



## MOTORWAY NEAR MISS

Safety Bulletin 2017/S001 / 23rd October 2017

On the 18th October 2017 at 23:50 hours whilst unloading a cable percussive rig on the M6 in Staffordshire, a 1.5m length of scaffold pole rolled across two lanes of live carriageway.

The cable percussion rig was parked within a southbound L1/HS closure of the M6 between junctions 13-15. Whilst the rig was being unloaded by the operatives a 1.5m length of scaffold pole was placed on the carriageway adjacent to the rig. Due to the camber on the carriageway, the pole rolled across L2 and L3 and came to rest between the rumble strip of L3 and the kerb of the central reservation.

Both L2 and L3 were open to traffic at the time, but fortunately no traffic was in the area at the time of the incident and no damage or injuries were sustained.

This was a high level incident which could have caused a potential accident had traffic being using either lane at the time.

### Recommendations

- Ensure the operation is properly planned, appropriately supervised and carried out in a safe manner.
- Ensure that appropriate method statements and risk assessments have been completed specific to the scheme and that all personnel (including subcontractors) are made fully aware of the site hazards.
- Ensure that all individuals involved in the work are trained for the task to be undertaken.
- Ensure that the operatives are aware that the task should be stopped if they are unsure if it can be carried out safely. In this instance all tools and equipment must be unloaded on the verge side of the carriageway and any items which could become mobile are secured.
- In addition a tool box talk will be undertaken prior to next shift to ensure all operatives are fully aware of the dangers of unloading adjacent to a live motorway.

### How is the item to be disseminated and implemented?

Process Change  Toolbox Talk   SHEQ Notice Board  SHE Induction  Other

*Display until January 2018*

*If there are any queries please contact SHEQ Director Adam Latimer (01925 855440)*