

Introduction

This Supply Chain Safety Leadership Group (SCSLG) was formed to give focus to improving safety performance across the Highways England road network through collaborative working across the supply chain where common risks exist and provide a unified voice of the sector.

Our vision is to create a very clear shift in safety performance to ensure everyone who works with us and everyone who travels on the network gets home safe and well.

To find out more about the activity the Group is undertaking please go to the [Highways England Safety Hub](#).

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Safety Moment: A new approach to Utilities Strike Prevention

Scott Dalton, Utilities Coordinator for Balfour Beatty, began his safety moment with this opening statement...



“We continue to strike buried and overhead services with the potential to cause harm”

He presented the typical reasons why this occurs:

- Behaviour or competence
- Inaccurate or lack of information
- Poor planning & assessment
- No or poor-quality survey
- Trying to “get the job done”
- No/poor permit control
- Mistakes/errors



Figure 1 HEI223 Safety Alert

Scott shared that to make a step change in addressing these issues and achieve our zero utilities strike goal, the M25 J10 scheme plan to implement an independent team separate from the delivery where their focus is to:

- Enable & Support the delivery team
- Upskill & improve behaviour
- Check, audit & challenge
- Detailed understanding of existing utilities & information
- Produce as-builts during works
- Support team with other inground hazards

Some of the key areas of focus for the team will be:

		
<p>Permit briefings</p> <p>Improving quality of information Increase awareness of risk Briefings & hold points Team engagement</p>	<p>Leading indicators</p> <p>Not “burying the issues” Measuring observations, audits, leadership tours Eliminating risk through design</p>	<p>Change coalition</p> <p>Vision/Strategy for change MSP+ Innovation Challenge the norm Short term wins</p>

The Group followed this presentation with a good discussion on how this fits with the implementation of the common intent and how this approach could be adopted more widely across the supply chain.

Events

Mental Health – Sharing the Journey



Mental Health – Sharing the journey



When: Tuesday 11 May @ 10am

This event falls within the national [Mental Health Awareness week](#) (10-15th May)

Where: Join us for this 1-hour online event by registering here

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mental-health-sharing-the-journey-tickets-150875818635>

As you are hopefully all aware the Mental Health Common Intent and supporting toolkit was launched in December 2019. If you haven't seen this publication yet, please log onto the Highways Safety Hub by following this link. <https://www.highwayssafetyhub.com/mental-health.html>

In order to help share the message, we are going to be holding a Mental Health Common Intent and Toolkit showcase event called "Mental Health – Sharing the Journey". Please mark the date, it will only be an hour and we are convinced you will find it engaging and informative. We have chosen to hold the event from 10am to 11am on 11th May 2021 to coincide with Mental Health week which runs from 10th to 15th May.

Help by making a difference in how you lead your businesses, your teams and your people to move the dial in this absolutely critical area of the Construction Industry where so many people suffer with Mental ill health. Together we can make a difference. Let's share the Journey.

Trends and Priorities

Key Stats



Major Projects - AFR **0.06** – 1No. RIDDORs reported in March 2021

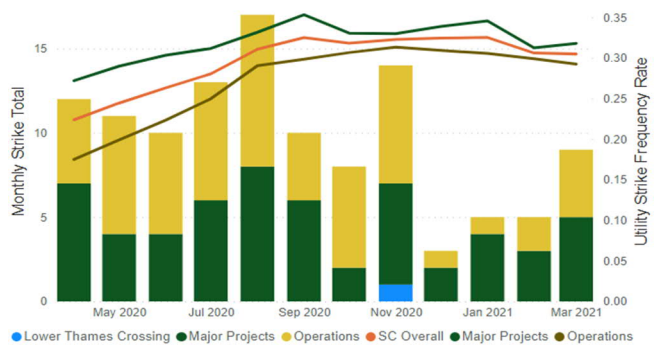


Operations – AFR **0.04** – 1No. RIDDORs reported in March 2021



Utilities Strike Avoidance – Poor performance in month.

Utility Strikes Reported per Month and Frequency Rates



Focus on the road user – What does our return to normal look like as we move out of lockdown?

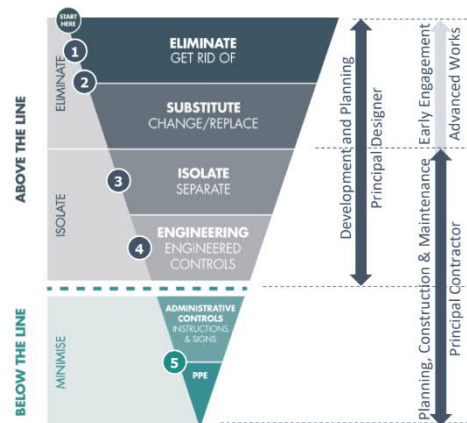
Moment of recognition - We have achieved our Supply Chain target for AFR 0.05 for 2020/21. Thank you and let's continue to drive improvement in our safety performance.

Safety Hub

Interpreting the Common Standards – A handy guide

In response to engagement on the implementation of the common standards, the Safety Hub have produced a handy guide to aid the suppliers in the embedment and adoption as we continue to launch new raising the bar standards.

Action for Suppliers – Adopt the common standards and check within our own organisations the status of embedment. Links to the new raising the bar guidance can be found in the status update below. Please contact the Safety Hub for more information.



