



Highways Safety Hub Team Newsletter

July 2021

Samaritans Awareness Day 24/7 Big Listen Event

Every year in July, Samaritans branches in the UK and Republic of Ireland hold local events to raise awareness that Samaritans are here to listen to anyone who's struggling to cope, at any time of the day or night.

Whether it's a virtual chitchat, or a picnic in the park, Talk to Us is one of the ways we raise awareness that we're here – for anyone who needs someone to listen, 24/7, without judgement or pressure.



You can contact us if you are having a difficult time or you are worried about someone else.

Remember it is OK not to be OK

You are never alone

We are there for you

Call us 24/7 on :

116 123

Find out what your local branch is doing during Talk To Us

We have lots of activity planned on our social media for Samaritans' awareness day — 24/7 — on 24 July, be sure to keep an eye out on our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)

Source: Samaritans

Shocking Results from Study Reveal that 4 million Drivers Have Fallen Asleep Behind the Wheel

Four million drivers have momentarily fallen asleep behind the wheel, reveals shocking new research by IAM RoadSmart, the UK's largest independent road safety charity.

The newly published results will set alarm bells ringing amongst road safety experts as even the briefest lapse in concentration when driving can have devastating consequences. At 70mph a car travels over 100 feet every second!



Indeed, the study paints a worrying picture of fatigue among motorists as 1-in-10 surveyed admitted to momentarily closing their eyes because they were so tired.

Furthermore, more than half of drivers also said they were very concerned about fatigue when driving long distances. With more than 40 million licence holders registered, this equates to over 20 million motorists.

Neil Greig, IAM RoadSmart Director of Policy & Research, said: "Fatigue behind the wheel is a very serious problem, perhaps more concerning than previously thought of. "It is shocking to think a potential four million drivers have closed their eyes behind the wheel because they were so tired, even if it was just for a short time. The potential carnage that could result from even one accident doesn't bear thinking about."

Other results from the research also highlighted that millions of drivers have succumbed to tiredness when driving, with 1-in-10 admitting they had hit the rumble strip, while 4-in-10 had turned down the heating or rolled down the windows in order to stop them from being tired.

On a slightly more positive note, around a quarter of drivers had pulled over for a rest and/or a coffee.

Neil added: "Driving a long distance needs pre-planning to ensure there are plenty of available rest places and to make sure there's enough time to complete the journey if delays are encountered. Never drive for longer than two hours without a break and take particular care if driving when you would normally be asleep. This is even more important as the country reopens after the pandemic and not all facilities may be available yet.

"Drivers can then concentrate on staying alert behind the wheel rather than staving off tiredness by trying to reach their end destination without adequate rest breaks."

Source: IAM RoadSmart

A358 Adder Sighting

Recently whilst carrying out reptile surveys on transect R22 an adult female Adder was found underneath a survey mat. The ecologist explained that the surrounding habitat (arable with grassy field margins) was not considered typical for this species. We have issued this alert and due to the close proximity of the neighbouring school and allotment which the school uses. We have asked Highway England to make contact with them to make sure they are aware.



Immediate Actions

- The contractor RAMS has been updated to mandate the use of bite proof PPE when carrying out these works.
- This safety alert has been developed and issued to the project team to raise the presence of Adders with the wider team, as Adders along with other reptiles could be basking in other locations along the project and not just the survey mats.
- Please take this as a reminder that Adders could be encountered along the A358.

Key Facts

About - The adder is a relatively small, stocky snake that prefers woodland, heathland and moorland habitats. It hunts lizards and small mammals, as well as ground-nesting birds, such as skylark and meadow pipit. In spring, male adders perform a 'dance' during which they duel to fend off competition to mate. Females incubate the eggs internally, 'giving birth' to three to twenty live young. Adders hibernate from October, emerging in the first warm days of March, which is the easiest time of year to find them basking on a log or under a warm rock.

