



Safety Alert

Mobile Welfare Unit Fire

29th May 2019

The following pages of this safety alert were issued by Highways England's supply chain partner:

Kier

SHE ALERT

Ref:
Issued by: Kier SHE Department
Date:



Welfare Unit Fire



What Happened

14/05/2019 a welfare cabin caught fire currently due to unknown reasons. Prior to the fire starting, a supervisor on site stopped at the cabin in question and observed smoke coming from the microwave which was supplied and fitted by the hire company. In an attempt to cut the power, the supervisor pulled the plugs from the sockets to the microwave and kettle and as he did this a shot of flames came from the microwave and began to spread. It was not safe for the supervisor to attempt to tackle the fire himself with the extinguishers in the cabin, so the London fire brigade (LFB) was called immediately who arrived within 15 minutes of the call. By the time they had arrived the cabin was completely engulfed in flames to which the LFB extinguished within 12 minutes. No one was hurt in the incident and there was no impact on the environment.

The followings items are not yet known to be causations to the incident as the investigation is still ongoing, however as a minimum the following action must be taken:

Ensure the following:

- Welfare units are fully inspected on a daily basis for defects and record findings.
- Portable appliances are tested by a competent person and records are maintained on site
- Annual electrical service and inspection is undertaken by a competent, electrically qualified person and records are maintained on site
- Switch off generators when not in use
- Generator room to be kept free from any combustible materials
- Check that all fire extinguishers are charged and in date
- Welfare units are kept clean and tidy with all rubbish disposed of in any appropriate waste bins provided
- Heaters are not covered with any items
- Materials and equipment are not stored inside or up against the welfare cabin
- Report any near misses and suspicious behaviour
- Do not use sockets to charge personal items or anything other than what is provided within the welfare
- Smoke alarms to be checked weekly

Further Information:

For more information about this incident please contact:
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