

Falls From Vehicles Campaign September 2016

Over the past two years Highways England has seen a rise in the number of falls from road and plant vehicles resulting in 12 RIDDOR reportable injuries, representing 13% of the total. These have included three broken legs, three broken ankles a fractured wrist and five serious sprains. Seven of these incidents involved traffic management operatives. Many of these incidents have occurred when people egress vehicles on to uneven ground including planed edges, kerbs, debris and excavations. Other causal factors have included inadequate planning, poorly designed vehicle access, equipment maintenance, poor housekeeping, drivers 'jumping' down from vehicles and poor lighting. With this in mind please ensure you are doing all you can to mitigate this risk. Most of these accidents can be avoided if everyone on site does their bit to make the workplace safer.

The latest campaign, available for use from September 2016 is championed by bmJV and Highways England, with focus on common hazards and suitable controls, is to cover "Falls from vehicles"

Resources including videos, presentations, posters and toolbox talks which are available on the hub H&S website <http://www.highwayssafetyhub.com/falls-from-vehicles.html>, they aim to raise awareness of common and often repeat issues presented during access to and exit from vehicles, items of mobile plant equipment and the beds of trailers.



Highways England alerts
No new Safety Alerts this month

Previous Safety Alerts can be found at:
<http://www.highwayssafetyhub.com/alerts.html>

Safety helmet colours

Following an extensive consultation with Major Projects and Operations delivery partners / service providers it has been agreed that when a site defines hard hat colours they should align with the BuildUK standard.

The agreement is that Highways England construction and maintenance sites that adopt a helmet colour code for specific roles are to use the following colours from 1 January 2017. This guide aligns to BuildUK and Network Rail requirements.

- Reflective markings and role specific helmet decals are permitted;



First Aid



Fire Marshall

- Coloured high visibility vests are permitted to identify other roles e.g. vehicle marshall
- Helmets must meet BS EN 397
- Network Rails PPE standard allows only white and blue helmets.

A raising the bar guidance document is due to be published in September



Black Site Supervisors



Orange Slinger / Signaller



White – General Use (Including sites where colour coding impractical), Manager, Client (Highways England), Competent Operative



Blue – Inexperienced Person / Visitor

New film identifying how stress can endanger workers' lives

A powerful new film launched by the British Safety Council shows how stress can lead to injury and fatalities at work. In any activity where concentration is vital for safety, such as working in construction or driving, stress can be fatal.

Stress is often discussed in relation to sickness absence. However, it is less reported how it can endanger lives. Some research shows that up to 80% of accidents are related to stress at work. Whether it is work-related stress or stress that people bring to work, stress can put at risk the safety of both employees and members of the public.

According to the Health and Safety Executive, in 2014/15, some 440,000 people in the UK reported work-related stress at a level they believed was making them ill – representing 40% of all work-related illness.

Information accompanying the film reinforces this message. It describes common symptoms of stress and actions that employees can take to reduce stress. The film is part of the British Safety Council's 'Speak Up, Stay Safe' campaign, targeted at younger employees to raise their awareness of risks at work. It is the first time the campaign has tackled stress.

More information and a link to the video can be found at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5WIXWGxLAI>



Lean approach helps West Yorkshire Smart Motorways cLean up at constructing excellence awards

At the Constructing Excellence Yorkshire and Humber Awards the combined projects the M1 J39-42 Smart Motorway and the M62 J25-30 Smart Motorway won the Value category (top image), the M1 J39-42 project won the Safety category (bottom image) and the supplier bmJV (Bam Nuttall Morgan Sindall Joint Venture) was highly commended in the Leadership and Development category.

One of the aspects which helped the West Yorkshire Smart Motorway programme to achieve these awards was its use of lean thinking. Lean is an approach which focuses on value and eliminating waste, with people collaborating with one another to make the most of their abilities and knowledge and to continuously improve the way they work.

Using lean collaborative planning and lean efficiencies helped the M62 J26-30 to make a £56m (27%) saving between the scheme budget and the target price, and for £7.5m of additional works to be completed with no impact on the programme, making a saving of 10 weeks. The scheme was fully open to traffic two months in advance of the contract completion date. The M1 J39-42 Concrete Step Barrier works were completed nine weeks ahead of programme with £3.4m worth of savings and £2.65m additional work undertaken with no impact on scheme completion, saving the equivalent of four weeks.

The M1 J39-42 All Lane Running works had £25.5m additional works undertaken, saving the equivalent of 29 carriage occupation weeks. Through collaboration and negotiation, fixed taper signs took nine weeks to complete, rather than 21, making a saving of 12 weeks.

However, lean is more than just making efficiencies. Among many measures taken on M1 J39-42 to promote safety, one was the use of lean to create a safer working environment. Lean planning sessions and production meetings allowed for shared understanding of constraints and issues, so reducing health and safety risk through improved communications. The savings to programme which lean helped to achieve also reduced the impact of the works on road users.

Lean is also about culture and leadership and maximising potential. bmJV were highly commended for the training and development of all workers on site for M1 J39-42, including those in their supply chain.

For more details on lean visit:

[Lean In Highways England <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/use-of-lean-in-highways-england>](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/use-of-lean-in-highways-england) and [Lean Health and Safety Guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-safety-for-major-road-schemes-lean-health-safety>](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-safety-for-major-road-schemes-lean-health-safety)



Highways England Recognition Scheme Open for Nominations

Highways England recognition scheme is open to all suppliers; including joint ventures, designers/consultants, and the extended supply chain (i.e. not in direct contract with Highways England but work in the supply chain on a Highways England project) including Small Medium Enterprises. There is no limit to the number of categories you can make a submission under, providing it is relevant to each category.

