

BE SAFE WITH vgc
%%first_name%%, here is your January Be Safe brief!
It is important that you read this brief and [click at the end to confirm you've understood it.](#)

Return to work

When you get back to work after the Christmas and New Year break, please take a moment to think about site safety. Do not start work until you have had your briefing.

Make sure you are fit for work. Limit your drinking in the 24 hours before you arrive on site. If driving, ensure you are fit to get behind the wheel.



Key safety aspects on any project:

- Take time to check your work areas and comply with the Be Safe rules:
- Be fit for work.
- Always receive a briefing.
- Report all unsafe acts and conditions.
- Stop work if anything changes.
- Look around you and check for anything that may have changed since you were last on site. Remember, unauthorised access to the work area over the break may have caused issues that are not obvious immediately.
- Check access routes, emergency escapes, scaffolding and ladders – make sure you are satisfied that no-one has interfered with them and that they are all in good order. If they aren't, you must stop work and report your observations.
- Check walkways are clear and surfaces are intact and not slippery.
- Be sure that the lighting is adequate for your safe access and work.

Plant person interface

It can be cold in any plant cab at this time of year. In addition, some operators choose to warm up their machine's hydraulics before operating. Never be tempted to enter the area around the plant whilst this is happening, even if you think the operator is simply warming up the plant and knows you are there.



On a recent highways upgrade project, an operative was briefing two plant operators while their machines warmed up. Whilst the operative briefed the second plant operator, the first got into their cab, attempted to remove their coat and accidentally knocked the machine controls. The plant slewed and the bucket pinned the operative's leg against the tracks of the second machine.

Never enter the "red zone" area of plant unless the operator has followed protocol by acknowledging you are there, immobilising their plant and indicating to you that it is safe for you to enter.

If you are a plant operator and someone enters your "red zone" area, stop immediately, isolate your machine and, if necessary, report the incident to your supervisor.

Winter working

Please remember that conditions underfoot during winter can be unexpectedly icy.

Unlit or poorly lit areas can be hazardous at the start or the end of your shift.

Report badly lit walkways or murky pools of water to your supervisor or manager.

Economical driving

At this time of year, roads can become slippery due to either frost or rain. Aggressive driving is more likely to cause accidents and will increase your fuel consumption. The AA estimate most drivers could save 10% on their fuel bills by considerate driving.

