INFORMATION

Safety Alert

Early Removal of TM Closure

18 October 2024

The following page of this safety alert was issued by:

SMP Alliance

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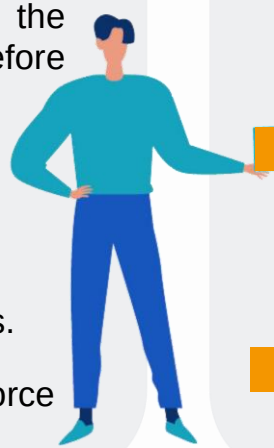
home safe and well

Lessons Learnt – *Early Removal of TM Closure*

Incident

- A surfacing operation was taking place on a nightshift in a full carriageway closure.
- The works had successfully been completed and at around 04:15 the Duty TSCO, Supervisor and TM Supervisor were undertaking their check of the closure prior to removal of TM.
- Site Safe and Clear app notified the TM Supervisor at 04:20 that the closure unit had been removed before the authorisation was granted.
- The closure on the mainline carriageway was removed, re-opening the carriageway to traffic whilst work vehicles were still within the closure carrying out final checks.
- There were no injuries to the workforce or members of the public.



Findings

- During the final checks a wide load approached the closure and was escorted through – this was unexpected.
- This resulted in additional work for the TM Supervisor and prevented regular comms with the wider team.
- The lack of communication lead to the TM Foreman and Supervisor not communicating for 55 minutes. The gateman saw the TM Foreman remove the internal closure and followed suit removing the barrier without authorisation
- Site Safe and Clear app was being used as a control and communication tool but this had not been added to the RAMS and the associated procedure had not been briefed to the TM team.
- The TM team did not download the job pack until 8hrs after the start of the shift.

What we need to do

- Clearly communicate the expectations and how to use any additional technology involved in the operation updating procedures and processes into the documented Safe Systems of Work(SSOW).
- Conduct checks, via site assurance and engagement, to ensure that changes made to SSOW are understood and being correctly adopted.
- Ensure that communication over critical operations is clear and takes place. If there is uncertainty, check with your supervisor prior to acting.
- Set clear expectations of what to do in the event of unexpected circumstances or change – including those involving 3rd parties.

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