

## Slips & Trips in Supply Chain

## SafetyAlert

November 2015

### Incident description:

Over the past two months Highways England has noted an increase in the number of slips and trips incidents resulting in RIDDOR reportable injuries.

To successfully tackle these risks our supply chain must ensure proactive safety management on site. In particular several RIDDOR incidents have not been reported at the time of the event. This makes inspection of ground conditions, gathering of witness statements and accurate investigation of primary and root causes difficult. It is essential that all slips and trips are reported **at the time of the incident** regardless of whether the injured person thinks they have sustained a serious injury or not. At the very least these low level slips and trips should be classified as near misses and investigated accordingly.

Highways England's Health & Safety Team will be carrying out targeted site visits focusing on the management of slips and trips within the next few months so please ensure you are doing all you can to mitigate this risk. Most slips and trips accidents can be avoided if everyone on site do their bit to make the workplace safer.



### Actions:

All supply chain partners must deliver a tool box talk on the importance of incident reporting particularly in respect of slips and trips incidents by the end of November and report to their Highways England Regional Business Partner progress made on this issue.

Some of the simple things which can be done to reduce the risk of slips and trips on site include:

- Keeping sites and storage areas tidy
- Planning deliveries to minimise the amount of materials on site
- Providing and maintaining safe pedestrian footpaths – level if they become rutted, add stone if they become muddy, grit when icy
- Keep work areas free from obstructions and waste materials
- Provide and maintain adequate waste material storage on site
- Use barriers and covers on holes and excavations into which people could fall
- Where people have to access excavations ensure safe stepped access and egress is provided with hand rails if necessary
- Ensure three points of contact are maintained when getting in and out of vehicles
- Ensure slips and trips are included in all risk assessments and method statements for work activities
- Implement risk assessments and method statements and site rules fully
- Actively challenge and correct any poor behaviour observed

### Further Information:

Further details on best practice solutions can be found in the Raising the Bar guidance on Slips, Trips and Falls (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/health-and-safety-for-major-road-schemes-raising-the-bar-initiative> )

Information about alerts process contact  
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