



In 2013 over 100 Members of Parliament supported a call for the installation of a vital safety feature on quiet hybrid and electric vehicles to keep pedestrians safe. MPs from many different political parties supported the cause to install artificial noise generators on quiet vehicles

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Written below is a personal account created by a CRL manager who wanted to warn everybody of the risk posed by silent hybrid cars.

“I was recently with a Client, undertaking a walk-around site inspection of a multi-storey car park. All in the group (3No.) were appropriately attired in high-viz and experienced with the risks associated with walking around a 'live' car park.

At one point we all turned to cross a live traffic aisle, but were taken by surprise as a fairly rapidly moving hybrid car, running on battery power, passed essentially silently by. A second or so later and the initial step taken by at least two of the group could have resulted in a collision, either car on pedestrian, or car on parked car as the moving vehicle swerved to avoid us.

The incident highlighted how much of our awareness in these environments relies on our hearing, as well as our other senses, and the potential for conflicts with this type of vehicle”.

ACTION:

- Consider the risk posed by silent vehicles when creating Construction Phase Plans, risk assessments and method statements and implement suitable controls.
- Create physical segregation whenever possible.
- When working in the vicinity of live traffic on roads, high streets, car parks etc. communicate the risk at times of inductions, toolbox talks and during other workplace consultation and briefings sessions.
- Discuss with family and friends so that they are aware.

If you have any health and safety issues that you wish to discuss contact your supervisor, line manager or Safety Advisor.

Remember there must be NO COMPROMISE where health and safety is concerned.