



# Safety Alert

## Concrete Burn Incident

11<sup>th</sup> February 2020

The following pages of this safety alert were issued by Highways England's supply chain partner:

**Kier**

# SHE ALERT

SHE H153 A 2020  
Issued by: Kier Highway SHE  
Department  
Date: 29/01/2020



## Concrete Burn Incident

### Description of Events

On 27<sup>th</sup> January a drainage operative was benching out a manhole using concrete accelerator Sika 4, which is used to speed up the setting process of the concrete when working with low pressure or slow-moving water. Whilst the operative was working there was a surge of rain water from a recent downpour, which caused the water pump to cut out. The operative was then lifted out, whilst exiting the manhole the operative put his gloved hands above his head. This caused the wet residue from the concrete and Sika 4 to run down his right arm, under his PPE and clothes, coming in contact with his skin.

The IP received a concrete burn to the back of his right elbow, and a burn to his left cheek on his face. Further to this there was superficial irritation to the inside of his forearm.

### Actions Taken

- Immediate action taken, the supervisor got the operative to remove his PPE and washed the affected areas with clean water.
- The IP to return to the compound to see the site Occupational Health nurse immediately who assessed the injuries, cleaned the wound and dressed the IP's right elbow.
- The IP was referred to A&E, where he received further treatment.
- The drainage subcontractor was stood down to attend a mandatory briefing on COSHH, this was supported by the site OH Nurse.
- Investigation started.

### Do's and Don'ts

- Always ensure that the correct PPE has been issued in line with the COSHH assessment.
- Ensure that those working with COSHH have been briefed on the COSHH assessment.
- Avoid all unnecessary contact with hazardous substances.
- Know where the first aid and washing facilities are on site.
- Do not expose other employees to hazardous substances.
- Don't store hazardous substances above head height, follow the storage guidelines in the COSHH assessment
- If in doubt, STOP and ask your line manager or H&S advisor.

