

Safety Alert

Vehicle Security

The Incident

A Morrison Utility Services team working on a repair and maintenance contract had completed a repair on a burst water main. Whilst the team were in the process of putting the last pieces of equipment away, the team leader placed the keys in the ignition and started the works vehicle, then walked around the vehicle to the side door to take off his waterproofs.

He then noticed that the vehicle and the trailer were being driven off with the handbrake still applied. The operative ran to the driver's window in an attempt to stop the theft. The team leader then grabbed hold of the thief through the half open window and travelled approximately 200 metres towards oncoming traffic at speeds of approximately 20 miles per hour before having to let go and jump to safety which caused minor injuries. The vehicle was found by the Police and Fire Service a short time later burnt out, the trailer and excavator were recovered.

Cause of the incident?

The team leader started the vehicle and left it unattended allowing the opportunistic thief to enter the vehicle and drive off.

In an attempt to stop the theft taking place, the team leader placed himself in considerable danger, which could have resulted in serious or potentially fatal injuries.

What action must we take?

- Vehicles and plant keys are to be removed by the driver on exiting the vehicle.
- Under no circumstances are the keys to be left in the ignition or the engine left running.
- Keys must not be left in the vehicle, and are to be in the possession of the driver at all times.
- All traffic incidents/accidents are to be reported on the MUS Incident-Line within 24hrs.



Everyone is reminded that nothing comes before your own Safety. You must not place yourself in harms way by attempting to restrain individuals that are attempting to, or have stolen company equipment.

Remember

Nothing we do is so important that we cannot take the time to do it safely