

Safety Alert

Member of Public Injury

Elderly Member of Public falls into MUS Excavation

What Happened

A 72 year old female resident of a busy seaside resort fell into an unguarded MUS excavation which unfortunately had been vandalised.

She was returning home at night and fell into an open excavation in the footway, causing cuts and abrasions to her leg. Her husband got her out of the trench, helped her home and administered first aid.

The investigation revealed that at some time over the weekend, the barrier system had been tampered with by persons unknown. This resulted in pedestrians being directed across an open excavation using the barrier boards as a bridge.



Learning Points for MUS

ALWAYS ensure that your site is set out correctly, and secured when you leave.

Consider other forms of protection in dense pedestrian areas (e.g. Heras fencing), accompanied by clear warning signs.

If sites have been closed/left for a period of time, regular visits will need to be made to check the site is still signed and secure

Take photographs of how you leave site so we can demonstrate that we left it secure.



Protecting the Public Your Next Move (Free to download from HSE Website)

HSE publication designed to give guidance to all persons undertaking works that may impact upon the public.

It shows how risk assessment should always help decide how the perimeters are to be defined, what type will be needed to protect the public and where it should be placed.

Factors to consider include the nature and type of the work, how heavily populated or used the areas are and whether the site may attract children



If you are in ANY doubt, ALWAYS consult your Supervisor / line manager

Remember

NOTHING WE DO IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE CANNOT TAKE THE TIME TO DO IT SAFELY.