

Rollaway Vehicles

SafetyAlert

May 2018

Incident description:

During the last few weeks there have been three rollaway vehicles incidents, these have occurred whilst the units have been working on our highways network or worksites.

- Vehicle rolled across live carriageway – A vehicle which was parked on the hard shoulder on of a live motorway in the evening and it rolled out of the hard shoulder works area, across the carriageway. The vehicle was stopped by the central barrier. No one was hurt nor any impact or collision with road users. It is claimed that the handbrake failed.
- Failure to engage handbrake lorry crushing a panel van - Driver of a lorry climbed out of his cab to discuss an issue and failed to engage the handbrake and it rolled into one of their light panel vans nobody was hurt.
- Panel van running into live carriageway – Works vehicle which was parked behind the traffic management rolled along the worksite striking a cone from an access point which stopped the vehicle before it entered the live highway. Nobody was hurt nor any disruption to the road users. Early indication show that the handbrake was not applied.

These incidents have been investigated at a local level within the appropriate company and follow up action taken.

Fortunately, nobody has been injured during these incidents, although the outcome could have been far more serious effecting people on our worksites or road users.

Action:

As vehicle users we know we should apply the handbrake when stationary and many newer vehicles have automatic and handbrakes or alarm system – we just should be using them.

These momentary lapses in concentration whilst undertaking routine tasks are worrying because they have the potential to hurt ourselves or others.

We all have many issues on our mind and it is too easy to be distracted, and the mechanical process of engaging a handbrake can easily be overlooked.

We want you to all reflect upon the recent incidents and consider, whether they could they happen on your projects / worksite, and how they could be prevented from happening again. It is important to remember that we all have individual and collective responsibility for our actions.