The number of awards allocated will be flexible for each category and, in addition to winners, we will be seeking to provide “highly commended” where appropriate. Winning and highly commended entries will be celebrated in January 2017.

The award categories for supply chain activity and/or specific Highways England projects are:

- Building capacity and capability
- Communities
- Customer experience
- Delivering sustainable and environmental solutions
- Inclusion
- Managing down cost/improving value
- Safety, health and wellbeing public/road user safety
- Road worker safety
- Occupational health and wellbeing
- Supply chain management

Email submissions by 12 noon on 21st September 2016 to ssd@highwaysengland.co.uk. Submissions received after this time will not be included.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supplier-recognition-scheme-2016-guidance-and-application-forms>

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

Road worker abuse getting worse

Contractors are being urged to collate and report all incidents of road worker abuse to reveal the true scale of what is believed to be a growing problem.

The Highways Term Maintenance Association (HTMA), is requesting data to enable the industry, the public and the police to be alerted to the issue, and action taken to reverse the trend.

The HTMA's latest figures show that 347 incidents of abuse were reported when just 10 of the 23 companies which belong to the association were asked. Of those incidents, 267 were in the form of swearing, shouting, hand gestures and face-to-face threatening, but with no physical violence.

The others involved more shocking assaults including shootings with guns and air rifles; the throwing of items such as screwdrivers or fridges at workers; and kicking, punching or beating male and female operatives – in one case with baseball bats.

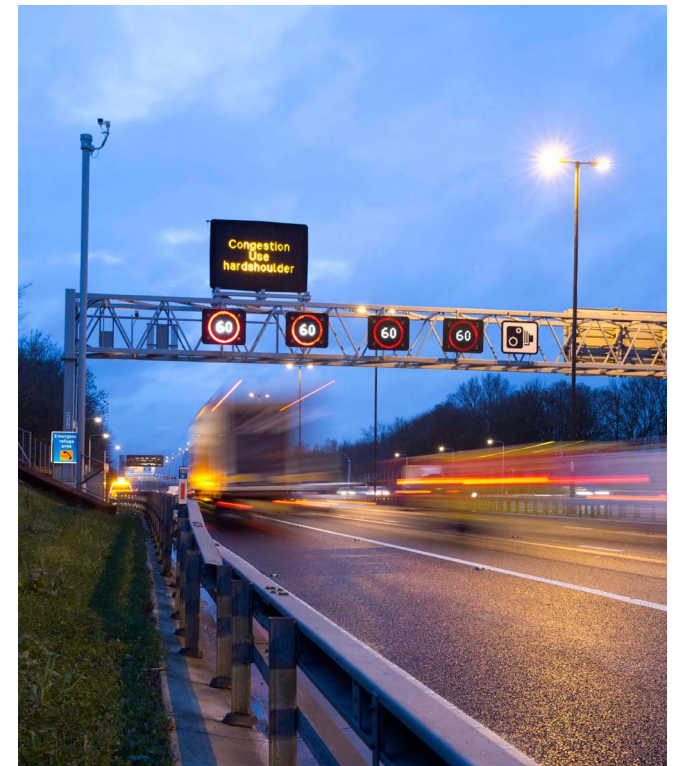
In 2007, an RAC Foundation survey found that 80% of road workers had been physically or verbally abused by motorists and 40% of workers were abused on a daily or weekly basis. However, the perception is that things are getting worse.

‘We need a lot more data from each of our individual companies,’ said HTMA executive director Geoff Allister. ‘We believe that there is under-reporting and, for the public and police to

see the scale and seriousness of the issue, the data we are calling on our members to provide is essential.

‘Equally, the acceptance that ‘you are working on the roads and should expect abuse’ should not be the culture. It is vital that workers and companies report everything, including behaviour that they think goes with the territory – it does not and it is not part of the job.’

HTMA Information <http://www.htma.info/utilities/site-search.html?s=abuse>



Legislation surrounding invasive crayfish species

The M3 Smart Motorway Scheme has large stretches of carriageway that passes through wetland areas. During a drainage ditch refurbishment and the installation of a culvert it was discovered that invasive signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) had taken up residence in the location. These species are classed as invasive under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and threaten our native, and now rare, white-clawed crayfish (*Austroptamobius pallipes*). Any signal crayfish caught in the area were dispatched humanely, and operatives briefed on what to do if any crayfish were accidentally removed, i.e. during excavations.

Many operatives were not aware of the legislation surrounding invasive crayfish species. A poster has been created for use in training rooms, in welfare cabinets, etc., on the identification of native and non-native species and who to contact if sighted. These have been provided for operatives, and toolbox talks have been developed for employee communications when working in draining ditches etc.

More information can be obtained through contact with:
Kate Platts M3 Smart Motorway Environmental Manager
katharine.platts@balfourbeatty.com

M3 Ecology - Crayfish

INVASIVE - Signal Crayfish



- Classed as invasive under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- An offence to release back into the wild if caught.
- Denser colouration, and thick claws with **RED** undersides.
- Damages banks and carries diseases that kill off native crayfish.
- Confirmed presence on the M3 at the Basing Area.

PROTECTED - White-clawed Crayfish



- A protected native species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- An offence to capture, harm, kill or destroy white-clawed crayfish habitat.
- Usually a lighter brown colouration, and claws are dirty white to pink.
- Now a rare species in the UK due to habitat loss and signal crayfish.

Crayfish may be in drainage ditches and any other water sources. Please DO NOT CATCH either species, and call Jamie Neaves the ecologist (07584317524).

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