How to identify - The adder is a greyish snake, with a dark and very distinct zig-zag pattern down its back, and a red eye. Males tend to be more silvery-grey in colour, while females are more light or reddish-brown. Black (melanistic) forms are sometimes spotted.

Did you know? - The adder is the UK's only venomous snake, but its poison is generally of little danger to humans: an adder bite can be painful and cause an inflammation, but is only dangerous to the very young, ill or old. If bitten, medical attention should be sought immediately, however Adders are secretive animals and prefer to slither off into the undergrowth rather than confront and bite humans and domestic animals. Most attacks happen when they are trodden on or picked up. Instead, they use their venom to immobilise and kill their prey of small mammals, nestlings and lizards.

Source: Taylor Woodrow

Vegetation Donations to Yorkshire Wildlife Park

Issue

SPL Powerlines UK Ltd (SPL) aim to support local enterprises through donations, community work and by re-purposing materials.

Recently a social media advert was published by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, asking local people and businesses for cut vegetation of various kinds for animal feed and general up-keep of natural habitats. The SPL KO1a Project Manager identified this opportunity and arranged to support Yorkshire Wildlife Park by delivering freshly cut vegetation from the KO1a project



Solution

SPL are working with Network Rail to enable electrification of the railway from Kettering to Market Harborough.

Enabling works for the project involve vegetation clearance along the route. Works predominantly take place at night with teams travelling back home in the direction of the Wildlife Park. The project manager contacted the park to understand the vegetation specifications required and then identified staff who would be able to deliver the vegetation on their way home.

Results

Over the past 14 weeks SPL have delivered 56 van loads of vegetation, sending 4 van loads per week. SPL will continue to donate vegetation to the wildlife park throughout the duration of the vegetation works on KO1a.

Benefits

The branches have been used to feed both Giraffe and Rhino thereby saving the Wildlife park money and allowing animals to benefit from works undertaken on Network Rail land.

Additionally, vegetation enhances the environment for the animals at the zoo, which can be used for bedding, diversifying the enclosures and creating microhabitats on the wildlife park.

The wider benefits of this work allow SPL to engage with a variety of organisations and support local enterprises.

Birmingham Clean Air Zone Charging Begins

Charges have now come into force for drivers entering Birmingham's Clean Air Zone (CAZ).

The zone was officially launched on 1 June, but there was a two-week grace period before charges applied to give motorists "time to adjust".

No charges or fines have been imposed for the first fortnight after the original launch date of 1 June, the Birmingham Mail reports.

From 00:00 BST on Monday 14 June, cars, taxis and vans that do not meet Clean Air Zone emission standards will be charged £8 a day, and non-compliant coaches, buses and lorries will be charged £50 per day.

Birmingham's Clean Air Zone will cover all the roads within the A4540 Middleway Ring Road, but not the Middleway itself

In charging terms, a day is classified as any midnight to midnight period, not 24 hours from when you enter the zone. During that timeframe, you can enter and leave the zone as many times as you like and only pay once.

The zone is enforced using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR).

Payments can be paid online using the Government's payment system at: <https://multiple-vehiclecheck-pay.drive-clean-air-zone.service.gov.uk> or over the phone by calling 0300 029 8888 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 4.30pm).

You can also use the online Government's vehicle checker to see if you will need to pay a charge for a vehicle:

https://vehiclecheck.drive-clean-air-zone.service.gov.uk/vehicle_checkers/enter_details

For more information about Clean Air Zones, visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/driving-in-a-clean-air-zone>



Laptop Battery Safety

Please read and digest this [Siemens World](#) article - switch off your machine every evening and disconnect it from the power supply.

Many of us have been working from home for more than a year - compared to commuting between office and home. This can result in our notebook / tablet batteries charging and discharging every day as some users have left their machines connected to the power supply or even left them constantly running.



This causes a safety risk for all notebooks and tablets, independent of supplier or model! The battery will certainly lose its capacity but can also swell and in the worst case burn and become a fire risk.

