



Safety Alert

Lone working – plant maintenance

30 July 2020

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

Morgan Sindall

Lone working - plant maintenance

On Friday 10 July, a plant fitter attended one of our sites to undertake routine maintenance on an excavator belonging to a subcontractor.

Whilst the fitter was replacing filters within the engine compartment behind the cab, the individual became unwell and collapsed. The plant operator, who had remained in the vicinity, noticed that the fitter was in difficulty and notified the site management team, who requested an ambulance to attend site. The fire and rescue service also attended to lower the fitter to ground level. The fitter was taken to a specialist unit as it is believed that he suffered a stroke and an aneurysm in the brain.

Whilst the individual remains in a critical condition, the prompt response of the plant operator has ensured that the fitter received the necessary medical attention.

Fortunately this incident occurred during the working day, when individuals were still in the local vicinity but this serves as a timely reminder to ensure that all plant maintenance / repair activities are identified and managed as lone working activities. Other lone working activities include commissioning of plant and equipment, undertaking snagging / minor works, security guarding, working in / cleaning site offices etc.

A lone worker is defined as '***an individual who undertakes an activity in isolation from others without close or direct supervision, often during unsociable hours***'. These individuals are exposed to a greater risk because there is no one to assist them in the event of an accident, sudden illness or violent attack, which could incapacitate them, preventing them from communicating with others.



This advice should be used, where the above applies, and the information discussed with your team, highlighting the following points:

- Any lone working activity must be appropriately risk assessed and associated control measures implemented to monitor the lone worker e.g. considering the health and fitness of the individual
- High risk activities e.g. confined space working, working at height, must not be undertaken by a lone worker
- When undertaking lone working in normal working hours a means of regular two-way communication must be in place
- When undertaking lone working outside of normal working hours, the regular two-way communication must occur more frequently
- Methods for responding to emergency situations must be communicated and agreed by all parties.

SHEQ Alert date:	07/2020		Display until:	31/10/2020			
Distribution:	Morgan Sindall	x	Supply Chain	x	Plant Hire Desk	Morgan Sindall Group	
Communication:	Toolbox talks / briefings		x	Noticeboards		x	SHEQ update

Everyone has the right to be

100% Safe