

## Title description: Slips, trips and falls on the same level

**Slips, trips and falls on the same level** resulted in 3 injuries Reportable to the HSE under RIDDOR between August and October 2014, one at the M62/J18-19 Air Quality Barrier scheme (in Greater Manchester) and 2 on the M1/J39-42 Smart Motorway scheme (in West Yorkshire)

**No. 1 - Reportable Over 7-Day injury on Tues 26 Aug 14 (dayshift)**

A Site Supervisor (IP) sustained ligament damage to his Left Ankle

- Whilst walking along a line of PCC base units (see photo 1, right), IP tripped after stepping on a shallow recess (20mm deep) in the concrete surface, which caused him to stumble and fall, turning his Left Ankle over in the process
- The resultant injury prevented him from carrying out his normal duties for a period of 12 calendar days, making his injury Reportable to the HSE

**No. 2 - Reportable Major injury on Fri 19 Sep 14 (dayshift)**

A Scaffolder (IP) sustained a Fracture to a Bone in his Right Wrist

- IP was standing at the bottom of a short slope and facing away from the structure when he picked up a scaffold tube from a pallet (see photo 2, right)
- As he turned through 90 Deg to face the structure, he slipped on the dusty ground surface, which caused him to stumble and fall to his knees
- As he put out his Right Hand and Arm to arrest his fall, IP struck a component on the completed scaffold located to his immediate right, sustaining injury to his Right Wrist in the process
- Post injury: The ground surface was recorded as dusty following a period of dry weather

**No. 3 - Reportable Over 7-Day injury on Sun 19 Oct 14 (nightshift)**

A TM operative (IP) sustained injury to his Right Knee

- Whilst attending to an advanced temporary TM warning sign that had fallen over in the verge site, and in poor artificial light, IP tripped over a string line that was taut and level with the carriageway.
- This caused IP to fall forwards, striking his Right Knee on a drain cover constructed in a shallow excavation at ground level, sustaining injury in the process. A trip and fall on the same level.
- The string line had been mistakenly left by others (a dayshift team)
- *Photo to show geographic location of injury not available*

Photo 1 – Reportable O7D injury



IP turned his ankle after stepping on floor surface across 20mm raised concrete edge

Photo 2 – Reportable Major injury



IP slipped on dusty ground surface at location shown, hitting his hand on scaffolding as he stumbled and fell

### Lessons learned

Reminders of the controls that must be in place (Safety basics):

**Safe access and egress** – Effective planning and preparation of work areas to ensure safe routes are produced and then used

**Hazard identification** - Walking of routes to identify and then remove or control hazards prior to commencement of tasks (at least daily)

**Housekeeping** – Good order to be maintained at all times, with work areas left safe and tidy at the end of each shift / completion of tasks

**Barriers and signage** – In place to prevent mistaken or unauthorised access into work areas

**Adequate lighting** – Provided for all work areas to be trafficked by pedestrians (especially during hours of darkness)

**Monitor and review** – During and after periods of dry or inclement weather, following changes to personnel, task and/or safe system of work, and to control interfaces with other operations/teams