



# Safety Alert

## VRS Gang Lead erector - Over 7 day injury

13 May 2020

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

**Eurovia UK**

April 2020

## INTERNAL SAFETY ALERT

### South West M&R – Over 7-day injury

Ref 023

DATE : 03 April 2020  
TIME : 04:00hrs  
LOCATION : Sowton Highway Maintenance Depot  
DIVISION : South West M&R

Prior to the incident the Injured Party (IP) was working in a Vehicle Restraint System (VRS) gang, as a lead erector.

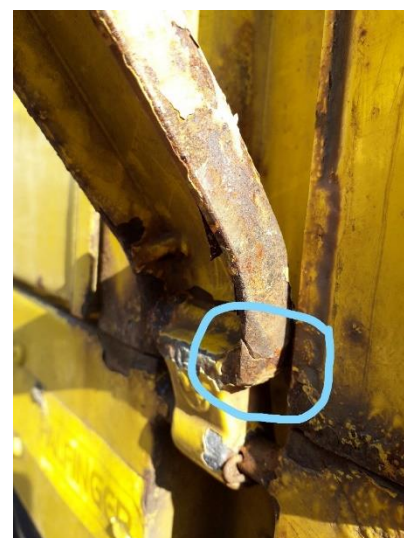
On completion of works the IP returned to Sowton Highway Maintenance Depot, Exeter, in the barrier rig, ahead of the gang, whilst they stayed to remove the Traffic Management.

The IP reported whilst unloading the barrier rig, that he went to lower one of the side panels and the edge protection safety handrail fell hitting his head (hitting his safety helmet), shoulder and right side. Four days following the incident the IP attended hospital, after which the IP alleged, he had sustained broken ribs resulting in a self-certified over 7-day injury.

The investigation found a reported defect (as shown opposite) that required a change in working practices whilst awaiting repair and rectification.

A full investigation is in progress, but current preventative actions identified include:

- Reiterating the importance of reporting incidents within 24 hours in line with company procedure.
- Operational changes to be formally recorded in writing i.e. 5 minutes on safety briefing
- Lone working is not permitted in depots without a specific lone worker risk assessment to determine permitted activities.



DP Campbell

David Campbell  
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