



# Traffic Management – Get it Right

**In November last year we reported that a felled tree rolled down a hillside and onto the carriageway. The traffic had been stopped at the time.**

■ A further incident occurred in February during the installation and setting up of traffic control which, if we hadn't employed a professional Traffic Management company, could have resulted in a serious incident.

This month, a near miss was reported where a banksman was being used for communication in respect of traffic on the adjacent carriageway during felling operations. It is alleged that two vans had been positioned either side of the felling operation with their hazard lights on. No prior notification was being given to traffic in the form of warning signage. Banksmen were being used to alert the harvester operator of oncoming traffic.

The use of banksmen for communication is the last resort and they must be able to communicate with the machine operator without putting themselves (or others) at risk. All vehicles must be parked in a safe location, not close to the carriageway where they could hamper the vision of road users.

It is becoming increasingly more likely that harvesting operations will include an element of roadside felling. As with all high-risk operations a suitable and sufficient Risk Assessment MUST be undertaken, recorded and all those involved briefed.

The control measures that need to be considered and implemented range from the use of banksmen with radios to full traffic management. If there are trees to be felled at roadside that are within 1.5m of a live carriageway (e.g. a tree could fall on the road), traffic management companies must be used.

For further information please refer to [GN/64 – Traffic Management and General Warning Signs](#) or contact a member of the Safety & Assurance Team.



## Remember:

- When planning the works always consider Traffic Management when working close to roads.
- Consider the time of day/year when undertaking roadside felling.
- All traffic management to be undertaken by professional traffic management companies.

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# Muddy waters – we *must* be clear

**Incidents of diffuse pollution continue to be a major concern for the business across all of our activities. Since the start of the year we have had 12 incidents reported of which 5 have involved regulators, both SEPA and FCS.**

■ This is despite the fact that we have run 6 diffuse pollution training sessions this year to over 100 contractors and managers as part of our ongoing internal training which we have been delivering since 2011. The awareness of diffuse pollution and the wider issues of environmental management have risen significantly both in our approach to site management within Tilhill and also within the scope of the environmental regulators. As ever, there is not a level playing field out there but we have excellent information and systems within our AMS to manage all aspects of the environment on which we impact during the course of our operations.

**We expect all machine operators on our sites to have a good awareness of the issues of diffuse pollution. We need a step change in attitude and behaviour on site to drive real change.**

With this in mind and as a result of continuing incidents and the increasing profile of diffuse pollution with the regulators, we will be focusing our site visits and inspections on management and awareness of these issues on site by FWMs and contractors. Specific guidance will follow but at least two of the managers planned AMS inspections and one of the Safety Walks for Senior Managers during this year must focus on diffuse pollution.

Any contractor or operator who feels they need more information on diffuse pollution issues should contact their local Tilhill manager and we will arrange for them to attend training and briefing as part of our ongoing sessions this year.

## A message for FISA Members

**A review of the Guidance of Managing Health & Safety in Forestry is currently being undertaken by the FISA Workgroup, Worksite Management.**

■ All members will shortly be receiving an email asking the following questions:

**Q:** How do the roles of:

- Landowner;
- Forestry Works Manager;
- Contractor;
- Sub-contractor;
- Contractor's Site Safety Co-Ordinator, and
- Forestry Works Supervisor,

as defined in Section 3 of the guide, reflect current practice?

**Q:** How can the roles be improved to better reflect best practice for site supervision?

**Q:** How do you use the guide?

**Q:** How can the document be improved?

**You are urged to please send your answers and any feedback directly to [info@ukfisa.com](mailto:info@ukfisa.com) by 25th July 2017.**



### Guidance on Managing Health and Safety in Forestry








Images courtesy of UPM Tilhill

## 2014

# Daily Checks of Site Controls

**A recent incident highlights the need to regularly check the site controls you have in place because you never know when something might interfere with them!**

■ In this particular case, it was the mysterious disappearance of hazard tape used to mark out and warn of an Overhead Power Line that meant that the site controls were not sufficiently in place.

On arrival on site for the pre-commencement meeting, there was much head scratching when the hazard tape had largely gone missing with just small scraps of tape found lying on the ground.

All was revealed later that week when the tape was seen bundled into a grey squirrel drey. It would seem that the tape is quite attractive as bedding for squirrels.

On a more serious note this underlines the importance of regularly checking site controls including marking of hazardous or sensitive areas.

On each site visit you need to check:

- Is signage and marking still in place?
- Does it remain clear and legible?

Marking is used to identify areas of hazard and sensitivity this includes archaeology and nesting birds. For the latter, breeding bird activity can change on site and planned regular checks to ensure we remain alert to protected species activities should be carried out and recorded.



