

## Lessons learnt

After a recent incident, we have reviewed the way we manage temporary covers over excavations.

To make sure members of the public (and other contractors and colleagues) stay safe, we will always:

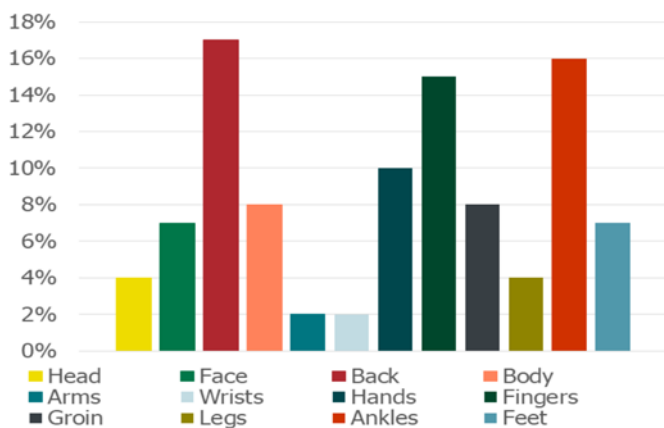


- secure temporary covers with fixings
- cold lay tarmac to ensure there are no raised edges to avoid a trip hazard
- spray the surface / cover with yellow hatching
- Add warning signs

✓ Make sure the risk assessment covers all the possible risks including to members of the public, who may not always be paying attention.

## Injury trends

Body injury trends for 2017



## Injury free January



We recorded no accidents at all during January.

Thank you to everyone who helped in this great result, by reporting close calls and following procedure on site.

By looking out for everyone, including spotting and solving issues from bad weather, underfoot conditions and plant movement, you have maintained a safe working environment.

## See it, share it

The winner this month is Steve Langford. When he arrived at his work site after a weekend, he noticed that someone had cut down some Japanese Knotweed from one CESS, carried it over the line and dumped it in the opposite CESS.



Because the area was now contaminated, he took a photo and instructed his team not to go into the area. He and his team returned to the compound and reported it to the client who arranged correct disposal



Text **07876 448 119**

Email **besafe@vgcgroup.co.uk**

## Ethical Labour Standard

After an audit by BRE we are the first labour supply company in the UK to achieve the new Ethical Labour Sourcing Standard. VGC is also the first company in the rail sector, and one of just three companies to attain the standard so far.

The audit report said: "As one of the largest labour and staff suppliers to the UK's construction and rail companies; and as a company that undertakes rail and construction contracts, VGC clearly has robust governance procedures in place."

## Know the speed limit for your vehicle

Type of vehicle	Built up areas (unless stated otherwise)	Single carriageways	Dual carriageways	Motorways
Cars	30 MPH	60 MPH	70 MPH	70 MPH
Car-derived vans (Fiesta or Astra vans)	30 MPH	60 MPH	70 MPH	70 MPH
Non car-derived vans - maximum gross weight up to 7.5t (transits or similar & 4x4 pickups)	30 MPH	50 MPH	60 MPH	70 MPH

## Smart motorway speed cameras

Several VGC teams are working on smart motorway projects. These include gantries for cameras to control drivers' speeds, now live on motorways including the M25, M1 and A14.

The cameras are set to photograph vehicles travelling at just 1 mph above the speed limit.

Please pay attention to your speed: if you drive too fast, expect a fixed penalty fine.

Driving too fast:

- gives you less time to react, and it takes longer for a vehicle to stop
- makes you more likely to crash, and means the crash will cause more severe injuries, to yourself and other road users
- will cost you a fine, and VGC a lot of time-consuming paperwork.

In January, we again passed our FORS audit, assessing our fleet management.



## Great Eastern OLE

New electrified OLE - Gidea Park stabling roads 1-4 and London End and County End headshunts

From 23:00 on Sunday 28 January the new overhead line equipment at this location will be energised at 25,000V AC.

It will be live and dangerous.

If you are working in the area please be aware of this and ensure all tools are compliant.



## Slips, trips and falls

Simple slips and trips are the largest cause of injuries on construction sites. Most of these can be avoided by effective site management. The main causes:

- \* Walking on uneven ground, particularly when carrying objects
- \* Tripping over materials and cables left lying around
- \* Slipping over wet surfaces

Please observe the conditions around you, and report anything you feel may cause someone to slip, trip or fall over.

## Safety briefings

In January 2018 VGC clients issued 35 safety briefings to us. They include:

- Costain - weather warning following Storm Eleanor
- Network Rail - use of brush cutters fitted with metal blade
- Skanska - trapped in, under or between objects

All operatives should have received a couple of briefings this month. If you have any questions please speak to your VGC labour manager.

## Key influencers

We now have **56** key influencers on our sites! If you spot good practice or issues on your site please liaise with your key influencer.

