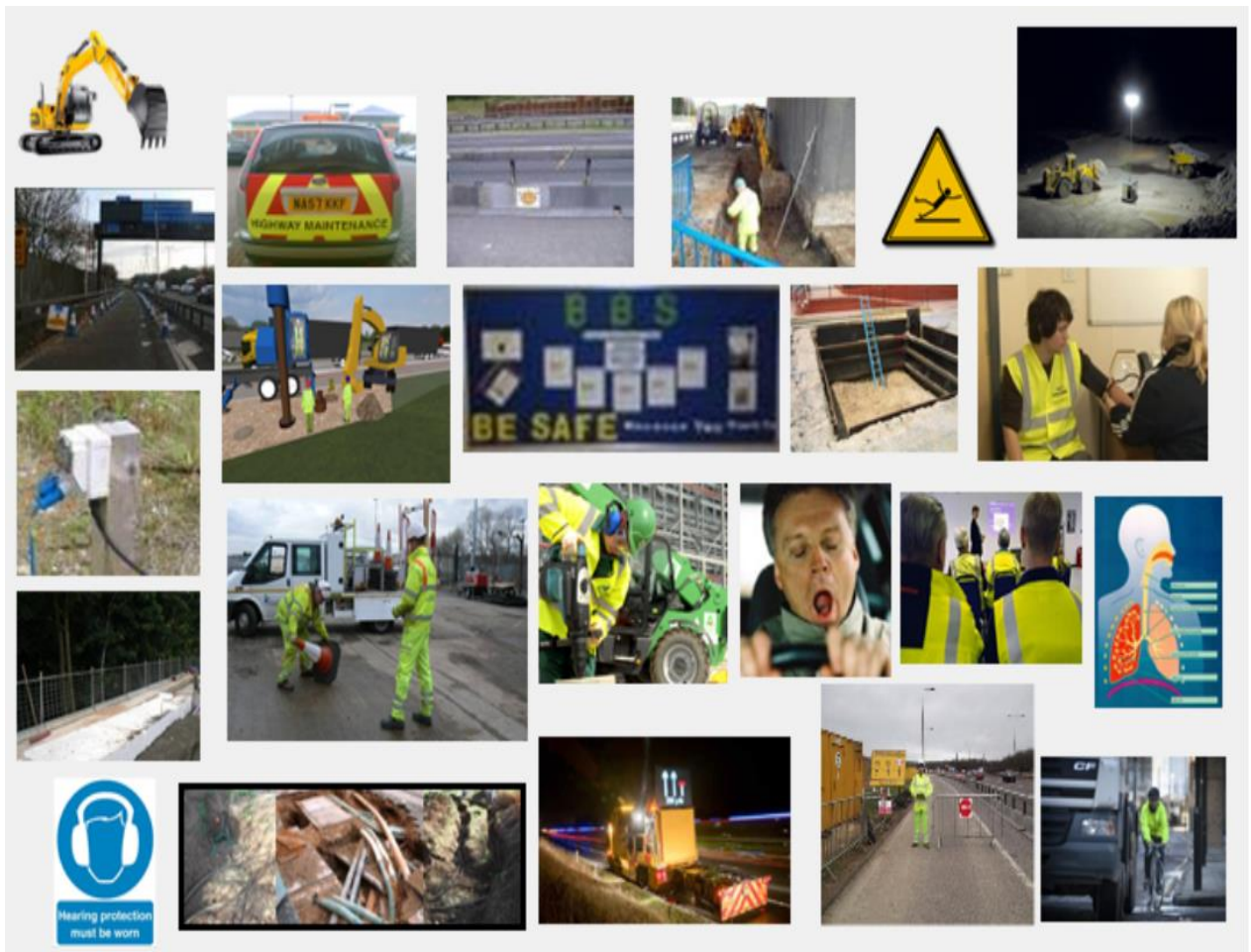




Highways Safety Hub



# Highways Safety Hub Team Newsletter

September 2021

## World Suicide Awareness Day 10/09/2021

Every year organisations and communities around the world come together to raise awareness of how we can create a world where fewer people die by suicide.

### When is it?

World Suicide Prevention Suicide Day is always on 10 September.

