

Serious incident, M1 J16 message from Peter Adams



"I am afraid I have a very tragic incident to share with you.

On Monday morning, 10 October, we lost a supply chain colleague, Robert English.

Robert was helping us convert a stretch of the M1 into a smart motorway. He was the supervisor for a gang upgrading the drainage, so that in the future, what was the hard shoulder will be kept clear of rain water.

We do not yet know the full details and an investigation has been launched. However, what we do understand is that a front loading dumper truck passed the area where Robert was working and struck him. Despite the air ambulance arriving soon after, Robert sadly passed away at the scene.

On hearing this devastating news, I left London to join the team on site near Rugby.

I was joined by the programme director for smart motorways, members from his team, and by the managing directors / chief executives of Costain and GallifordTry. Our point of going to site was to give our support to the team.

On arriving, the emotional impact on so many people was very apparent. We stressed the importance of taking the time they need to come to terms with the emotional trauma, both for them as individuals and for their teams, and that this was more important than thinking about restarting works on site. All construction work on site was stood down following the incident. Professional counselling support is being provided.

We also met with the owner of the company who was undertaking the drainage work as a sub-contract to the Costain and GallifordTry joint venture, for whom this loss had come as a devastating shock.

Our thoughts turned to supporting Robert's family. As I understand, Robert was 47 and leaves behind a wife and three young girls. And it is this fact that makes this tragedy even more personal to me. I am a year younger than Robert. I have two boys of a similar age. When I got home on Monday night and talked to my boys about what had happened, both were moved by just how quickly and dramatically all our lives could change when things just do not go the way they should.

So for me, the smart motorway team, our suppliers, and I hope for you too, we all still need to work together and find ways to prevent these tragic incidents from happening again.

Peter"

**A safety alert relating to
the incident can be found at:**

<http://www.highwayssafetyhub.com/alerts.html>

European Health and Safety week engagement

To mark European Health and Safety Week (24th–28th October) many events were held across the country in Highways England and supply partner locations. This supports Action 118 in the Health and Safety 5 Year Plan. Here are a couple of examples of events held;

In Ash House, Exeter Kier's health and wellbeing specialist Carol Wells held a roadshow and Cheryl Munday carried out mini health checks. The response was excellent with Cheryl being fully booked for the whole day. Phil Wright also attended from CSSC Sports and Leisure to explain the many benefits available to Highways England and co-located supplier members. Details can be found here; <https://www.cssc.co.uk/>. Balfour Beatty HS&E Advisor Cat Frost, attended the Highways England office in Guildford

and delivered two health and safety presentations. The presentations promoted the divisions health and wellbeing campaign 'Beware October' which focuses on seasonal changes in October and the winter months which can have serious effects on our health and wellbeing.

There were two 30-minute interactive engagement presentations covering heart attacks, heart health, tiredness and seasonal affective disorder, with tips for staying healthy in autumn and October. Following the presentations attendees made commitments to health and wellbeing which can improve heart health, tiredness and seasonal affective disorder, such as lunch time or early evening walks which reduces the risk of developing heart disease and increases energy levels.



Occupational Cancers – Raising The Bar 33

The institute of occupational safety and health report that cancer caused by work claims 666,000 lives a year worldwide, this equates to one death every 47 seconds.

Cancer can be caused by a variety of harmful substances, some are widely publicised, for example asbestos, whilst others may be less obvious – stone dust, coal tar, pitches, diesel fumes, solar radiation, metalworking fluids, mineral oils, pesticides, varnishes, paint spraying or some forms of MDF. Recent research shows that even particular circumstances at work can cause cancer – for example, several studies suggest a link between breast cancer and women who do certain types of shift work for many years. The following table provides examples of some occupational cancers and UK deaths in 2005.

