



Safety Alert

Coiled polyethylene (PE) pipe trailers – stored energy risk

9 May 2023

The following safety alert was issued by:

Balfour Beatty

NHa330

If you have any queries about this safety alert information announcement or any other safety announcement then please contact HealthSafety&Wellbeingteam@nationalhighways.co.uk

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SAFETY ALERT

UK/SA/2023/002
04 May 2023

Coiled polyethylene (PE) pipe trailers – stored energy risk

What happened?

On Thursday 27 April, a serious incident occurred on our HS2 Area North project in the closing stages of a Horizontal Direction Drilling (HDD) operation for a service diversion. 180mm diameter PE pipe was being pulled from a pipe trailer at the reception pit to a launch pit approximately 100m away. A full investigation into the incident is being carried out.

Tragically, following the incident, a colleague working for one of our subcontractors subsequently lost their life.

Our deepest sympathies are with our colleague's family, friends and co-workers at this time.



Action required

While the investigation is ongoing, the following actions must be taken with immediate effect:

- **Coiled PE pipe trailer operations involving pipe diameters of more than or equal to 125mm must remain on hold** pending further investigation.
- **Coiled PE pipe trailer operations involving pipe diameters of less than 125mm are subject to the completion of a review of the relevant site-specific Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS) arrangements.** Until the full investigation into the incident is complete, operations may be resumed under a new temporary permit (see link in the Safety Alert email). The permit has been designed to reinforce existing requirements which should already be in place, as defined in the safe systems of work.

Lee Hewitt
Health, Safety & Environment Director