### Why is it important?

The latest suicides statistics show that in the UK and Republic of Ireland, more than 6,800 people died in a year by suicide. Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy.

And we know that suicide is preventable, it's not inevitable.

But not being okay is still widely stigmatised. And governments can still make better, more ambitious plans to prevent suicide.

Each year has a different theme and focus, to bring to light a specific aspect of suicide prevention.

This year's theme, which will be the theme until 2023, is 'Creating Hope Through Action', which aims to empower people with the confidence to engage with the complexity of 'hope'.

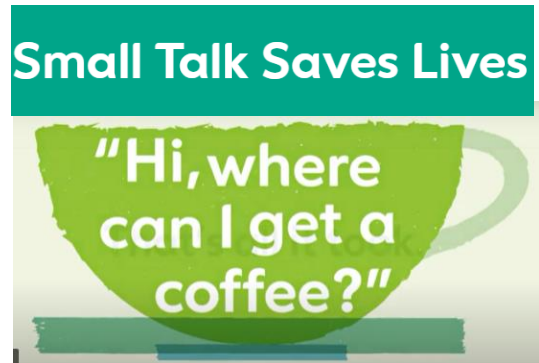
On the day we will be asking people to share the things that they do which helps them feel hopeful when they're going through a difficult time. For example:

- Reaching out for a coffee with my best mate
- Taking a walk in the fields and letting the wind blow everything away
- Go for a run along the seafront

You all have the experience needed to save a life. If you feel something isn't quite right and you think someone might need help, trust your instincts and start a conversation. You could save a life.

**Remember "Small Talk Saves Lives".**

Read Dom's Story : [Dom's story](#) | [Small Talk Saves Lives](#) | [Samaritans](#)



## National Highways Launch Net Zero Carbon Plan

The Government company will take immediate and sustained action towards decarbonising England's motorways and A-roads, so they can continue to bring significant benefits to motorists, communities and businesses in a net-zero future.

Building on its work reducing carbon since 2015, the plan sets out a comprehensive roadmap to rapidly decarbonise the strategic road network (SRN).



National Highways plans to achieve this by putting roads at the heart of Britain's net zero future through three key commitments; achieving net zero for its own operations by 2030, delivering net zero road maintenance and construction by 2040; and supporting net zero carbon travel on our roads by 2050.

Contractors and suppliers will also be required to act, including commitments to reduce carbon year-on-year by using the latest technologies, so that by 2040 our road maintenance and construction is near zero emissions.

The company has been progressing towards net zero for some time, with examples including having already introduced plug-in hybrid vehicles to its fleet, installed more effective LED lighting on the M62, utilised recycling and solar power for resurfacing on the A590, and launched electric vehicle trials with Leeds, Coventry, Sheffield, Kent and Nottingham Councils.

Nick Harris, Chief Executive of National Highways, said:

National Highways recognises the threat of climate change and the risks it poses for us all. That's why we're pledging to take effective action to take carbon out of roads.

Today roads are a convenient, efficient and low-cost way to travel which is why 9 out of 10 passenger miles and 79 per cent of all freight moves on roads. Our plans set out how emissions from our own operations, our construction and our customers will reduce over the coming years.

It will put roads at the heart of the low carbon economy, while preserving the convenience and economic benefit of an efficient road network.

You can [read the net zero plan](#) here.

## Blades Found in Anti-Covid posters

Recently, there has been an attempt to spread anti-Covid views. There have been posters placed in prominent locations such as doors, lamp posts, walls and places related to the combat of Covid-19 such as testing sites. These propaganda posters promote the non-wearing of masks, they are anti-testing and vaccinating, and question the existence of Covid.



