

New campaign focuses on hazards of working near live traffic

The current series of campaigns is focussing on Plant and Road vehicle interface. In December we shall be focussing on road user interface.

Working on or near live carriageways is the most hazardous environment for our workforce. Between 2008 and 2012, nine road workers were killed and 122 seriously injured on major roads in England. The HSE report that the average fatality rate for road workers is one of the highest amongst employment sectors.

This campaign has been developed by our delivery partners in support of our 'raising the bar' guidance and also includes videos and examples of industry training and good practice which can be used to highlight the significance of this issue as well as suggesting potential ways to reduce the risk to road workers. All resources will be made available to access here:
<http://www.highwaysafetyhub.com/plant--road-vehicle-interface.html>



Roadworker safety leadership summit

On Wednesday 21st October 2015 the Roadworker Safety Leadership Summit brought together representatives from national and local government together with contractors from the maintenance and major project communities, as well as other stakeholders. Through a collaborative approach, the summit aims to foster relationships between parties that have not previously shared or learnt the lessons from each other before and raise the standards of highways health and safety nationally.

For further details please view the HTMA Website:
<http://www.htma.info/industry-topics/roadworker-safety-leadership-summit.html>

Road **2015**
workers
Stepping up to the health and safety challenge

Slips and Trips in supply chain – action needed

Over the past two months Highways England has noted an increase in the number of slips and trips incidents resulting in RIDDOR reportable injuries.

To successfully tackle these risks our supply chain must ensure proactive safety management on site. In particular several RIDDOR incidents have not been reported at the time of the event. This makes inspection of ground conditions, gathering of witness statements and accurate investigation of primary and root causes difficult. It is essential that all slips and trips are reported at the time of the incident regardless of whether the injured person thinks they have sustained a serious injury or not. At the very least these low level slips and trips should be classified as near misses and investigated accordingly.

All supply chain partners must deliver a tool box talk on the importance of incident reporting particularly in respect of slips and trips incidents by the end of November and report to their Highways England Regional Business Partner progress made on this issue.

Some of the simple things which can be done to reduce the risk of slips and trips on site include:

- Keeping sites and storage areas tidy
- Planning deliveries to minimise the amount of materials on site
- Providing and maintaining safe pedestrian footpaths – level if they become rutted, add stone if they become muddy, grit when icy
- Keep work areas free from obstructions and waste materials
- Provide and maintain adequate waste material storage on site
- Use barriers and covers on holes and excavations into which people could fall

- Where people have to access excavations ensure safe stepped access and egress is provided with hand rails if necessary
- Ensure three points of contact are maintained when getting in and out of vehicles
- Ensure slips and trips are included in all risk assessments and method statements for work activities
- Implement risk assessments and method statements and site rules fully
- Actively challenge and correct any poor behaviour observed
- Further details on best practice solutions can be found in the revised Raising the Bar document; https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/480166/B14_Slips_Trips_Falls_November_2015.pdf
- Highways England's Health & Safety Team will be carrying out targeted site visits focusing on the management of slips and trips within the next few months so please ensure you are doing all you can to mitigate this risk. Most slips and trips accidents can be avoided if everyone on site do their bit to make the workplace safer.



Occupational health campaign reveals health issues

This true story was submitted to the Highways England Hub following our occupational health campaign; “Whilst working on a Major Projects road widening scheme I was given the opportunity to see the OH Nurse, She pointed out that my blood pressure was running a little high, which I wasn’t surprised to hear, she suggested that I attend a Well-Man’s Clinic, I have since learnt that my cholesterol level was seriously high, to the point that I was considered to be at the highest risk level of either a heart attack or stroke, this condition is not diet related but hereditary. I am now on a lifetime course of Statins which hopefully should give me a few more years, I know that if I hadn’t had not taken the opportunity to see the nurse

that day I would have carried on my (shorter) life in complete ignorance of my condition. Unfortunately I have had to tell my 3 sons that they too are also at a higher risk of heart disease and strokes and as such may need to take statins, but it can be controlled if caught early enough” I would urge all those in the industry to attend a Well-Man’s Clinic or Well-Woman’s Clinic for a full health check, particularly those over 40.

For further details on Well Man/Woman clinics please view the NHS Website: <http://www.nhs.uk/chq/Pages/2378.aspx?CategoryID=61>

All resources for the Campaign remain available on the microsite at: <http://www.highwaysafetyhub.com/occupational-health--wellbeing.html>

Don’t wear a hoody under your helmet!

It’s the time of year when the outside temperature begins to fall and workers on site start to wrap up to keep warm. In recent years workers have utilised “hoodies” or “beanie hats” under their safety helmets to keep their head warm. This not only endangers the wearer by compromising the fit of the helmet and its designed properties but also creates a risk to others if the helmet were to fall off of their head from height. Manufacturer approved proprietary helmet liners are now available which offer excellent thermal properties whilst ensuring the best possible fit for safety helmets without compromising on safety



For further details please contact your helmet supplier and view the HSE Website: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/faq-ppe.htm>

Raising The Bar 18 Control of Dust – October 2015

Raising the Bar 18 control of dust issued November 2012 has been revised and updated in line with current best practice.



For further details and to view the updated document please click on: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/health-and-safety-for-major-road-schemes-raising-the-bar-initiative>

New alerts issued this month <http://www.highwaysafetyhub.com/alerts>

HE158 – M3 Motorway Fatal Accident Review

HE159 – Working Safely in Central Reserve

HE160 – Mulcher Broken Leg

HE161 – Slip Trip and Falls in Supply Chain

HE162 – Dumper Overturn

Previous Safety Alerts can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/highways-agency-safety-alerts>

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

HSE Launch Health and Safety statistics for 2014/2015

The Health and Safety Executive have recently released and published the United Kingdom's Health and Safety Statistics for 2014/2015. The statistics identify that there have been:-

- 1.2 million working people suffering from a work-related illness
- 2,538 mesothelioma deaths due to past asbestos exposures (2013)
- 142 workers killed at work
- 76,000 other injuries to employees reported under RIDDOR
- 611,000 injuries occurred at work according to the Labour Force Survey

- 27.3 million working days lost due to work-related illness and workplace injury
- £14.3 billion estimated cost of injuries and ill health from current working conditions (2013/14)

The statistics identify the most frequent causes of workplace injury are manual handling, slips, trips and falls from height with high rates in the construction and transport sectors. For health issue areas are Stress, Musculoskeletal disorders, hand arm vibration disorders, noise induced hearing loss and work related cancers, respiratory, skin and asbestos related diseases.

For further details please view the HSE Website: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/index.htm>

Dust Suppression

The Environmental team at the M3 Smart Motorway (J2-4A) Junction 2-4a project have introduced a dust suppression system as part of the projects batching plant to eliminate dust emissions to local sensitive ecological receptors including bats, nesting birds and wet woodland habitats and to protect the wellbeing of the workforce and neighbouring residents. A recycled water jet system on the walls of the sand and aggregate bays maintains the air quality by removing dust emissions usually emitted into the environment.

Further details can be obtained from: katharine.platts@balfourbeatty.com



We Would Like to Hear From You

Following our August – October Delivery Hub Health and Wellbeing Promotion campaigns we would appreciate feedback to help shape future campaigns. It will only take a few minutes to complete so please provide your feedback by 18th December by following link: <http://goo.gl/forms/q6Z4flkQjF>



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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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