

Accident frequency rate (AFR) period 07 - target audience: all staff

We have had four accidents and four incidents in the past month. The 12 month AFR stands at 0.14.

Event learning – target audience: all staff

Accident – Labour Solutions – Balfour Beatty – NW Electrification – Whilst walking on the concrete troughs, IP tripped on locking snaps and fell onto troughs causing bruised ribs, elbow and hand.

Action: Walking route to be reviewed in advance, only approved routes to be used.

Accident – Labour Solutions – BMW – Whitechapel – Whilst kneeling down to drill, using a heavy weight BOSCH drill, IP suffered a severe pain in lower back.

Action: Correct tool selection and posture during work reviewed by client. IP returned to work.

Accident – Labour Solutions – Track Partnership – IP was walking on concrete pathway when lost footing and fell over. IP suffered a twisted/sprained ankle.

Action: Promote the risks associated with access and egress- IP returned to work.

Incident – VGC B RDF – Queensville - During the raildrop the right hand rail feed accelerated fast narrowly missing the operative at ground level who was monitoring the rail drop.

Action: Fault identified and addressed during maintenance.

Reporting – target audience: all staff

The key to a successful, safe working environment is being able to identify hazards and controlling them.

Many clients record close calls, near hits, near misses, improvement opportunities, incidents, accidents etc.

Irrespective of what they are called, identifying them helps us all control the hazards, reduce the risks and make our workplace safer for all of us

What should you report?

- ✳ Any accident, no matter what the extent of the injury.
- ✳ Any incident, no matter how big or small the resultant damage or loss.
- ✳ Any near miss, even if no injury or damage occurred.

Remember: it is just as important to report good practice for us to note as it is to record hazards and close calls.

EDI- Equality, diversity and inclusion



Over 50% of VGC’s workforce practises different religions. The VGC Group promotes fairness, tolerance and acceptance of religious views in the work place.

Ramadan is an event in the Islamic calendar that is currently running from 17 June to 16 July. Strict fasting is observed from dawn to sunset.

All religions follow different practices and event calendars throughout the year. During religious holidays we should all be mindful of those practising:

- Show support and understanding during times of fasting or those making other sacrifices
- Respect other people’s beliefs and privacy if/when wanted

Be aware of those around you and the way in which you treat people in your daily activities to avoid unfair treatment or behaviour. VGC does not tolerate discriminatory behaviour within our business. If you have any concerns about equality, diversity and inclusion or discriminatory behaviour, please speak to your VGC contract supervisor or contact Laura Kenneally on 01895 671 780.

Outperformance – target audience: all staff

Elias Woldeyes received an award for identifying an unexpected contractor who turned up to site without authority.

Charlie Hunt spotted a mistake in the programme for the Blackrod job, which could have resulted in VGC failing a work activity. He showed great autonomy and foresight to correct the problem.

Carl Hardy received an award for his safe work around critical and uncharted services at the taxiway.

Ron Williams and Michael Elwood junior reacted quickly to arrange an emergency walkout. This meant VGC were able to achieve the work activity safely without any disruption. They showed great autonomy and foresight to correct the problem.

All of the above were recently awarded vouchers in recognition of their outperformance. If you have been commended by a client, tell us about it at: besafe@vgcgroup.co.uk

Slips, trips and falls – target audience: all staff

Did you know that 30% of accidents are as a result of a slip, trip or fall? Almost all of these could be avoided if:

- ✦ We assess routes prior to and throughout our works
- ✦ We keep our sites tidy
- ✦ We remove unused plant, equipment and materials
- ✦ We use authorised walkways
- ✦ We don't work at height without the correct protection in place
- ✦ We report any un-safe practices, conditions and hazards.

REMEMBER to stop and assess at the start of your work, and stop work should anything change.

Buried services dangers: all staff



A recent incident (non-VGC) incident involving a cable strike resulted in serious electrical burns injuries to the operative undertaking the groundbreaking activities.

The following were identified as contributing factors:

- ✦ Proper PPE was not worn
- ✦ Buried service info was not accurate
- ✦ Genny was not used with the CAT Scan
- ✦ Operative was not confident in the use of the equipment

Before you start work, review the activities being undertaken to ensure we all have suitable controls in place to avoid cable strikes.

If you do not have the tools/equipment needed and a permit for the task, issued by your authorising manager/supervisor:

Stop and report this immediately.

Q Readers on Network Rail. All COSS/SWL/Supervisors



As part of our recent site engagement, it was suggested that a reminder was required on QReader use on Network Rail sites.

- ✦ The QReader app can be downloaded from your Play/App Store
- ✦ The purpose of the QReader scanner is to enable the COSS or supervisor to check the validity of a person's competencies and verify the correct sponsor is included.
- ✦ The information also identifies any restrictions which may have been imposed since the last scan.
- ✦ It is essential that prior to the start of your work, all Sentinel cards are scanned and competencies verified, prior to starting work.

Exclusion zones: all staff



A recent (non-VGC) incident involved a rail beam being used to lift a 60ft section of rail.

The bolts securing the hitch adaptor plate to the main beam were stripped of their thread and the load slipped.

Remember to always ensure that

- ✦ Approved/signed plans are in place for the task
- ✦ All equipment is operated by competent staff
- ✦ Tools/equipment is checked prior to works
- ✦ All exclusion zones are in place.

Dumper safety accident: all staff



Accident details

While an operative was transporting 1.5 meter barriers on a dumper (non-VGC), he hit a traffic island.

- ✦ The operative lost control of the dumper and fell off.
- ✦ The dumper came to a final stop at a tree along a landscaped pedestrian walkway.
- ✦ The operative sustained bruising as a result of the incident.

Remember

All teams must ensure that dumpers are not overloaded when transporting barriers, as they can obscure the view of the driver. Also all drivers of construction plant (eg dumpers) must ensure they put on their seat belts at all times when plant is in use .

VGC BE SAFE rules – target audience: all staff

1. Be fit for work

Have the correct PPE for the task.
Do not to turn up to work tired or under the influence.

2. Always receive a brief before starting work

If you don't understand, ask a question.

3. Report all unsafe acts and conditions

Regardless of how big or small and report them to your supervisor.

4. STOP work should anything change

Stop if your task finishes or something changes from the plan.

Drugs and alcohol: all staff



VGC has a zero tolerance policy on drugs and alcohol. You should not:

- ✦ Report or try to report for duty, having consumed alcohol or being under the influence of drugs.
- ✦ Report for duty in an unfit state due to the use of alcohol or drugs.
- ✦ Be in possession of drugs of abuse in the work place.
- ✦ Consume alcohol or drugs while on duty.

Everyone engaged by VGC must inform their supervisor or manager if they are taking any prescribed or over the counter medication that could affect their safety and or the safety of others. Advice on prescribed or over the counter medication can be sought through any of the approved medical establishments used by VGC for medicals or drug and alcohol testing. Anyone engaged by VGC who undergoes drug and alcohol testing must give the sample collection officer full details of any prescribed or over the counter purchased medication before the test.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding drugs or alcohol please contact your **VGC contract supervisor or HSQE department - 01895 671 800.**