There have been a number of reports that razor blades have been attached to the back of the posters intended to harm the person taking it down. In one example, when pulling down a laminated poster against mask-wearing, a person was cut by a blade stuck to the back of the poster

Many of our maintenance operatives remove unauthorised posters during their general duties therefore it is important to remember :

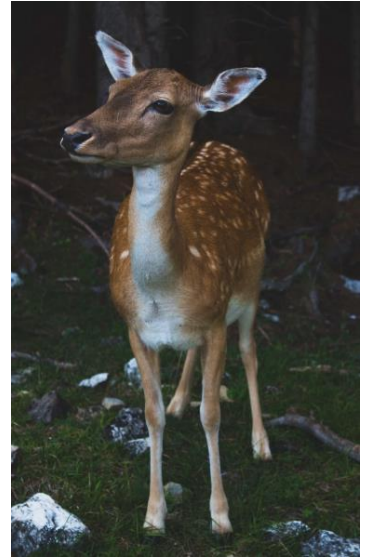
When removing any unofficial posters, you must:

- Look at the front and rear and check for “sharps”
- use the local Safe System of Work for dealing safely with sharps if any are found (this is normally for needles/syringes)
- make sure you have the correct tools and any PPE to carry out your tasks safely
- report the presence of any poster capable of causing injury.

Source: TFL

## Ecology – Deer fawn and hare leverets

Recently a deer fawn was found trapped between ducts in a shallow excavation. The site team immediately contacted the project environmental advisor and used 'what3words' to describe the location of the fawn. Under advice from the RSPCA, the fawn was removed from the excavation and placed in nearby woodland where its mother was last seen. The site team regularly checked on the fawn over the following hours. As the fawn could no longer be seen, it was assumed it was reunited with its mother.



Particularly during springtime, it is not uncommon to encounter young animals onsite. Similarly to fawn, you may see hare leverets on site. Deer fawn and hare leverets are often left alone during the day while their mothers go off to feed. Fawns are typically left in an area of tall grass or bushes, but sometimes they are left in more open areas. Leverets often rest in shallow, hollow depressions in the grass, known as 'forms'. In both cases, the young will remain still so that they are undetected by predators. Mothers will return at dawn and dusk to feed and/or move their young. The young have not been 'abandoned' and therefore it is imperative you leave it alone.

If you encounter a deer fawn or hare leveret within the work area, try to encourage the animal away without touching it. Mothers will abandon their young if they detect unfamiliar scent on them. If you encounter a trapped, distressed or injured fawn or leveret onsite, speak to the project environmental advisor immediately. If you are required to move the animal, you must minimise the transfer of your scent onto the young (gloves and clothing will carry your scent). To minimise the transfer of your scent, rub your hands thoroughly in the grass and pull out chunks of the ground cover. As best as you can, create a barrier between yourself and the young using the ground cover. Quickly move the young and leave within the grass cover. It is important to choose a safe spot nearby so that the mother can see the young when she returns. Monitor the animal over the next 24 hours, to ensure it has not been abandoned.

Please note that some species are protected by law. To disturb or relocate any protected species requires a licence from Natural England. It is therefore imperative you always contact the project environmental advisor before attempting to move any animal onsite.

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

- **If you encounter a fawn, leveret or any animal onsite, stop works, do not attempt to move the animal and contact your project environmental advisor immediately**
- **If you have been advised to move a fawn or leveret, minimise scent transfer by rubbing your hands in the surrounding ground cover. Attempt to create a barrier between yourself and the young. Ensure you choose a spot nearby so the mother can find her young when she returns.**

## Angle Grinder Chainsaw Discs

# Safety Advice



### Angle grinder chainsaw discs

Issued to: **All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and accredited contractors**

Ref: NRA21-10

Date of issue: 15/07/2021

Location: National

Contact: [John Watt](#), Senior Engineer



### Overview

It has come to the attention of the Plant Team via the Office of Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) that chainsaw disc attachments have been incorrectly sold for use with Angle Grinders. Due to "kick back" during operation these discs/blades cannot be used safely and can result in serious injury or fatality. This type of disc/blade grips the cutting surface and forces the angle grinder to sharply turn or jump out of the operator's hand.

These products do not comply with the Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 and must not be used.

It is thus mandated forthwith that if any chainsaw discs/blade similar to those in the images above are identified then they must be removed and not used on Network Rail managed infrastructure.

### Immediate action required

- All Angle Grinders shall be inspected to ensure that chainsaw type discs/blade are not fitted.
- Do not use any Angle Grinder that has a chainsaw type discs/blade fitted; use must be stopped immediately.
- Angle Grinder chainsaw discs/blade shall be removed from Network Rail infrastructure and either returned to the manufacturer or scrapped.

# You can't manage what you do not measure



Video: Learnings from the M25 project; skip to 1:11:30 to watch section about dust control & monitoring.

