

# Shared Learning

**The Thameslink Programme**

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**Issue Number: TLP088**

**Title: Overturned Hoarding**

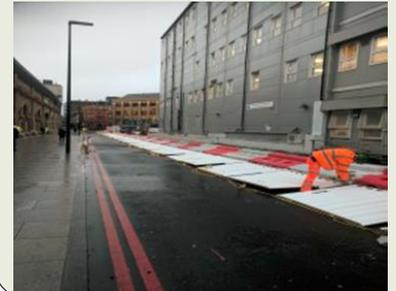
## Overview of Event:

On the 27<sup>th</sup> December 2017 one of the hoarding lines measuring 68m in length and 2.25m high was blown over in high gusting winds. The hoarding was constructed using a proprietary plastic water-filled Safesite GB2 barrier system. The hoarding line ran along the pavement edge separating St Thomas St and the site offices. Although no one was in close proximity at the time of the incident, there was a risk to site personnel and members of the public.

## General Key Messages:

- Site hoardings are temporary works and must be designed and appropriate checks carried out.
- Appropriate temporary works inspection regimes must be defined by the Temporary Works Co-ordinator (TWC) and carried out / recorded by competent persons.
- Weather conditions must be considered when planning the works with suitable measures in place to react to predicted or actual conditions. In particular, any wind speed restrictions must be noted on designs & form part of communication to site teams.

## Photo of Event :



## Causes:

**Immediate** - The immediate cause of the incident was a 'gust' of wind which exceeded the manufacturers maximum wind speed; this applied a force to the hoarding causing it to overturn.

### Root and Underlying Causes

- The TW Design team did not have time to ensure that all residual risks were noted as clearly as they should have been on the temporary works design output. The TWC did not ensure that this lack of information/clarity was identified or that it was provided to the delivery team and subsequently briefed via the SOS and TBS process.
- The Permit to Load had not been completed correctly to say who was responsible for inspections or their frequency. Inspection frequencies should have been reviewed by the TWC, and in this instance should have been weekly.
- There was not a single person with accountability within the temporary works team who was accountable for checking the hoarding.
- The deputy TWC had conducted inspections albeit 3 weeks apart; weekly inspections should have been completed by the Temporary Works Supervisor (TWS) responsible for the TW item, instead two different TWS's completed sporadic or adhoc inspections due to a lack of ownership of the hoarding.
- The Delivery team requested the GB2 system because it was easy for them to use. The TW Design team decided the only way that they could allow it to be used was to specify that the system was not suitable in high winds; solid panels must therefore be removed prior to the expected wind loadings. On the morning of the incident, panels had remained in situ and had not been removed.
- The Form 3 was typically revised weekly (usually with last minute requests from the Delivery Teams), there had been 22 revisions in 32 weeks.
- There was no clear responsibility within the project team to make sure the barrier bases were filled to the correct level with water.

## Actions Taken As a Result of the Investigations:

- TWs Designers will only design temporary works where the design meets the design brief and is suitable for the foreseeable loading conditions. Residual risks being noted on drawings and incorporated into Permit to Load (PtL).
- An Inspection & Test Plan (ITP) will be incorporated into the Permit to Load which supports the assurance and checking regime, specifying what needs to be checked and when.
- Records of inspection and checking are to be maintained by the relevant TWS / TWC on the Permits to Load. An audit / monitoring regime of the PtL process will be developed utilising SharePoint and be managed by the TWC.
- The project will distribute a daily weather forecast, to relevant persons, highlighting potential inclement weather and associated Project Risks. Where necessary an individual within the TW team i.e. the TWS, must maintain a watching brief on weather conditions which may affect temporary works associated with their Permit to Loads.