

Near miss involving an errant vehicle on the M2

Safety Alert

November 2018

Background

Whilst undertaking wireless surveys of the M2 corridor between Junctions 2 and 7 an engineer called into the South East Regional Control Centre to report work was complete for the day. During this call the engineer witnessed their unattended site vehicle coasting out from its parked position on the hard shoulder into the carriageway and crossing all four live lanes. The vehicle came to rest clear of lane four within the central reservation facing the opposite direction on the northbound carriageway.

No one was harmed during the incident and no vehicles were damaged. The site vehicle was safely recovered soon after by the engineer under direction of Highways England Traffic Officers using a rolling road block.

The investigation established that the site vehicle was not appropriately parked on the hard shoulder with the steering wheel free to move, the wheels positioned forward and the handbrake not being applied.

Actions undertaken:

- The project team received a refresher on mandatory control procedures, in particular Working On or Near Highways, which covers activities on Highways England Strategic Road Network.
- The engineer has reviewed their H&S training needs and competency checks with their line manager to ensure they are still valid and in date.
- The basic functional aspects of stopping on the Hard Shoulder are being refreshed throughout the business and will include individuals working on the strategic road network undertaking a review of existing controls. This will include the requirement for H&S training “Work on or Beside Live Roads”, which includes vehicle checks, to have been undertaken.
- Risk assessments and method statements have been reviewed and updated to reflect the learning from this event.