When things do change it is important to make sure that boundaries are re-established and briefed to all on site and to any new operatives arriving as personnel change.

The Hazard and Constraints Map is our key document for identifying areas of significant hazard or sensitivity on site. Make sure that when things change on site this document is clearly updated to note the changes and is available on site.

## Learning Points:

1. Regularly check the site controls.
2. Be alert to any changes on site and the need to re-mark areas and re-brief operatives on site.
3. Be aware of the unexpected occurring as this incident has highlighted.

## Latest FISA Alerts and Toolbox Talks

Visit the FISA website for full details of all their Alerts, Toolbox Talks and Bulletins. Here are the details of two of the most recent items:

### FISA Alert: Track tensioning incident

Do not refit/reuse hydraulic components that have detached from the hydraulic system under pressure.

An operative died from hydraulic injury sustained whilst tensioning the track of an item of construction plant (this would be applicable to a lot of forestry plant too). The grease nipple became detached from the track adjustment mechanism permitting the release of grease under high pressure.

This alert reminds those involved in the adjustment and maintenance of hydraulic machinery of the potential for such injury during this type of work. Full details can be obtained via this link: [Track Tensioning Incident](#)

### Toolbox Talk: Slip and trip injury – cut to wrist from chainsaw (Scottish Woodlands)

The chainsaw operator was part of a work team clearing Rhododendron. As he was changing positions to undertake a new cut, he stepped over a log, slipped on the mud and fell. The chainsaw blade came down on his wrist inflicting a deep laceration. Full details can be obtained via this link: [Slip and Trip Injury](#)

## In The News Elsewhere

### Member of public hit by debris from mechanical flail.

■ A civil engineering company and a contractor working on behalf of a tree surgery company have been sentenced after a member of the public was injured by fencing wire.

A Magistrates' Court heard that a member of the public was in her garden when she was sprayed with pieces of fencing wire that had become entangled in a mechanical flail. As the head of the flail was lifted, ejected pieces were directed towards her garden. She was struck twice, once in the leg and once in the neck. She needed surgery to remove the piece of metal from her neck.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) into the incident found the company and sub-contractor had failed to properly plan this work to ensure the suitable controls had been identified and implemented.

They both failed to check the area for obstructions or follow safe procedures should such an event occur.

The company was fined £180,000 and ordered to pay costs of £22,000. The sub-contractor was sentenced to 120 hours community order and ordered to pay costs of £3600.

# Stay Safe in the Sun

**Sunny weather brightens up our lives whether we are enjoying it at home or are lucky enough to be able to make the most of it during the working day.**

■ However, it comes with hidden dangers that are easy to overlook when working outside on a regular basis:

Sunlight consists of invisible UV rays. When these rays reach the skin, they cause tanning, burning, and other skin damage.

Sunlight contains three types of ultraviolet rays: UVA, UVB, and UVC:

1. **UVA** rays cause skin aging and wrinkling and contribute to skin cancer, such as melanoma. Because UVA rays pass effortlessly through the ozone layer (the protective layer of atmosphere, or shield, surrounding the earth), they make up the majority of our sun exposure.
2. **UVB** rays are also dangerous, causing sunburns, cataracts (clouding of the eye lens), and effects on the immune system. They also contribute to skin cancer. Melanoma, the most dangerous form of skin cancer, is thought to be associated with severe UVB sunburns that occur before the age of 20. Most UVB rays are absorbed by the ozone layer, but enough of these rays pass through to cause serious damage.
3. **UVC** rays are the most dangerous, but fortunately, these rays are blocked by the ozone layer and don't reach the earth.

## Melanin: The Body's First Line of Defense

UV rays react with a chemical called melanin that's found in our skin. Melanin is the first defense against the sun because it absorbs dangerous UV rays before they do serious skin damage.

Melanin is found in different concentrations and colors, resulting in different skin colors. The lighter someone's natural skin color, the less melanin it has to absorb UV rays and protect itself. The darker a person's natural skin color, the more melanin it has to protect itself. Also, anyone with a fair complexion – lighter skin and eye color – is more likely to have freckles because there's less melanin in the skin. Although freckles are harmless, being outside in the sun may help cause them or make them darker.

