

# Bridge Strike

## *Safety Alert*

December 2016

### Description:

On the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 01:30, the deck of a concrete overbridge bridge was struck by the extended boom of a lorry mounted crane (HIAB). The vehicle had just left site in the immediate area and the boom had not been lowered and stored correctly. The driver ignored audible and visual alarms.

Striking bridges is potentially dangerous and expensive. They could result in death or serious injury to road users, and can cause significant structural damage and disruption to the road network.



(Underside of bridge deck showing damage)

### Investigation/ findings:

A full investigation is underway and this alert will be updated and redistributed once the investigation findings are known.

### Actions:

- Drivers have a responsibility to check:
  - The security and safety of the load and equipment prior to moving.
  - The height of the cab.
  - The height of the trailer, its load and equipment.
- Lorry-mounted cranes (HIAB's) must have as a minimum a working audible/visual alarm to indicate to the operator if the equipment is not stowed away.
- Where lorry-mounted crane (HIAB) lifting operations are used for deliveries, ensure that Safe Systems of Work are in place, supported by site-specific lift plans.
- Government guidance in relation to bridge strike prevention can be found at:  
  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevention-of-bridge-strikes-good-practice-guide>
- Where the overall travelling height of a vehicle is over 3m the correct maximum height must be displayed in the cab.

### Further Information:

For further information please call Ross Kennedy on 0300 470 2479 or email [ross.kennedy@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:ross.kennedy@highwaysengland.co.uk)