

Incident Description

Geophysical surveys were being undertaken on behalf of the MMS JV adjacent to the A47 near Norwich.

Although permission was granted in advance, the team were approached by the farm owner who raised concern that the crops in the field that they were in had recently been sprayed with herbicide.

The farmer advised the surveyors to wash their hands and boots after leaving the land and said that this is sufficient to prevent any health problems.

All surveys in the area were stood down by the MMS JV team until the matter was investigated further.

CoSHH details for the herbicide have since been provided and the manufacturer contacted.

Although there are no serious health risks associated with the diluted product following application, anyone accessing the affected areas have been advised to wash their hands after each visit as a precaution.

Actions

- Project teams must communicate with landowners in advance of site visits to confirm arrangements no more than two days beforehand. (*Farmers may make last minute changes and may not remember scheduled visits*)
- Prior to site visits, risk assessments must be completed and in the presence of any chemicals identified, data sheets are to be obtained and risk (CoSHH) assessments completed.
- Risk assessments must consider the potential health risks associated with land activities such as crop spraying and harvesting, animal movements, shootings, exploding bird scarers and other country activities.