

## See it, share it



This month's winner is KI Solomon Peters, who noticed that wood for disposal and recycling had nails left in it. Solomon realised someone might get injured, so he spoke with the carpenters and site management to remove these nails and ensure it didn't happen again.

Please make sure you share observations and close calls:

Text [07876 448 119](tel:07876448119)

Email [besafe@vgcgroup.co.uk](mailto:besafe@vgcgroup.co.uk)



## Plastic pollution

"Beat Plastic Pollution" is the theme for World Environment Day 2018. It calls everyone to come together to combat one of the great environmental challenges of our time. We need to consider how we can make changes in our everyday lives to reduce the heavy burden of plastic pollution on our natural places, our wildlife – and our own health.

Do you really need to use plastic as much as you do? Can you use an alternative shopping bag or drinks container?

Cigarette butts have tiny plastic threads in the filters - please make sure you dispose of them properly. And please put any plastic bottle you no longer want into a recycling bin.



A little reminder about the health survey we emailed out recently.

If you've started it but not submitted, use your personal ID number to return. Please use the link

<https://rand.ssisurveys.com/wix/6/p2051256.aspx>

Questions? Email [fiona.dowling@vgcgroup.co.uk](mailto:fiona.dowling@vgcgroup.co.uk)

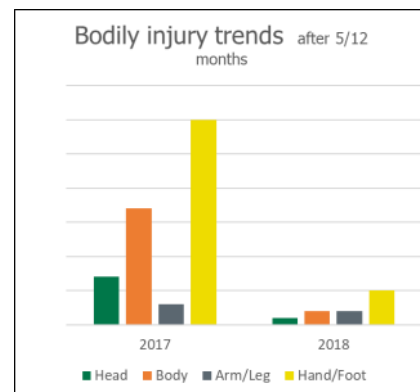


## Injury trends

Most of our injuries this year have been to arms and legs. These are because of slips and trips. Please take care, especially when surfaces are wet. If you see a trip hazard, please report it immediately.

- We have had fewer injuries this year compared to last year.
- We have also had more observations.

The more people spot and report issues, the more they can be solved - and the fewer accidents we have!



## Waste

Are you responsible for removing waste from site? Remember, you must have a waste transfer note (WTN) to transfer non-hazardous municipal waste.

The WTN must identify the carrier, and show the quantity and a description of the waste (as a code).

It must be signed by the waste generator (VGC) and the carrier (the company licensed to transport the waste). Please make sure the VGC waste licence is displayed on site.

If you are carrying waste in your company van, even if it is only a couple of bags of site waste, you must still have a WTN. In this case, VGC is both the generator and carrier.

As part of the waste management plan, we assess all VGC's waste to see if we can recycle it.



## Seat belts and vehicle daily checks

On 4 June 2018 a crew bus drove off the edge of the haul road. Fortunately it was not going fast, and no-one was badly injured. An investigation has been started, including checking the steering of the vehicle.

- If you drive a company vehicle, please make sure you fill in the daily check sheet before each shift and report any potential defects immediately.
- Always wear your seatbelt, in any vehicle, even if you are sitting in the back or travelling on a site.



## Reminder: your responsibilities and duties

You should fully understand your duties when working on any project.

You must be competent for the role you are to perform - that means you must have the training, experience and knowledge to do the task allocated to you. This may be shown by training records, CSCS/CPCS/sentinel cards or other competency cards.

You will usually get a project and site induction and briefings to tell you what is expected of you.

**If there is something you do not fully understand, you must ask.** By signing a briefing sheet, you are stating you fully understand what has been said to you, and are aware of any responsibilities you may have.

You may not delegate or omit these responsibilities without approval from an authorised person. You must never put yourself in a position where you can not fulfil your duties, even for a minute.

Some roles may require you to be appointed to that role. You will get a letter of appointment or a briefing, signed by you to show you understand your obligations.

If you do not carry out your responsibilities, there could be:

- injury or damage to the infrastructure
- people putting themselves or others at unnecessary risk
- delay to the works and lost time for investigations
- costly legal advice
- disciplinary action

So

- Please ensure that you fully understand what you are responsible for
- If you are not sure at any time, ask
- Always fulfil your duties
- Do not transfer your responsibilities to others

## Lessons learned - service strikes

- Always make sure you have the correct permits (eg permit to break ground) before you start work. If not, tell your supervisor and do not start work.
- Make sure your permits are clear, legible and you fully understand the contents.

