

A message from Peter Adams

Our Chief Executive, Jim O'Sullivan, wrote out to all staff across Highways England to share with them the tragic incident that occurred on Monday morning. Unfortunately I have to advise you that a colleague working for one of our supply chain partners on the M3 Smart Motorway project was fatally injured. He was operating a vacuum excavator and was part of a gang of four installing a new communications duct alongside a slip road on the M3. This is a tragedy of itself but will also have a terrible impact on his family, his friends, work colleagues and those of us in Highways England that knew him or were working on the same scheme.

For all of us this is a reminder that we work in intrinsically hazardous conditions. Lessons will be shared from this tragic incident as soon as they are available, but in the interim I am instructing that all work involving vacuum excavators should be suspended and only re-started once all the points noted in the attached alert have been addressed as part of a safe system of work. Please also consider situations where colleagues are working in hazardous conditions and those times when they could be left on their own and the steps needed to ensure their safety.

Please do feedback to me the actions you have taken as a result of this instruction, in particular issues that may provide useful context to the investigation into this incident and on any actions / changes that you introduced as a result of this review.

This tragedy reinforces our need to continue to reduce the hazards faced on our sites, especially those associated with people and machinery.

Peter Adams
Major Projects Director
Highways England

Highways Agency Alerts issued this month are:

HA150 M3 Fatal Injury Vacuum Excavation
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/highways-agency-safety-alerts>

HE148 – Overturned Telehandler https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/447515/HE148_A21_Overturned_Telehandler_.pdf

HA147 – Gas Service Strike https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/447341/HA147_Gas_Pipe_Strike_Safety_Alert.pdf

HA146 – Cantilever Message Sign https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/446653/Safety_Alert_-_HA146_Dambach_Message_Sign.pdf

Previous Safety Alerts can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/highways-agency-safety-alerts>

Highways England Health and Safety Conference

The ninth Major Projects Health and Safety workshop took place on 8 July at Stadium MK. Over 170 delegates attended the event representing a broad section of the Supply Chain, Highways England representatives and Health and Safety organisations.

Lucy Fell (Highways England Health and Safety Director) opened the event with an overview of the new 5-year strategic health and safety plan, which is due for launch in October 2015.

The plan is centred on 5 golden threads:

- Leadership
- Competence
- Risk management
- Measuring performance
- Engagement

Peter Adams (Major Projects Director) and David Brewer (NDD Director) provided their personal perspective of health and safety and their visions for the future. Jeremy Bird (National Health and Safety Team) provided a review of performance, recent accidents and inspection findings.

During lunch health checks were provided by Road to Health and members of the Highways England Hub team completed poster presentations on campaigns and whole life safety.

The Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) also demonstrated face fit testing equipment.

During the afternoon session delegates considered how elements of the 5 year strategic plan, could be implemented and what constituted current best practice.

Delegates concluded the day by recording their personal commitment to health and safety.



Occupational health and wellbeing campaign launches 1 August

The second Health, Safety and Wellbeing Hub Campaign, Occupational Health and wellbeing Campaign launches on 1 August 2015

This campaign has been developed by the delivery hub to assist companies and individuals to comply with the latest information and industry best practices to promote good health and wellbeing.

Campaign materials, are available to suit the size of the contract and include details on self-delivery or outsourcing.

Campaign delivery options include the distribution of free leaflets, video clips and tool box talks through to British Heart Foundation (BHF) run health and wellbeing days for the larger contracts.

The campaign is themed over the next 3 months:

Month 1 (August) - Healthy Heart and Blood Pressure

Month 2 (September) - Personal Wellbeing, initiatives include;-

Month 3 (October) - Noise and Dust as part of European Health and Safety Week

Further details can be found here <http://www.highwaysafety-hub.com>



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