

Safety Alert

Lighting Column Failure

10th February 2020

Background information

- In the last three months two steel lighting columns have collapsed within motorway central reservations. Fortunately, on both occasions, no harm was caused.
- The cause of failure was due to extensive corrosion below ground level. This corrosion would not have been visible from visual inspections alone.
- Our current guidance [www](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/431111/Highways_England_-_Guidance_for_the_inspection_of_street_lighting_columns.pdf) requires that all steel lighting columns over 15 years old are structurally inspected every 6 years. (5 years for AMOR contracts).
- Structural inspection includes consideration and implementation of testing requirements.

Recommendations

- Operations teams should follow existing guidance and ensure that the testing and inspection of lighting columns is up to date, prioritising steel columns that are more than 15 years old.

