

Safety Alert

Corroded Drain Cover

5 May 2021

Background information

What happened?

A member of the public was taken ill as they were leaving a Motorway Service Area on the M6. Their vehicle ended up parked on the slip road just before the main carriageway.

The emergency services were called and upon arrival began to treat the member of public.

As one of the paramedics walked around the scene, they stood on a metal grate over the top of a catch pit. The metal grating was severely corroded and did not hold the weight of the paramedic, who fell through the grating and into the water below. The paramedic, was helped out by 2 traffic officers who were on scene and taken to hospital for treatment.

The investigation established that the metal grating was not the responsibility of Highways England and that it was the service area owner who had the duty to inspect and maintain it. However, we recognise that we can play a part in ensuring this does not happen again. If you see a drain, manhole, gully or any type of cover or asset that appears to be in a dangerous condition on or near our Network, please report it via the local Regional Operations Centre (ROC) or if you don't know this call the Customer Contact Centre (CCC) on 0300 123 5000 who will liaise with the ROC and arrange for an Inspector to investigate and raise a defect report. We should then contact the asset owner with accurate details of location and condition. If there is confusion over who the asset owner is, HE should instruct the Maintenance & Response contractor to make the area safe and confirm this work has been done.

