



# **In the line of fire**

Guidance for managers

# Line of Fire

Too many people have had lives changed forever as a result of not taking a few moments to consider whether they are in the 'line of fire' i.e. at risk of being injured, when performing a task.

Situations where we are at risk of being 'hit by' something while at work can be found in every corner of our business. The key is to identify these situations and to keep ourselves and others out of the line of fire.

Whether it be in our offices or on our sites there may be occasions where we unconsciously place ourselves in the line of fire, perhaps by neglecting our own health and wellbeing through poor diet, lack of sleep and poor stress management.

**This presentation contains guidelines for managers to help them to support their employees in staying out of the line of fire.**



# Introduction

- In April 2015 we launched our '[Thumbs Up](#)' campaign.
- Driven by the HSLT, the campaign focused on safety around moving plant and equipment

The posters and briefing can be found on the hub:

<https://vpn.thameswater.co.uk/jsp/,DanaInfo=www.healthandsafetyhub.co.uk+1973.jsp>

## Next steps

- To support our drive to achieve zero incidents, zero harm, zero compromise, we've developed further information for your use.
- You'll find information within this presentation and on the portal to support conversations with your team around staying out of the 'line of fire'
- You may decide to use this in presentations, for your own information, or as part of general team updates or reminders.



# Only seconds away.

## Working with pressure

Key message: If a piece of pressure equipment fails and bursts violently the results can be devastating. Never become complacent, always take time to consider the potential consequences should a pressurised system fail. Take that extra time to make sure you are not 'in the line of fire'.

Take the time to discuss with your teams the scenarios they might be working with pressure vessels or systems. Some examples:

- Field-base teams (dig & non-dig): Live water mains, gas mains, air compressors, air lines, water pumps, Hydraulic systems (hoses, pumps, valves etc.), high pressure water used for jetting, tankers and vacuumation units.
- Office teams, laboratories: Boilers, pipework, kettles, safety cabinets at positive pressure, cylinders.
- Treatment site workers: Hydraulic hoses, boats, plant, PRV's on pressure vessels, compressors, air receivers, surge vessel systems, CO2 at gateway and hydraulic systems

Special note: Please see associated guidance note for more detail



**Don't put yourself in the line of fire.**

Water from a pressurised main will travel 100 metres in less than the time it takes to read this. Where would you want to be if that main burst?



# At your best?

## Out of 'the zone' and 'into the line of fire'

'The zone': a mental state where a person performing a work activity is fully focused, energised, involved, and enjoys the process of the activity. Fully understanding the risks and controls necessary to ensure their own safety and that of others at all times.

Managers can use this poster to talk to their teams about the scenarios and instances where their focus at work may be compromised and therefore their health, safety and wellbeing. This should be an open discussion using some of the questions below as a steer but very much managed at a local level by individual line managers.

- Do you ever feel you have gone through a whole day, know you have done your job but cannot remember how or what you have done?
- Have you ever walked out of a meeting or conversation with your head still in the meeting room and nearly walked into someone, a lamp-post or, even worse, a road or busy walkway?

Factors including stress, fatigue, work/life balance, health concerns, drugs, alcohol, lack of exercise, working in high pressure environments and many others can cause people to be less alert, less able to process information, have slower reaction times and less interest in working.



**Don't put yourself in the line of fire.**

Staying alert may stop you being in the wrong place at the wrong time.



# Know your chemicals

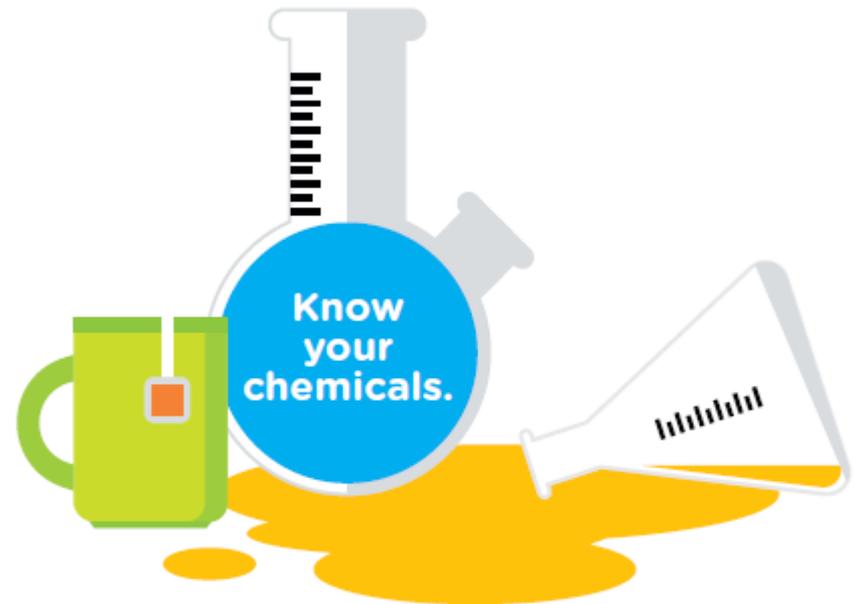
## Chemical Safety

When we find ourselves in the line of fire with chemicals whether it be through a splash in the face, a spill onto our skin or a leak that creates inhalable fumes, the effects can be extremely harmful and in certain cases life-changing or fatal.

