



SHEQ Information No 194

M4 Wiltshire van crash

This bulletin is for the attention of all staff and contractors.

Background

It is with great sadness that three Carillion staff have died when a transit van which they were travelling in collided with a lorry at junction 17 of the M4.

Two men travelling in the van were pronounced dead at the scene and two other men also travelling in the van were taken to hospital with serious injuries, where one of them later died. A fifth man suffered minor injuries. All of the passengers worked on the railways for Carillion. The 37-year old van driver was arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving.



The van with the five male passengers had struck a vehicle on the hard shoulder directly under junction 17. Investigation is still ongoing for clues into the cause of the collision.

Actions Required

Discuss with your colleagues what can be done to manage risks associated with driving:

- Remember to follow the 'lifesaving rules' to help manage driving risk, for example:



- Always wear a seat belt while in a moving vehicle and always obey the speed limit



- Never use a hand-held device or programme any hands-free device while you are driving a road vehicle

- Condition of your vehicle – How would you check your vehicle is safe to use for the job you are doing? What would you do if you found a defect?
- Tiredness – Has fatigue or tiredness affected you whilst driving? What would you do if you didn't have sufficient rest before a shift? What can you do to reduce the likelihood of fatigue? What can you do if you begin to feel sleepy whilst driving?
- Transporting hazardous substances – How can hazardous substances like gas cylinders, petrol or fog signals be transported safely? How can a tidy van help reduce the seriousness of accident?
- Planning work – If you are responsible for planning work, what steps can you build into your plan to keep people safe as they travel to and from the work site?
- Engaging with labour suppliers – if you are responsible for managing contractors, what steps can you take to ensure that we give sufficient time for the contractor/labour supplier to arrange the people required?