

Safety Alert

Christmas shutdown and New Year restart

12 December 2022

Background information

The purpose of this alert is to provide guidance for the temporary shutdown of work areas during the Christmas period and the subsequent restart in 2023.

During this time of year we can experience an increase in incidents.

STOP and THINK about whether suitable and sufficient controls are in place.

Shutdown

- Risk assess any activity where workers may require access during the shutdown period, especially any lone working
- Arrange for checks to be undertaken to ensure closed sites and any temporary structures remain in safe condition
- Check traffic management, barriers and warning signage are secure and gates/containers are closed and locked to deter trespassers
- Remove valuable items/equipment and flammable materials and lock away out of sight where possible.
- Make sure items that have the potential to move/blow over in poor weather are secured down
- Protect excavations and where possible temporary fill
- Prevent unauthorised access to scaffolding and platforms – ensure statutory inspections are carried out and plan for ad-hoc inspections following extreme weather.

Restart

Ask the following questions:

- Are you fit for work both mentally and physically?
- Have vehicle and equipment defect checks been undertaken before use?



- Did you receive a new briefing on return to work and has anything changed?
- Are you familiar with the requirements of the risk assessment and method statement?
- Is PPE in good clean working order and being worn correctly?
- Have you reported any safety concerns before work commences?

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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@highwaysengland.co.uk