

Hard Shoulder Structures Inspection (M56) - Major Injury

Description:

On the 8th December 2016, a structures inspector working on behalf of BBMM on the M56 (Area 10), re-entered their van from the passenger side after completing a routine structural inspection of an overhead sign gantry. The van was struck by a HGV tractor unit which moved from lane 1 onto the hard shoulder causing major injuries to the IP and significant damage to the van.



Investigation/ findings:

Immediate cause: Struck by a moving vehicle when a HGV truck driver who moved the HGV tractor unit from lane 1 to hard shoulder striking the parked van.

Root cause: Safe systems of work were not suitable or sufficient for short duration stops and the method statement failed to consider lower risk options as part of a hierarchy of control.

Learning:

- Risk assessments must include suitable controls for parking on hard shoulders and off the network e.g. behind barriers, parking off the hard shoulder on the verge to allow for swift and safe access from passenger side.
- Ensure the adequacy of lone working procedures to ensure activities are controlled as far as is reasonably practicable.
- Ensure sub-contractor safe systems of work include all foreseeable risks and controls and are reviewed by a competent person.
- Ensure hard shoulder working procedures mitigate the risk to workers and road users.
- Establish a hierarchy of control for parking safely on or off the network and communicate to all workers.
- If possible consider information packs for workers with safe parking information for stopping on hard shoulders.
- Improve knowledge of risk assessment, through training; writing, reviewing and understanding.

Further Information:

For further information please contact the National Health & Safety Division via:
NH&ST@highwaysengland.co.uk