



**THINK SAFE
STAY SAFE**



**Tilhill
Forestry**

BSWGGROUP member of **binderholz** ■

SAFETY AND ASSURANCE BULLETIN

INSIST ON SAFETY

JANUARY 2025

The year ahead

A warm welcome back, I hope you had a restful and enjoyable break.

Over the holiday I have travelled from south Scotland to Glasgow, and Somerset and have seen the effect of the recent storms, windblow and floods and I am aware that further north there have been several snow events.

It is therefore, an appropriate time to review your risk assessments against your site. Has anything changed over the festive period? Has weather had an effect? Did things change on site in the previous months that haven't been recorded on the risk assessment? Give plant and machinery a thorough operator inspection and undertake routine maintenance so we get 2025 off to the right start.

The past few years have seen record temperatures and drought, give way to a prolonged wet spell the last two years. It seems more rain has never been far away. 2023/24 storm season had the most named storms since that convention was introduced. 2024/25 storm season has started in a similar way.

Water quality is high in the public consciousness, so we must plan effectively how we will manage water on site, employ good practice, monitor conditions, stop before pollution is caused and keep good records.

For all aspects of a successful job we must cooperate with each other. This is enshrined in Section 7 of the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974. This is as important post an incident as it is to prevent the incident. When we do have an incident of any kind, we must investigate it thoroughly, and that requires all involved to cooperate fully. Only by investigating the root causes can we take suitable corrective actions.

We are well known as a market leader in the sector not least for our strong culture of compliance and this relies on all of us making this a priority. Please continue this throughout the year ahead.

And finally for all Tilhill Forestry staff taking part in our wellbeing challenge KickStart 25, I wish you luck, stay safe if out on the road or trail and enjoy it.

Harry



STOP, THINK and ACT when problems start to develop and before an incident happens.

In this edition

Winter is Coming

Information Highway

Good Call Award

In the News Elsewhere

Winter is Coming

Snow and ice on sites can present obvious slip risks in both vehicles and underfoot.

In some parts it had already arrived during late 2024 with snow fall affecting some areas. January and February are often the months we see the most wintery conditions. This can have an effect on our ability to get to site, work on site and the ability to respond to an emergency.

Snow and ice on sites can present obvious slip risks in both vehicles and underfoot. We covered this in last months bulletin. It can also bring other effects on site:

- Freezing conditions can work to our advantage in accessing ground that would otherwise be very muddy and difficult
- It can be a disadvantage, making access challenging. This may be an issue for haulage, meaning timber is not leaving the forest, and timber stacks need careful management.
- Snow and ice can also have a direct effect on the emergency services ability to respond to any incident on site, especially in very rural areas.
- Machinery can take longer to de-ice and warm up in the mornings, especially after a weekend. Allow sufficient time to do this.
- Logs covered in snow and ice can be harder to get a secure grip on when picking them up, and even transporting. Ensure all loads are secure, whether in a grab of a machine, or loaded on the trailer of a lorry.
- If heater units are being used to warm welfare cabins there is a risk of carbon monoxide. Make sure units are serviced and the fumes exhaust externally. A security guard died on a windfarm site in these circumstances a few years ago.
- Driving conditions can be more treacherous. We must drive to the conditions. More advice is given in our tool box talk available on our contractor portal.