Unfortunately we have had some contacts with services recently. These include contact with high-voltage (HV) cables whilst excavating.

Lessons learned:

1. Pre-work scanning must be undertaken in all modes using a CAT and genny.
2. Ensure CAT and genny scanning is undertaken at layered depths.
3. Mechanical excavation tools must not be used closer than your job risk assessment indicates.
4. Do not take shortcuts to meet deadlines.
5. If anything changes, stop work! If you find uncharted services (or don't find a service you expect), or you find unexpected obstacles such as concrete, stop. Do not make assumptions. Operatives have guessed, and made their own changes, using the wrong tools and plant.
6. Always ensure adequate supervision at site.
7. You must stop work if there is any change to planned task or environment or if the paperwork is incorrect. If you do, you will be fully supported by management.



Never underestimate the risks around services or during any excavation.

**Contact with electrical cables can kill!**

## Anti-social behaviour

Be considerate of the residents in areas where you are working.

Many of our works involve moving through residential areas. Even though you may feel you are reasonable about noise, parking and language, what you do may be the latest in a series of events that has annoyed a resident. Remember that your vehicle and your PPE carry the VGC logo and your behaviour reflects on VGC as a whole.

Bear in mind that some residents may be night or shift workers, whose sleep is disturbed by works.

Please always drive courteously. Keep your music down, and always pull away and brake as smoothly and quietly as possible.

Outside the vehicles, don't bang doors, don't shout and don't swear. Follow site rules regarding parking - and if you park offsite, be considerate of road users and residents. Be aware that a group of people in PPE may be seen as intimidating. Also remember that wheelchair users need more room on footpaths than you do.

If you are approached by a member of the public, be polite at all times - even if they are rude. Tell them you will forward their complaint to the project or site manager. Remain calm and if they become aggressive or threatening, walk away. In some cases, it may be better to find somewhere else to park, even if you feel you have a right to park there.

Please tell your VGC supervisor or line manager about any disagreement with members of the public, even if you believe it has been resolved, or you were in the right.

## Please secure all loads

A flatbed van driver has been found guilty of dangerous driving, jailed for four years and banned from driving for seven years. He caused the death of an army officer last year after a generator fell off the back of his vehicle.

Even though the driver had been given training and instruction in securing loads, he failed to do so. He placed a generator in the back believing its weight would stop it falling out.

As he went across a level crossing, the bumps caused the generator to fall off. It fatally the woman and seriously injured her husband as they walked along the road.

Just a few moments to secure the load would have prevented this avoidable tragedy.

The Highway Traffic Act says you may not drive a vehicle with a load unless the load is secured, contained or covered so that nothing can fall, leak or blow from it. All loads must be locked

## Fall from a ladder - fatality

A 20-year-old electrician died on 5 June after falling from a ladder. He was working at a railway station in East Dunbartonshire.

It is not currently known why the electrician fell. However, please take care.

- Always ensure any ladder you use is suitable and in good condition.
- Do not attempt to carry loads up a ladder: use both hands for grip.
- Do not work off a ladder unless a risk assessment has been done, and it has been decided that is suitable for the task.



## Key influencer engagement

Congratulations to labour managers John Daly and Donatas Jausicas - joint winners of the most key influencer reports for May. Thank you, everyone.



## Roadworker fatality on roundabout upgrade

A road worker was fatally injured when he was struck from behind by plant.

The incident took place on Friday 1 June during night works to upgrade the Runnymede Roundabout on the A30 in Egham, Surrey.

The incident is currently being investigated. Reports say that the man, who worked for a surfacing contractor, was dragged along the road for more than 15 feet by the plant machinery.

He suffered serious head injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Please ensure this cannot happen to you or your colleagues.

- Ensure there is adequate segregation between people and plant.
- If you need to enter an area where plant is operating, **wait** until the operator has acknowledged you, stood their machine down and signalled it is safe for you to approach.

