



Safety Alert

Safety Fence - Operative Injured

5th March 2019

The following pages of this safety alert were issued by Highways England's supply chain partner:

Kier Highways

Correction: Vehicle Safety Fence crews not Varioguard Safety Fence crews as originally stated

SHE ALERT

SHE H117 A 19
Issued by: Kier Highway SHE
Department
Date: 08/02/2019



Safety Fence Operative Injured

What happened?

One of our VSF (Vehicle Safety Fence) crews were carrying out repairs to a damaged section of Rectangular Hollow Section (RHS) safety fence

As an operative was removing the final strap securing the RHS beam to the post, the beam sprung forward striking him on the leg, causing a fractured ankle.

What can we learn?

A thorough investigation is currently underway. Whilst it is still too early to confirm the exact cause of the incident some contributing factors are:

The works order for the repair specified the wrong materials resulting in part of the VSF crew having to leave site to collect the correct materials.

The VSF crew did not complete a Point of Work Risk Assessment to address the changed scope & necessary controls.

The VSF crew had a vehicle mounted crane with them but did not use it to support the weight of the RHS beam whilst removing the securing straps.

Preventative actions to be taken?

- Ensure the Kier 5 SHE Basics are in place for every task and on site changes are recorded on the on the Point of Work Risk Assessment.
- Ensure tension is fully released before working on VSF systems.
- Use a crane or other suitable equipment to support VSF where required.
- Consider the weather conditions materials expand and contract with temperature changes
- If any doubts stop and speak with your Supervisor.