## Dust Monitoring



### Monitex Area Dust Monitor

- Monitor indoor/ outdoor dust and particle emissions continuously and in real-time.
- A nephelometer-based instrument that delivers accurate measurement of PM10, PM2.5, PM1, or TSP, at 1 minute intervals.
- The cloud-based platform can be accessed remotely at any time, plus you can programme automatic SMS and email alerts.

[View Online](#)

## Noise Monitoring



### Monitex Area Noise Monitor

- Continuously records noise data alongside integrated weather data.
- Data can be displayed on a calendar or in graph format.
- Data is stored on a cloud-based platform that is easy to access from any PC, laptop, phone or tablet with internet access.
- Log in to the platform to adjust the alert levels or to set up automatic reports and alerts via text or email.

[View Online](#)

## Vibration Monitoring



### Monitex Vibration Monitor

- Access your vibration data online, or set up automatic alerts via text and email.
- Alert levels can be configured to your project requirements, with a pre-trigger configurable up to 10 seconds.
- Storage capacity; 255 wavelengths, 4000 periodic measurements and 1000 triggered measurements.
- Easy to use – one button to start/ stop measuring.
- Battery life of up to 5 months.

[View Online](#)



[www.rvtgroup.co.uk](http://www.rvtgroup.co.uk) 0808 178 3286

## Highways Passport Update

### Welcome to the summer edition of Inside Lane. In this issue:

- Mark Byard, Health, Safety and Wellbeing Director for Highways England, shares his vision for the Highways Common Induction
- Skanska's Liz Brathwaite overviews their Passport show and tell session
- Graham Boanas, Managing Director of the PowerPlus Group, gives his take on the Highways Common Induction
- Jennie Reid, Health & Safety Administrator for Major Highways, Balfour Beatty, overviews their Passport rollout
- Tanya Morris, Company Director at Reference Point, shares updates about Passport's rollout and a reminder about subscription renewals
- Niamh and Maxine from Mitie answer this month's most important questions.

In this issue, we're focusing on the Highways Common Induction (HCI) and looking at the different advantages it offers across the entire supply chain.

Thousands of highways workers have completed the HCI so far, and that number is increasing rapidly.

This saves time by reducing duplication, improving site safety across the strategic network, and introducing a common industry standard.

**Teresa Moss,**  
Passport Project  
Lead, Highways  
England.



 referencepoint

Find all this exciting news at : [august-inside-lane.pdf \(highwaysafetyhub.com\)](https://www.highwaysafetyhub.com/august-inside-lane.pdf)



## Safety Alert Database – All Alerts

### Safety Alert Database - All Alerts

#### Safety alerts etc. index listing – Issue 11 (31 Aug 2021): Angel Number 2236

This database contains **2,236no.** document entries, including SHEQ alerts, bulletins, learning, best practice, guidance and other docs, produced onto an Excel File, that provides links to each document.

Although containing messages that cover S, H, E and Q topics, for ease of reference the database is titled “**Safety alerts etc. index listing**”.

To use the database download the excel spreadsheet to your desktop, enable editing and then use sorting columns to find the information you need.

Please ensure your firewall allows access to Google Drive to view linked alert documents.

#### How to access

- The latest “Safety alerts etc. index listing”, has been posted on the Highways safety hub web site, nested in the alerts tab page; <http://www.highwayssafetyhub.com/all-alerts-database.html>
- It can be used by opening the Excel File copy held on the web site, or by opening after saving a copy onto your own PC.
- To access individual documents from the links in column “G”, users will need internet access – All documents have been uploaded onto the index listing from a Google Drive account

#### Trivia note:

*Issue 11, containing 2,236 document entries, is referred to as “Angel Number 2236” >*

*You have to understand that not everything will work according to your plan. Therefore, angel number 2236 urges you to be okay.*

## **Raising the Bar Checklist**

This will help check compliance with the guidance by highlighting significant elements. A link is posted below that will direct you to the Highways Safety Hub website where there are also a lot of interesting items. Also consider joining the Twitter group which gives out lots of useful information regarding changes and uploads including the latest safety alerts.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/health-and-safety-for-major-road-schemes-raising-the-bar-initiative>