

Learning Bulletin – Member of Public – Fatal injury – This was not a TW incident

What Happened?

Dad-of-two fell head first into an excavation on site fatally wounding him.

The excavation site was dug up to carry out work on the water network



Why did it really happen?

The injured person was walking past the site and fell into the excavation head first. There was no protection of the opening and did not have any signing, lighting or guarding in place at the time of the incident to warn passers-by of the dangers or to prevent them from accessing the work area.

What can I do differently?

- Ensure all excavations are covered using footway boards or road plates when unattended – If the excavation is too large for footway boards to be put in place, other means of protection MUST be sought
- Always provide the required width and clear access on footways – use kerb ramps for any crossings
- All Heras fencing and barriers must be double clipped and left secure
- Road and pedestrian signage must be correct for the site set up and in place to clearly show road users and pedestrians what to do
- If necessary use temporary lighting around the site to enhance visibility
- Always take photographs before you leave site
- If you are ever unsure, ALWAYS ask your supervisor before you leave site