**Some examples of chemicals and hazardous materials we deal with in our business:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Treatment chemicals</li><li>• Chlorous</li><li>• Fuel (diesel, petrol)</li><li>• Vehicle fluids (hydraulic oil, AdBlue, engine oil)</li><li>• Domestic chemicals (bleach, cleaning sprays and salts)</li><li>• Contaminated water</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Laboratory testing chemicals</li><li>• Gases in confined space areas (hydrogen sulphide, methane, carbon monoxide)</li><li>• Sewage</li><li>• Cement, sand, salt, grit</li><li>• Hot drinks</li></ul> |
|---|---|

Managers may take the opportunity to talk about the types of chemicals their team members come across and the specific control measures required. This may anything from breathing apparatus for confined space entry to PPE such as hand and eye protection on site and good housekeeping and contract cleaning in our offices.



**Don't put yourself in the line of fire.**

What could your chemicals do to you?



# What's above you?

## Lifting operations on site

Lifting operations can put people at great risk of injury and cause extensive physical damage to buildings and the environment when they go wrong.

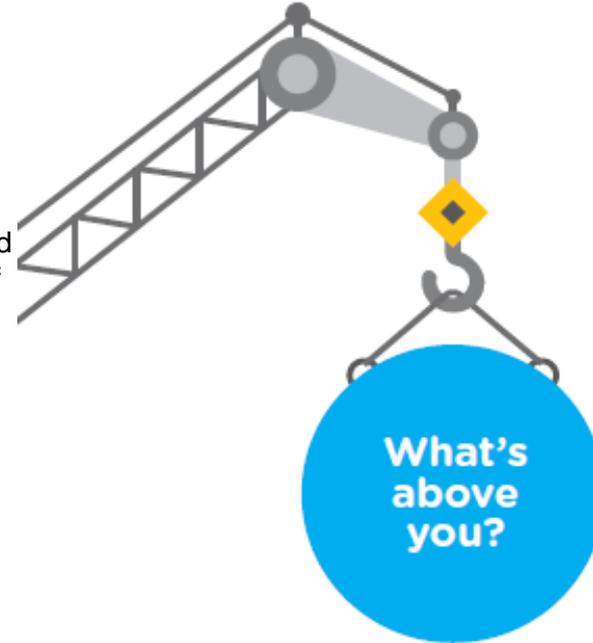
This can be due to people, vehicles and plant being beneath or around the lifted load during the operation or due to the lifting equipment itself failing or the failure of a lifting accessory.

Lifting operations must be properly planned and organized in every area of our business to ensure they are carried out in a safe manner and all personnel are aware of the risks and how to control them.

### Some examples in our workplace:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mobile, tower and overhead cranes</li><li>• Loader cranes (HIABS)</li><li>• Grab vehicles</li><li>• Excavators</li><li>• Mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Personnel lifting</li><li>• Shackles, slings &amp; chains</li><li>• Talk-lift &amp; fork-lift trucks</li><li>• Passenger and goods lifts</li></ul> |
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Special note: Please see associated guidance note for more detail



**Don't put yourself in the line of fire.**

If it doesn't feel right, it probably isn't – speak up.



# Further information

## Working with pressure

- TW HSP 9 Statutory Inspections of Plant and Equipment
- HSE guidance -  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/pressure.htm>  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/l122.htm>

## Personal alertness and wellbeing

- TW Essential Standard and 'Facts about' tiredness and fatigue (coming soon)
- <http://fitforwork.org/employee/>

## Chemical safety

- TW HSP 45 Control of Substances Hazardous to Health, TW HSP 35 COMAH hazard identification and risk assessment
- HSE guidance  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/basics.htm>  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/harmful/index.htm>  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/comah/>

## Plant – lifting operations

- TW HSP 9 Statutory Inspections of Plant and Equipment
- TW HSP 28 Safe mechanical lifting
- HSE guidance -  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/machinery/lifting.htm>;  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/work-equipment-machinery/planning-organising-lifting-operations.htm>

**If you have any further concerns or queries please contact your local safety advisor.**