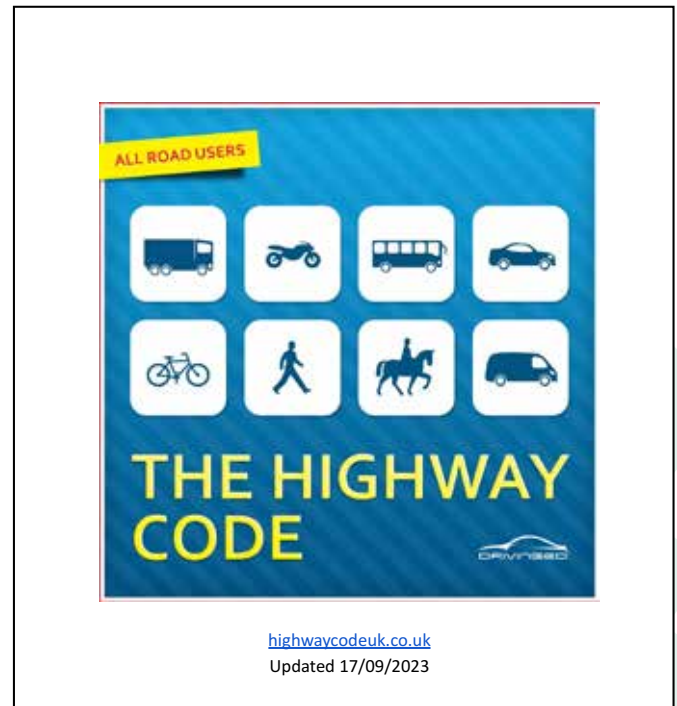
Information Highway

How often do you revisit the highway code? Are you aware January marks the three year anniversary of the introduction of the hierarchy of road users? Despite an information campaign at the time many drivers remain unaware.

The hierarchy recognises that while all road users have a responsibility to use the road in a safe, considerate and responsible manner, those road users that can cause the greatest harm to others in a collision (i.e. car, van, coach, bus and HGV drivers) have the most responsibility to reduce the danger or threat they may pose to other road users.

The hierarchy was applied through the code and brought updates to sections relating to pedestrian, cycling and equestrian safety. More information can be found here:

[RoSPA | Getting the message across about the changes to the Highway Code - RoSPA](#)



Good Call Award

The November Good Call Award was presented to Aaron Astle of our North Wales team. Arriving on site he noticed forwarding had begun in an area but the agreed additional warning signage had not been put up.

The additional signs were and agreed control method and so work was stopped until they had been erected.

We all know that members of the public will often not see or ignore signs, but we must take actions that are reasonably practicable. These will vary from site to site based on the location and foot fall from visitors.

Thanks Aaron for being vigilant and taking action.



In the News Elsewhere

Worker killed when machine overturned.

A construction company has been fined £160,000 after an operator was killed by a telehandler they were driving. The Injured Party (IP) had been reversing the vehicle on site when it slid down an embankment and overturned.

They had been using the telehandler to move scaffolding behind houses that had been partially built. Despite the efforts of colleagues and the emergency services the IP died from crush injuries at the scene.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Police Scotland found that the construction company, the principal contractor at the site, had not risk assessed the traffic route where the incident occurred.

HSE Inspector said: "This was a tragic incident and our thoughts remain with the friends and family of the IP. Our investigation discovered that the construction had failed in its duty to properly risk assess and introduce measures to ensure the traffic route was suitable for the telehandler being driven. As a result of this, the telehandler's wheels went over the edge of the traffic route while it was being reversed, which tragically led to the vehicle overturning."

The construction company pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 27(2) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. The company was fined £160,000 at Court.

**Always INSIST
ON SAFETY**

January 2025 – Safety & Assurance Bulletin briefing

I have been personally briefed in the contents of this Safety & Assurance Bulletin.

Please add any questions relating to this briefing or any other health, safety and environmental matters you wish to raise:

Please add any suggestions on health, safety, sustainability, and/or environmental matters:

I have been briefed by: _____ My Tilhill Office is: _____

I understand that I am encouraged to submit comment and contribution from this bulletin.

Signed: _____ Name: _____ Date: _____

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ORIGINAL sheet to be held at the Tilhill Office.

Send a **COPY** to: Head of Safety, Tilhill, The Gatehouse, Ruck Lane, Horsmonden, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 8EA. Fax: 01892 860441. Email: ios@tilhill.com

Contractors: If you would like your own copy of this Safety & Assurance Bulletin please contact your local office and ask to be included on the mailing list.