Highlights

Improvement needed with Safety Alerts

Richard Wilson of Highways England presented to the group the findings of a recent survey into Safety Alert performance which prove cause for concern. The review contained 31 significant events from November 2020 to end of March 2021 which showed 17No. requiring a Safety Alert and 5No. remain outstanding. There are two types of Safety Alert within Highways England;

- Information only Safety Alert - This type of alert is providing the intended audience with some awareness of a topic; undesirable event or circumstance; that maybe of relevance to their work activities or environment. It is a fast way to communicate something without the need to provide the full detail; but with enough information to provide awareness.
- Action required Safety Alert - This type of alert would be used when there is a clear action required for the intended audience, and wouldn't normally be used until the facts are understood. The alert is the initial communication of the requirement, rather than the whole business process that will bring about that change.

It is recognised that there is room for improvement for the management of this process and the intention is to work with the Supply Chain to resolve.

Action for Suppliers – Check your organisations performance in relation to the production of Safety Alerts. Nine companies have overdue investigations still open, one of which dates back to November, 2020.

SCSLG consulted on Major Projects Directorate Plans for Home, Safe and Well

Chris Taylor of Highways England came to consult the Supply Chain Safety Leadership Group on Major Projects updated directorate plan for Home Safe and Well. The group reflected and had a great discussion on the outcomes to be delivered as key suppliers to our client.

Underpinning safety leadership through Roads Academy

SCSLG Member Lesley Waud is leading our engagement with the Roads Academy with the goal of embedding safety leadership into the programmes. She has been interviewed by the Roads Academy team as a stakeholder in the design of the new programmes and provided some feedback to the Group on what is a very exciting initiative for us for 2021.

Our Health by Design working group is making great progress

Making an immediate impact, our new member Adam Green has taken the sponsorship of the Health by Design working group in partnership with Lesley Waud. He presented the working group approach document and gained support from the Group on the principles of approach.

Action for Suppliers – Support required from our diverse supply chain – please show your interest by following the [link](#) to a forms expression of interest or contact Lesley and Adam directly.

Adopting Common Standards

Overview – As a supplier community we have agreed to adopt a *common standard* to improve safety performance, following the principles of prevention and robustly applying the Hierarchy of Control, from the earliest stages of projects in development, and throughout construction, operation and maintenance, is at the heart of the refreshed approach that we are expecting all suppliers to follow.

The Common Standards - Our approach to defining expectations for methods to be used to improve safety performance across the supply chain includes:

Common Intent - documents that set expectations of what we “must” all do. These provide clear direction and guiding principles in relation to application of the hierarchy of control that we expect to be considered in the processes and procedures followed by every organisation.

Raising the bar – documents that provide “interpretation” on how to implement common intent across the whole asset lifecycle, including design, construction, operations and maintenance.

Common Intent and Raising the Bar Documents can all be found on the [Highways Safety Hub](#).

Status

	SCSLG Member Lead	Common Intent Drafted	Common Intent Released	Raising the Bar Released
Highest Safe Speed	Non Member – Laura Baker (HE)	September 2020	Feb 2021 Link to Safety Hub	N/A
Passport Scheme	Teresa Moss (HE)	November 2020	Jan 2021 Link to Safety Hub	RtB 23 – Inductions – Released Jan 2021 Link to Safety Hub
Utilities Strike Avoidance	Lesley Waud (Atkins)	April 2020	May 2020 Link to Safety Hub	RtB 9 – Released October 2020 Link to Safety Hub
IPV Strikes & TM Incursions	James Haluch (Amey)	May 2020	June 2020 Link to Safety Hub	RtB 27 – Released October 2020 Link to Safety Hub
				New RtB 37 – IPV Usage – Target January 2021
				New RtB 38 – Mobile Carriageway Closure, Animated Flowchart decision tool & Automated TM vehicles – Q2 2021
Incident Investigation	Lesley Waud (Atkins)	June 2020	July 2020 Link to Safety Hub	N/A
Mental Health	Glennan Blackmore (Skanska)	September 2020	December 2020 Link to Safety Hub	New RtB 34 – Mental Health – Released Jan 2021 Link to Safety Hub

People & Plant Interface	Richard Stuart (Costain)	September 2020	December 2020 Link to Safety Hub	New RtB 35 – Loading and Unloading Vehicles – Released Jan 2021 Link to Safety Hub
				RtB 1 – Plant Standards – Target January 2021 RtB 3 – PPI released March 2021 Link to Safety Hub
Safety by Design	John Dixon (Jacobs)	June 2020	August 2020 Link to Safety Hub	RtB 26 - Target November 2020
Lost Loads	Non Member (Balfour Beatty)	June 2020	August 2020 Link to Safety Hub	New RtB 36 – Lost Loads - Released Jan 2021 Link to Safety Hub
Supervision	Nick Holt (WJ)	February 2021	Target March 2021	RtB 29 – Supervision - Target April 2021
Ground Investigation	Richard Wilson (HE)	Target April 2021	Target May 2021	Target June 2021
Roadworthiness	Phil Clifton (Balfour Beatty)	Target May 2021	Target June 2021	Target July 2021
Live lane working / Carriageway Crossing	David Shaw (HW Martin)	Target June 2021	Target July 2021	Target August 2021
Health by Design	Adam Green (FM Conway)	Target July 2021	Target August 2021	Target September 2021
Archaeology	Richard Wilson (HE)	Target July 2021	Target August 2021	Target September 2021
Suicide Prevention	David Shaw (HW Martin)	Target August 2021	Target September 2021	Target October 2021

New Working Groups being considered

- Excavations