competent People	Mark.Bridges3@carillionplc.com	07766 60288
Communication / Engagement	Chris.english@balfourbeatty.com	07891494475



Highways Safety Hub Resources



What are you looking for? enter your search here:

NEWS

November Briefing

The latest hub construction & maintenance H,S & W briefing is available here; <http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/delivery-hub-health-safety-briefings>

Plant Person Interface

A site dumper visibility study and a shocking near miss video have been added to the plant person interface page here.

M1 Fatality

At the M1 Junction 19-16 Smart Motorway project on the 10th October a fatal accident occurred when a 6 tonne forward tipping dumper struck a fellow worker. An investigation is underway and the investigation team has been appointed. The alert can be found here.

Occupational Cancer Guidance

Raising the bar guidance on occupational cancers has been produced and has been published on gov.uk.

Resources added to health & wellbeing page

Additional resources have been added to the health and wellbeing page which can be used to support European Healthy Workplaces events in October.

Falls From Vehicles Campaign Launches September 2016

This month we are launching a campaign focusing on falls from vehicles and plant. Please review our dedicated page which contains a variety of material including toolbox talks, videos, alerts and posters you can use to highlight this all too common source of injury.

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