



Bulletin

Non Crossrail – London Underground - High Winds

What happened:

A construction worker at a London Underground site suffered a head injury, after being struck by a large sheet of plywood that was blown onto him by a sudden gust of wind.

With the onset of winter months there will be more periods of adverse weather and high winds. These can cause damage and injury as a result of:

- People being struck by flying objects/debris.
- Unsecured materials being blown from structures or other surfaces and impacting buildings and equipment.
- Objects being blown onto footpaths, carriageways, and railways.



Future considerations:

- Ensure all site activities are risk assessed, mitigations developed and communicated to take account of the risks presented by high winds (and other weather conditions). Local conditions can make gusts considerably stronger, particularly around the base of tall buildings, or at elevated and exposed positions. Conditions can change with little warning. Air movements associated with trains within tunnels can also create similar risks for works underground, within shafts, passageways and on platforms.
- Loose materials that can be blown around must be stored securely, and not just at the end of a shift, but also during work activities if necessary.
- Materials with a large surface area are more likely to be blown, such as boards, sheeting, hoardings, Heras type fencing (particularly if sheeted), sign boards, traffic cones and barriers. Even when laid flat, materials can be picked up by the wind and blown at speed. These must all be properly secured to minimise risk.
- When finishing work at the end of a shift, allow sufficient time to clear away loose materials and rubbish, and securely store any items that are to be left in situ.

NB Crossrail previously issued an alert following an incident at our Pudding Mill Lane Site, on 13th November 2015 following a similar incident. This bulletin is intended as a reminder to be vigilant and ensure there are no recurrences this winter.