The hub Health and Safety group has produced guidance on this subject which is due to be published, a preview can be found here; <http://www.highwaysafetyhub.com/raising-the-bar-guidance.html>



Highways UK to feature exclusive free Mock Trial Presentation

Over Lunch on Wednesday 16th November at the Highways UK event being held at NEC Birmingham an exclusive Mock Trial Presentation will be presented at the Highways England Theatre.

Duty of Care experts Turner Kenworthy will be presenting one of their unique mock trials for senior managers and directors of contractors in the Highways England supply chain. If you've seen a mock trial before, it won't have been like this!

This bespoke presentation was originally created for M25 contractor Connect Plus Services, for use as a training tool across the business to illustrate the importance of safe decision making, correct briefing and following safe working practices correctly. Connect Plus Services have kindly given their permission for this presentation to be shown at Highways UK 2016.

Over 90 minutes, starting at 11.30am, the cast of professional actors mixed with real magistrates and barristers, will recreate what can happen when poor decision making on a network maintenance project leads to the death of a repair operative and life changing injuries to a road user.

The fictitious scenario centres around a shared closure with multiple contractors working a night shift.

A number of simple but common mistakes by supervisors, operatives and subcontractors combine with an incursion to produce an outcome which is the nightmare of many an employer in the highways services sector. The presentation will show the events leading up to the incident with video reconstructions, details of the subsequent police investigation, and the prosecution itself – all building towards a verdict by the court jury.

If you are a director or senior manager of a contractor operating in the Highways England supply chain, this is not a presentation you will want to miss.

Further details and booking information can be found at:

<http://www.turnerkenworthy.com/highways-uk/>



In Pursuit of Silence Film Launched

The film "In Pursuit of Silence" tells the story of our relationship with silence, sound and the impact of noise on our lives it links in to action 73 of the Highways England 5 year plan and raises awareness about the importance of unwanted sound and what can be done about it.

The film will be screened in cinemas in October and November 2016 and is also available to download.

The film runs for four minutes and can be used for tool box talks and employee engagement sessions.

Further information can be found at:

<http://inpursuitofsilence.co.uk/>



**New Safety Alerts this month:
HE 178 - Plant Person Interface**

This and previous Safety Alerts can be found at: <http://www.highwaysafetyhub.com/alerts.html>

Send your best practice, alerts and news to SmartMotorways@highwaysengland.co.uk

Join in the conversation at Highways UK

Highways England is once again playing a pivotal role in this year's Highways UK event, taking place at the NEC Birmingham on 16–17 November.

Now in its second year, the event is fast becoming the major event for the people and organisations involved in the planning, operation and future-proofing of the UK's road network to come together – with Highways England taking centre stage. Lisa Wand, our new head of corporate events explains:

This is our flagship event of 2016 and presents us with an important opportunity to engage with our key audiences, building on our strategy to increase our exposure at key industry events. From engaging with visitors on our stand to supporting the extensive speaker programme, we will be involved in nearly every element of the conference.

The exhibition and some of the briefings are free to attend, so I would encourage you to make the most of the event, especially our Birmingham-based colleagues.

Again, we will support the extensive speaker programme with keynote speeches and presentations on a wide range of subjects from Jim O'Sullivan, David O'Neil, Tony Malone and Phil Ellis.

Our large exhibition stand is being designed primarily as a meeting place to support 1-2-1 conversations with visitors over a fresh cup of coffee, so let our events team know if you are interested in arranging meetings with your senior clients, so they can make the necessary arrangements. We will also host our inaugural national stakeholder briefing in a private room on the first day, and on day two we will hold a briefing for around 100 supply chain communications managers with a view to getting them on board with our ongoing marketing campaigns.

Outside we will promote 'operation tramline', the HGV road safety project, using our Highways England HGV safety cab to display safety messages. General attendance to the event is free of charge and requires delegate registration. Further information and registering for tickets can be obtained at: www.highways-uk.com



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Registered office Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ. Highways England Company Limited registered in England and Wales number 09346363

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