

HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

Working Close to Live Traffic – Complacency Kills!

Be Aware of Your Surroundings

- Working near traffic (or any danger) for long periods of time can make you forget how dangerous it is, and you may find yourself becoming complacent.
- Be vigilant at all times! Continually remind yourself and your fellow workers of the dangers to which you're exposed, and check that you're not putting yourself or others at unnecessary risk.

Obey All Road Rules

- Keep to the speed limits for the road and the site.
- Take extra care when crossing the road at roadworks – use proper crossing points wherever possible.
- Site traffic entering or leaving the works must not endanger other road users.

Consider Road Users

- Ensure that appropriate warning signs are displayed and correctly positioned.
- Cone off a tapered, lead-in zone to ease traffic movement past the works.
- Erect barriers around all excavations and position lighting for safety at night.
- Allow sufficient footway width for pedestrians to pass, or barrier-off a temporary footway in the road.
- Clear up mud from the road or footway as soon as is practical.
- Carry out work activities which create dust or debris in a manner and location that minimises the effect on road traffic and pedestrians.
- Position plant and equipment so that no part of it (e.g. swinging jibs, planer or excavator arms) encroaches into the safety zone. Fit restrictors if possible.
- Do not stand or store tools, materials, equipment or plant in the safety zone.

Remain Alert

- Do not allow yourself or a fellow worker or passing traffic to become distracted.
- If you need to walk near traffic always have the oncoming traffic facing you; do not walk with your back to the traffic.
- Do not listen to music at any time, and only wear the correct hearing protection when required; hearing warnings is vital to your safety.
- Do not attempt to talk on the phone when you are working near or around traffic, remove yourself to a safe place away from all traffic if you need to talk on the phone.

Personal Safety

- Do not work unless the correct traffic management is in place.
- Ensure that a coned-off safety zone exists around the works (the width of the safety zone depends on the road's speed limit during the works).
- Do not enter the safety zone in the normal course of your work.
- Wear high visibility clothing, safety helmet and safety footwear at all times.
- Wear other PPE that is necessary for the task.
- Wash hazardous substances off exposed skin immediately – wear barrier creams.
- Protect yourself against sunburn – thousands of cases of skin cancer occur each year.
- Take the correct precautions when working in excavations.
- Take the correct precautions when working near overhead or underground services.