

Dust

Dust comes from tasks such as ballast work and concrete cutting, and is worse in dry weather. If you are concerned about dust at your workplace please continue to raise it as an observation. We will look at the causes and what control measures are in place. This may involve a simple request to damp down an area during dry weather.

If you are asked to undertake a work activity that is causing dust you must stop and raise with the supervisor before continuing to see if this can be eliminated.

Respiratory protective equipment (RPE) is a final control measure where the dust cannot be eliminated. It should not be used as the first control measure choice. Anyone who may be exposed to dust as a result of a work activity must be given RPE and be face-fit tested.

Use of exposed blade knives

Stanley and craft knives can be extremely dangerous if used incorrectly, and can cause severe injury.

Knives with exposed blades are banned within VGC. That includes fixed and retractable bladed knives.

Check before you cut anything:

- Can you eliminate the need to cut at all?
- Undertake a risk assessment of the task
- Consider the material you are cutting
- Consider the right equipment for the task
- Consider what PPE is required

If you are asked to use an exposed blade knife at work please politely decline, saying that this is against VGC policy. Ask for an alternative tool - eg a safety cutter.

Please also inform your VGC manager so we can be aware of the issue.



See it, share it



The winner for this month is Jarlath O'Hara in construction. His excavating team came across a cable not shown on any drawings. Work was stopped and an electrician was called to site to confirm the status.

Text **07876 448 119**

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

Congratulations to the whole team for identifying the hazard and ensuring the safety of everyone on site. This followed their recent training in HSG47 - Avoiding danger from underground services.

New Elizabeth line trains

The new rail line across London created by the Crossrail project has been officially named the Elizabeth line. Trains are starting to come into service on parts of this line now, and there will be a full service by 2019.

These are the first trains in the UK without the usual yellow fronts.

It has been reported that some track workers including COSS and lookouts, who are used to seeing a yellow-fronted train, may not immediately recognise the non yellow train approaching them.

There have been no recorded near misses as a result of this. However we suggest anyone working on or near the Elizabeth line is aware of the non-yellow train fronts and reminds all colleagues regularly.

