

Safety Alert

Operative injured by traffic sign after collision with vehicle

A Traffic Management Operative involved in setting up and establishing advance warning signs for a Utility R&M works contract in north London suffered severe bruising as the result of being struck by a 'quick-fit' sign frame that hit and fell on him after a van driven by a member of the public collided with it as it was being made up on the footway.

The IP was employed as part of a 2 man team deployed to form a protected area in the centre of the carriageway. Due to the road category ('A' road), advance warning signage was required to be elevated to ensure adequate visibility for road users. The IP parked his vehicle adjacent to where the advance warning sign was required and started to make up and erect the frame and sign plate on the footway, whilst leaning the sign against the side of vehicle.



What happened?

As the IP was clipping the sign plate onto the frame, a Transit type van unexpectedly drove onto the footway and collided with the leg of the quick-fit frame causing it to strike the IP across the abdomen. He subsequently fell onto the footway with the sign on top of him. The van driver reversed his vehicle off the footway following the collision. The IP required hospital treatment for his injury and was fortunate to escape with only bruising. A Police investigation is underway to trace the vehicle owner and driver, who failed to stop.



Action to reduce the risk

- Ensure that you are visible when working on or adjacent to live traffic; check your PPE is clean and the reflectivity of the retro-reflective banding is not impaired due to wear.
- Work behind a parked vehicle if it is safe to do so, and if you cannot park off the live traffic route ensure that hazard warning lights and roof mounted beacon are used to warn other motorists and road users.
- If the work you are doing on the footway is adjacent to a vehicle access, or is likely to interfere with pedestrian access consider if you need to provide pedestrian barriers around the area you are using to unload or prepare materials, signs and cones for use on the highway.

Additional guidance

The CoP 'Safety at Street Works and Road Works' provides detailed guidance on safe working on low speed routes.

120525 Alert - Operative Struck By Traffic Sign