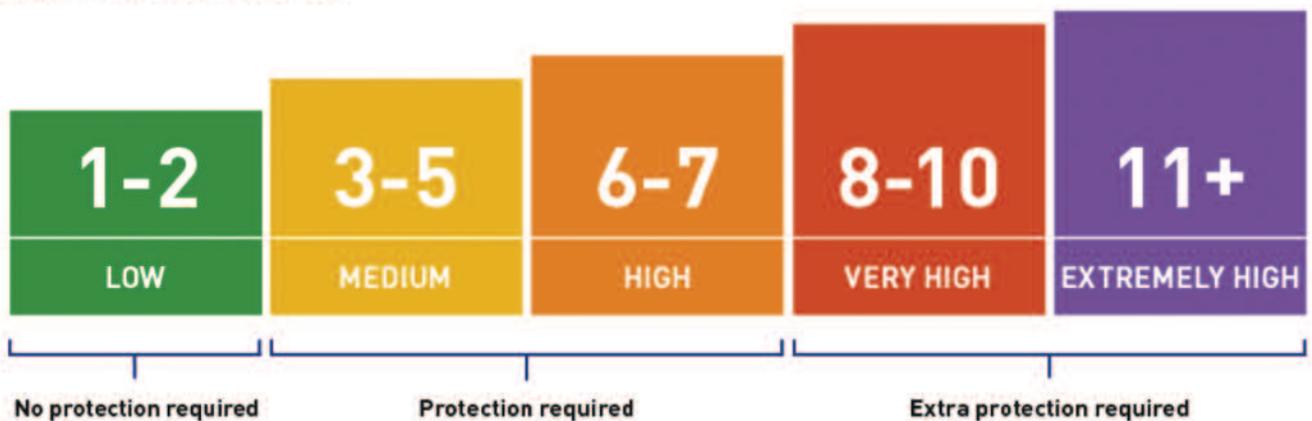
As the melanin increases in response to sun exposure, the skin tans. But even that "healthy" tan may be a sign of sun damage. The risk of damage increases with the amount and intensity of exposure.

A sunburn develops when the amount of UV exposure is greater than what can be protected against by the skin's melanin.

Those who are regularly exposed to the sun (such as forestry workers, farmers, and sunbathers) are at much greater risk from the harmful effects of the UV Rays from the sun and are therefore in a high risk category for developing skin cancer.

## UV Index

Adopted by the World Health Organisation, the UV Index indicates on a daily basis what the UV levels are and when sun protection measures are required.



*continued*

# Stay Safe in the Sun – continued

Skin cancer cases are on the increase in the UK – and they're rising faster than in the rest of Europe and it kills 60 workers a year in Britain. There are at least 1,500 new cases of non-melanoma skin cancer and 240 new cases of malignant melanoma linked to solar radiation exposure through work a year. That's five people a day in the UK alone being diagnosed with skin cancer caused by work exposure

People who work outdoors need to be protected as soon as the UV Index reaches 3, not just when the sun is shining. To find out the daily UV level visit [www.metoffice.gov.uk](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk)

Wear long-sleeved, loose-fitting tops and trousers when working outdoors during months with high UV levels – you'll need to check the ultraviolet protection factor (UPF) rating and make sure the design of the clothing fits the job. 'High wicking' fabrics draw moisture away from the skin.

## Sun Myths

**If it's cloudy you won't get affected by the sun.**

**Wrong:** 30-40 per cent of UV rays can get through on an overcast day – up to 80 per cent of rays penetrate when half the sky is covered in cloud.

**Ultraviolet radiation can get through glass**

**Wrong:** It can if the glass is not laminated or protected with a film or tint.

For more information on how best to protect yourself from the sun, visit the HSE website or IOSH's 'No Time to Lose' web pages [www.notimetolose.org.uk](http://www.notimetolose.org.uk) and NHS England #CoverUpMate.



## Learning Points:

1. Wear long-sleeved, loose-fitting tops and trousers when working outdoors in months of high UV light.
2. Make sure you never burn.
3. Wear sunglasses to protect your eyes where appropriate.
4. Use a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 15 sunscreen to protect against UVB and at least a four star UVA protection.
5. Reapply your sun protection lotion at regular intervals.

## Remember:

- Sun exposure is the main cause of skin cancer – it's linked to **65 per cent** of malignant melanoma and **99 per cent** of non-melanoma skin cancer.
- Getting painful sunburn just once every two years can **triple the risk of melanoma**.
- **90% of all skin cancer deaths could be prevented if people controlled their exposure to UV.**
- If you've had one non-melanoma skin cancer, you're **nine times more likely to get another one.**

**ACCIDENTS AT WORK CAN  
CHANGE LIVES IN AN INSTANT**



# July 2017 – 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 and environmental matters:

I have been briefed by: \_\_\_\_\_ My District is: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ORIGINAL** sheet to be held at District.

Send a **COPY** to: Head of Safety, Tilhill Forestry, Birchden Farm, Broadwater Forest Lane, Groombridge, Kent, TN3 9NR. 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.