

# Safety Alert

## Summer working – Staying safe & healthy

19 July 2019

### Background information

#### Summer is well and truly here!

Most of us welcome the summer period and find time to enjoy the weather. During this time we need to recognise the impact of busy roads and the effects on members of our team who may be on their holidays.

Things to consider which could impact on us delivering our services:

- Hot weather can be dangerous for our employees, our supply chain employees and road users including vulnerable people (young children, over 75s, those with chronic conditions, on certain medications or with a serious mental health condition).
- Employees are on holiday which could impact on level of resources, including supervision, to work safely.

Risks posed by hot weather can include:

- Dehydration and overheating.
- Damage to skin by UV radiation.
- Vehicles breaking down on the network.
- Deteriorating/poor air quality.
- Impacts from insect bites and toxic plants.
- Increase in pollen levels and dust levels exacerbating allergies.



### Useful Tips

Things to consider:

- Take regular breaks if working outdoors and use controls to minimise the effects of UV radiation by either covering up or regularly applying the correct level of sunscreen.
- Ensure there is access to drinking water or cold drinks and sun protection particularly when working at remote areas of sites away from the main welfare facilities.
- Vehicles are well maintained and 'summer' ready. (<https://www.think.gov.uk/campaign/vehicle-safety-checks/>).
- Resource plans are in place to cover roles during holiday periods. It is essential that there are adequate levels of resource in place and the right levels of supervision to deliver the works safely

If you have any queries about this safety alert then please contact:

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**home safe**  
and **well**