

Hub H&S Campaign – Overhead Protection



This month's campaign looks at the potentially fatal risk of striking overhead services and structures. We will look at previous incidents and the lessons learnt from them.

The campaign looks at legislation and minimum requirements in place relating to safe travelling of plant and equipment, case studies produced following incidents and systems available for deployment on construction sites and for use with mobile plant, equipment and vehicles.

The resources provide videos, case studies and safe systems of work, as well as aides and reminders to driver/operators, including systems and devices that are either already provided or can be retro fitted.

The campaign can be accessed here;
<http://www.highwaysafetyhub.com/overhead-hazards-april-2018.html>

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

Highways England Health, Safety and Wellbeing Awards Sharing Best Practice

A brochure has been produced detailing the winners and highly commended nominations from the first Highways England 'Health, Safety and Wellbeing Awards'. The brochure offers advice on how to make an improvement to health, safety and wellbeing. Use the contact details provided to find out more information about any of the nominations. The brochure can be accessed here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sharing-best-practice-and-celebrating-success>

Highways England Safety Alerts

HEi049 – Roll Away Vehicles

This and previous alerts are available through the following link

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

Tarmac surfacing safety innovations

When, earlier this year, the HSE published its provisional figures for the number of fatal workplace accidents during 2016/17, falling from height was no longer the biggest killer.

In Great Britain, 25 people died from falls last year; but the main cause of death – accounting for 31 fatalities – was being struck by a moving vehicle.

Working in close proximity to plant and machinery poses a risk for even the most experienced construction operatives. And managing occupational health is particularly challenging for the highways industry, where operatives contend with the danger of ordinary vehicle traffic while working alongside planers, pavers, rollers and delivery trucks.

This is a key area of focus for the industry and something the contracting arm of materials and aggregates company Tarmac has been working on to drive continuous safety improvements.

As part of its effort to reduce risk on site and identify opportunities for improvement, teams across Tarmac's contracting business were asked to come up with ideas that might make sites safer places in which to work. These conversations identified an opportunity to improve the segregation of people and plant.

For more information follow the link;

<https://www.theconstructionindex.co.uk/news/view/shine-a-light>



Motorists caught on film driving through roadworks

Road workers are facing nearly 300 incidents a week of abuse and dangerous driving by motorists.

Research by Highways England has revealed a catalogue of serious incidents and near misses ranging from motorists driving into coned off areas to physical and verbal abuse.

Of almost 3500 incidents recorded between July 2017 until September 2017, 150 were serious, leading to four road workers and two motorists being injured.

Highways England is now calling on road users to be patient if they are delayed by roadworks and to respect road workers doing a difficult job.

The link below will take you to a video showing the unacceptable behaviours that workers are faced with every day.

In it, a driver has been stopped at the site of road works on the A120 in Essex involving two barriers in place for drivers to be allowed through with an escort.

The irresponsible driver had already driven around the initial closure point on the wrong side of the road, then drove at speed to attempt to avoid Essex Police who were supporting Highways England in enforcing the closure.

His actions jeopardised the lives of all those road workers on this stretch of road between Braintree and the A12 at Marks Tey.

Another incident captured on video shows a lorry driving through coned off roadworks on the M1.

<https://www.constructionenquirer.com/2018/05/09/motorists-caught-on-film-driving-through-roadworks/>

IOSH develop a New 5 Year Strategy

A new five-year strategy, "WORK 2022 – shaping the future of safety and health", sets out this vision and defines the steps that we, as an organisation and profession, need to take. We can make a change and improve the workplace – today and in the future. Help us to shape the future of health and safety and to make WORK 2022 a reality

<http://www.ioshwork2022.com/more-information/>



Socio Technical Approach to Road Safety (STARS) Project

A research team led by the University of Southampton, are working on improving road safety thanks to funding from the National Institute for Health Research. Traditional road safety research has been characterised by a focus on the driver and their immediate surroundings, largely in terms of education, enforcement, and engineering. Such narrow scope does not go far enough at providing an holistic and integrated approach to road safety and fails to consider fully the wider system factors that shape the performance of all road users, and hence system outcomes. Although the UK's roads are far safer than they were twenty or thirty years ago, since 2010 we have seen little change in the number of people killed or seriously injured; a fresh approach is needed.

Our project intends to tackle road safety from both a top-down and a bottom-up perspective, taking as its unit of analysis the whole system, from the national and international legal frameworks and standards that shape law and industry down to the social, cultural, and physical environments that shape our way of living.

As part of the project we are conducting a survey of road users, be they pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists, or drivers of any type of motorised vehicle. We are looking to understand the relationships between people's general beliefs, way they think about risk on the road and in wider life, their attitudes towards safety on the road, and how they normally behave when using the UK road system as pedestrian. The ultimate aim is that with a better understanding of the thoughts and behaviours of those that use the road, we can better design road safety interventions to keep them safe.

If you would like to contribute to the results, the survey takes around 15 minutes to complete and asks simple tick box questions/responses. Please use the following link:

<https://www.isurvey.soton.ac.uk/26498>

For any questions about the project please contact Dr Katie Plant k.plant@soton.ac.uk

A14 Project – Mental Health Awareness

The A14 held a mental health awareness week this month. Here is an example of the content;

Make a Promise to Yourself

The A14 IDT considers mental well-being to be as important as physical well-being. There are many things that keep us mentally healthy and recognising the simple things which contribute to this will help you, your family, friends & work colleagues keep the balance right.

During Mental Health Awareness Week, the Occupational Health & Well-being Service

Will distribute leaflets on the subject, with a little gift for you to enjoy. We'll also ask you to make a pledge to yourself to improve some part of your life and stick it on one of the 'pledge boards' we'll set up.

For example, you could promise to take breaks from your vehicle or PC more often; do more exercise; reduce the overtime you work and increase your time at home; use your annual leave entitlement throughout the year; take up yoga: get enough sleep.

Sleep is vital to good mental health. The amount of sleep needed to function well differs from person to person. Prolonged periods of sleep deprivation, or bad quality sleep can very quickly have drastic physical and mental effects, compromising our ability to function safely and effectively. Achieving the recommended amount of sleep for adults (7-9hrs), it is considered the biggest contributor to living well. Sleep well!

For more information contact; ellen.bird@thea14.com