If you notice a concerning change in the state of your battery (e.g. deformation of your machine's case) please contact your Service Desk and request for a replacement of the battery immediately.

This has been identified in a number of HP devices however it can become a fault in all laptops and devices. Visually check your laptops and devices for any gaps which may have appeared in the housing or display frame, or any notable change in its appearance.

At the end of each day it is advisable to close and shut all open applications, and fully shut down your notebook / tablet and remove the power supply. This includes removing your laptop from its docking station.

Discussion Points

1. Do you fully shut down your laptop / device at the end of each day?
2. Do you turn the power supply off and disconnect your device at the end of the day?
3. Why have you been leaving your device running?
4. What would be the benefits to you of shutting down at the end of each day?

Source: Siemens Rail Infrastructure

Brexit CE Marking and the Construction Products Regulation GB

Overview

As of 1 January 2021 the UK is no longer a Member of the EU and this means CE marking of UK products no longer applies in the same way. Although your business may not be a manufacturer or fabricator, as an active manager of a delivery service you will need to recognise the changes.



The UKCA (UK Conformity Assessed) marking is a new UK product marking that is used for goods being placed on the market in Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland). It covers most goods which previously required the CE marking.

Construction Products Regulation in Great Britain

Businesses must prepare for the end of recognition of the CE mark in Great Britain and affix the UK marking using a UK recognised 'approved body'. The UK Government's intention is to end recognition of the CE mark by 1 January 2022 and to introduce new legislation to do that.

If goods were placed on the UK market (or in an EU or EEA state) before 1 January 2021, you do not need to do anything for these individual goods. They can continue to circulate on either market until they reach their end user and do not need to comply with the changes that took effect from 1 January 2021. However, this arrangement will end on 1 January 2022, and businesses should ensure they are prepared for the new system before it comes into effect.

Goods presently carrying CE marking

Under the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement, goods lawfully marked with the CE mark and placed on the EU market before the end of the transition period can continue to circulate until they reach their end user, whether they are in the UK or the EU. This includes requirements that they:

- Are covered by a harmonised European standard, which is the same as a UK designated standard (as noted above)
- Are affixed with CE marking
- Are accompanied by a manufacturer's declaration of performance and have been assessed by an EU recognised notified body, where third party assessment is required.

Designated standards

All existing harmonised European standards became UK 'designated standards'. This means that immediately after the end of the transition period, harmonised European standards and UK designated standards will be identical. The government has published, and will maintain, a list of these designated standards on GOV.UK

UK approved bodies

From 1 January 2021, UK notified bodies operating under the EU Construction Products Regulation 2011 (EU Regulation No. 305/2011) and based in the UK were granted new UK approved body status and listed in a new UK database (the UK Market Conformity Assessment Bodies database). Notified bodies established in the UK were contacted in December 2020 with further details on their approved body status.

The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) will continue to be the UK's national accreditation body for accrediting UK approved bodies under the UK Construction Products Regulation.

Highways Passport Update

The Passport is now being successfully rolled across the Highways England Supply Chain.

To catch up on the latest news there is a link below to the passport "Inside Lane" newsletter.

Articles in this edition include:

- The Passport Steering Group share five insights to help your organisation get maximum value from Passport
- Reference Point's Kris Martin offers to share his rollout expertise for new project launches
- Scott Cooper, Managing Director of Highways at Kier, shares Kier's insights from their Passport journey
- Paul Allman from Flannery shares his thoughts on Passport
- Hardeep Sanghera from Fortel gives his take on why Passport is particularly advantageous to labour supply

[june-inside-lane_1.pdf \(highwayssafetyhub.com\)](#)

"As a leading client infrastructure business, it's important we take a stand on both safety and quality.

By developing the Passport scheme, we are supporting the industry-wide effort to raise standards and help everyone who works with us get home safe and well. So I fully endorse the Passport scheme and look forward to its wider use in the future across all that we do."



Peter Mumford,
Executive Director
Major Projects,
Highways England.

 referencepoint

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>