



Description of Event

Mud on the windscreen and side windows resulted in a high potential near miss due to the reduced visibility of the drivers

Population at Risk

Construction and Maintenance Workers, Inspectors, Operators and Travelling Members of Public (MoP)

Hazardous Activity and Residual Risk Description

- A recent incident at a construction site raised a safety concern. While driving on the designated route, the driver had to take evasive action to avoid a collision with a stationary 4x4 site vehicle.
- Previous safety shares have focused on keeping the underside of vehicles clean to prevent mud from being tracked onto the Site Road Network (SRN). However, it's equally important to ensure that the upper body of site vehicles are maintained in a clean state. This will improve visibility and reduce the risk of accidents.

Potential consequences of this event

- Good driving practices should be maintained at all times. Vehicles which have mud-covered windows should always be cleaned before use, to prevent driver visibility becoming severely limited. This significantly increases the risk of accidents.
- Site driving within the speed limit and in accordance with lane markings reduces the risk of unexpected hazards or driver error. Operating a vehicle with obstructed windows creates a dangerous situation for everyone involved.



Examples of vehicles seen recently on site.

Safety Hub Alert Database

Filtering by text "site vehicles" in the subject description has 4 alerts including 1 with fatality and 1 with injury.

Potential Mitigation Measures

Driver Behaviour

- Conduct a pre-drive inspection of your vehicle, paying close attention to window visibility. Remove any obstruction to your view before operating the vehicle. If not possible, do not use the vehicle.
- Employees driving site vehicles should ensure vehicles are kept clean, especially during winter months and regardless of whether they intend to drive on public roads.
- Report faulty wheel washing/vehicle cleaning facilities to the site managers. Highlight the safety risks associated with having inadequate cleaning facilities on-site.



Design

- Inform site survey and supervisory staff of the safety risks associated with operating poorly maintained site vehicles with dirty windcreens.
- Develop a risk assessment focusing on mud on site vehicles and ensure space for vehicle cleaning facilities are considered alongside site vehicle parking.

Construction

- Ensure access and egress for vehicles are adequate across the site.
- Ensure appropriate measures, such as wheel washes, are available for use on it.

Maintenance / Operations

- Regular vehicle maintenance is essential in order to keep the vehicles in good conditions.

Further Guidance and Reading

- [RtB 26](#) – Safety by Design
- [DMRB GD 304](#) – Designing health and safety into maintenance.



Please send ideas for Whole Life Design safety shares to wellbeing@nationalhighways.co.uk

LEAN

Improved end user benefits

Reduced Defects

Reduced Reportable Accidents