

SHEQ ALERT

ALERT TOPIC	Highway Incursions	ALERT REFERENCE:	CRL HIG 020725
TARGET AUDIENCE:	All CRL and other interested people	AUTHORISED BY:	T Grierson N Roper
DATE OF ISSUE:	Wednesday 2 July 2025	DISPLAY UNTIL:	31/12/25

1. IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUIRED

This Safety Alert highlights the severe and increasing risk posed to road workers by motorists encroaching into active roadwork zones. Recent incidents across the network underline the critical need for heightened awareness, stricter adherence to safety protocols, and responsible driving behaviour.

2. THE HAZARD

Roadworkers are at extreme risk from vehicles entering designated exclusion zones, work areas, or running through coned-off sections of roadworks. This includes:

- **Vehicles driving through safety zones:** Bypassing cones, barriers, or signage.
- **Speeding in traffic management areas:** Exceeding temporary speed limits.
- **Inattentive driving:** Distraction (e.g., mobile phones) leading to late reactions or veering into work areas.
- **Aggressive driving:** Impatience leading to dangerous manoeuvres around traffic management.
- **Misunderstanding of signage:** Failure to correctly interpret or react to roadwork signs.

3. POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES

The consequences of such incursions are catastrophic and include:

- **Serious Injury or Fatality to Road Workers:** Direct impact from vehicles, being crushed against equipment, or struck by flying debris.
- **Serious Injury to Motorists and Passengers:** Collisions within the work zone.
- **Damage to Plant and Equipment:** Leading to operational delays and increased costs.
- **Psychological Trauma:** For workers and colleagues witnessing incidents.
- **Reputational Damage and Legal Consequences:** For all parties involved.

4. CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

While motorist behaviour is primary, it's crucial to ensure our controls are robust:

- **Motorist Behaviour:** Inattention, speeding, aggressive driving, disregard for signage, unfamiliarity with roadwork layouts.
- **Traffic Management Layouts:** Potential for unclear signage, insufficient lighting, or inadequate barrier protection (though these are often mitigated by design standards).
- **Worker Proximity:** Workers sometimes operating close to live traffic lanes, despite control measures.

5. REQUIRED ACTIONS & SAFETY MEASURES

For All Road Workers & Supervisors:

- **Adhere to Safe Systems of Work (SSOW) & Method Statements:** Never deviate from agreed-upon traffic management plans.
- **Maintain Situational Awareness:** Be constantly aware of vehicle movements, especially those approaching your work area.
- **Utilise Designated Safe Havens:** Retreat to designated safe zones or behind protective barriers immediately if a vehicle incurs into your area.
- **Report All Incursions:** Report **any** instance of a vehicle breaching the works zone or driving dangerously within the traffic management, regardless of whether an accident occurred. Use established site reporting procedures (e.g., near-miss reporting system). Provide as much detail as possible (vehicle type, colour, partial registration if safe to obtain, time, location).
- **Wear Full & Correct PPE:** Ensure high-visibility clothing is clean and worn correctly at all times.
- **Report;** any TM issues i.e. missing or damaged signage or cones.
- **Do Not give instruction to the motorist.** Let the TM company deal with it

A Message to Motorists (That's us too!):

- **Slow Down:** Always adhere to temporary speed limits. They are in place for *your* safety and the safety of the workers.
- **Pay Attention:** Eliminate distractions (mobile phones, sat-nav). Focus on the road and signage.
- **Heed All Signage:** Road signs, cones, and barriers are there to guide you safely through or around roadworks. They define the safe route.
- **Give Space:** Give road workers and their vehicles plenty of room. Assume they might need to move unexpectedly.
- **Patience:** Expect delays and plan your journey. Aggressive driving puts everyone at risk.

6. CALL TO ACTION

The safety of our road workers is paramount. Every incursion is a potential tragedy. We must collectively reinforce our safety culture, report all incidents, and ensure all measures are in place to protect our workforce from this critical hazard.

Report all incidents and near misses immediately to your supervisor/manager

REASON FOR ISSUING THIS ALERT

Due to the frequency and high-risk nature of highways incursions

CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSION POINTS

Refer to Section 6

SHEQ ALERT

Please review the content of the attached SHEQ Alert for relevance prior to communicating the contents to your site teams. Please record this review on the form below and retain in the CRL filing system:

SHEQ ALERT BRIEFING RECORD

ALERT TOPIC:	Incursions	ALERT REFERENCE:	CRL HIG 020725
PROJECT NAME:		DATE OF BRIEFING:	
BRIEFING DELIVERED BY:			

The following people have signed to confirm receipt and understanding of this SHEQ Alert:

[illegible]

If you have any SHEQ issues that you wish to discuss, please contact your supervisor, line manager, or a member of the SHEQ team.