



SAFETY ALERT



INCIDENT	A3P3 – Serious Injury
SUBJECT	STMS Knocked Unconscious by a Traffic Sign
INCIDENT DATE	3 rd December 2019
BUSINESS UNIT	Higgins – Auckland

WHAT HAPPENED?

A traffic management subcontractor engaged by Higgins was taking down a traffic closure at the Southern Corridor Improvements Project. The cones had been removed from lanes and the traffic team were removing the signs. At approximately 3:45AM, on the 3rd to last sign to pick up, an STMS exited his TMA (Truck Mounted Attenuator) with a TC to take down a TRL2R sign which was part of the closure set out. As the STMS was in the process of removing the sign from the hard stand it was on (sign latches had been released), a sudden wind gust blew, causing the corner of the sign to swing around hitting the STMS on his forehead and knocked him unconscious.

The STMS was not wearing his hardhat at the time. He suffered a laceration on the forehead area.

Post incident the TCs involved stated that the STMS was unconscious for a few minutes.

First aid was administered by the site team and the emergency services were notified. The STMS' head was wrapped with bandages to halt the bleeding. Subsequently the STMS was taken by the ambulance to the Middlemore Hospital.



WHAT ACTION HAS TAKEN PLACE ALREADY?

- The STMS was examined by the doctor and diagnosed with an open wound requiring butterfly stitches. He was deemed unfit for work for 4 days and subsequently returned to work on Sunday 8/12/19.
- The sign removal was completed by the traffic team.
- The incident was reported to Higgins Traffic Management Team, however it was not escalated to Higgins Senior Management until 09/12/19.
- WorkSafeNZ notification is underway.
- Higgins commenced an incident investigation.

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR ALL OF US (pre-investigation)

- Protective helmets (hardhats) must be worn if specified as mandatory. Subcontractors working under the direction or supervision of Higgins must adhere to the PPE Higgins requirements.
- Monitor and consider environmental conditions (e.g. high winds) when planning work activities.
- ALL incidents must be notified with actual and potential severity assessed appropriately.
 - Any serious injuries must be elevated to Higgins Senior Management. If you are unable to notify the next person in the hierarchy due to no response, send text/e-mail and keep notifying up until you are successful.
 - If the event is deemed notifiable to WorkSafe NZ the scene must be preserved and Higgins EHS Team notified immediately. If uncertain seek advice from Area EHS Manager immediately.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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