



# Safety Alert

## M27 Concrete Pumping Incident

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

**Osborne**

# STOP Think! Moment – M27 Concrete pumping incident adjacent to live carriageway

OSBORNE



## What happened?

During concrete placement operations an uncontrolled release of concrete occurred and this material was propelled into an area of live traffic.

A 36m concrete pump was set up on top of the motorway embankment with hoses placed down the slope towards the works area to pour the blinding concrete required to form the pile cap. During the work an airlock formed in the discharge hose which subsequently released concrete when the pressure built up from continued pumping. The concrete was ejected from the end of the hose some 10m across the works area toward the live motorway hitting the concrete step barrier and temporary Varioguard which scattered wet concrete across three lanes of traffic.



## Impact...

Fortunately in this case no one was injured and only one vehicle has reported coming into contact with the debris. With some 160,000 vehicles using this stretch of motorway a day, it could have been more serious resulting in a road traffic collision or worse.

Please consider the following points when undertaking similar operations...



Airlocks can easily form in the discharge hoses of concrete pumps so care should be taken to ensure there are no kinks in the hoses and that a steady rate of pumping is maintained. Hoses that are laid flat should run parallel to any areas outside of the site boundary and should be shielded.

**STOP Think!**

Have a conversation!

Make the right choice the SAFE choice.