

# Safety Alert

## Works areas left unsafe

10 October 2024

### Background information

A recent incident resulting in a personal injury has identified works areas are being left with hazards, increasing the risk of injury to other teams entering the workspace.

This incident occurred whilst measuring / surveying a work area for a new task. The injured person's foot fell into a hole which was covered by vegetation, causing injury. The investigation identified a column / post had been cut off; the hole was not backfilled, allowing the vegetation to grow over and cover the hazard.

When working on the Strategic Road Network (SRN), removing infrastructure, undertaking excavations / trial holes etc., ensure:

- The works area is left safe and without risk to others
- Any exposed holes are backfilled with tampered sand.

If an open hole is found and there is no ability to backfill it, it should be covered with appropriate material and the location should be reported to the Regional Operations Centre (ROC). This will assist in minimising the risk to others and creating a safe place for future work activities.



### Lessons Learnt

- Ensure all works areas are left safe and without risk to other teams and members of the public.
- Be vigilant in the work area.
- When working at night, ensure adequate lighting for the works area is provided.



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

**home safe  
and well**