national highways

INFORMATION

Safety Alert

Vehicle Struck by Temporary Traffic Management Barrier

17 March 2022

Background information

- A customer's vehicle being driven northbound on the A1, between junctions 78 and 79, was struck by traffic barriers which had been moved by winds gusting between 31 and 56mph during storm Malik.
- The traffic barriers had been placed across a usual access / egress point as a temporary demarcation line whilst drainage work was carried out in the area.
- The incident took place on a Saturday with no workforce in the immediate area.
- The incident was attended by a National Highways Traffic Officer and police, who assisted the driver and moved the section of barrier to a safe place.
- The driver was unharmed, but some damage to their vehicle occurred.
- The investigation found the traffic barriers did not contain sufficient ballast (water) in accordance with the traffic barrier manufacturers guidance.
- It is unclear why the ballast was not at the required level; potential reasons could be evaporation or leakage.
- Only verbal communication was received that they had been filled correctly at deployment, and it is unclear whether subsequent checks had taken place.

Lessons Learnt

- Discuss and review timescales for the monitoring of water levels within traffic barriers (specification states daily).
- Check manufacturer's guidance on fill levels and suitability for use in high winds.
- Critically examine emergency protocols when bad weather is forecast.
- Ensure that effective communication methods are in place with the Regional Operations Centre for emergency situations, to ensure a swift response to unsafe conditions takes place (including non working days).

NHa289

If you have any queries about this safety alert information announcement then please contact **katie.harman@highwaysengland.co.uk**

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Supporting Information – Manufacturers Guidance

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Daily Checks

- ✓ The barrier system should be inspected daily checking to ensure each barrier is retaining water and is full with the filler cap in position, that all connecting clips and fence panels and barriers are not damaged.

The specification for the barriers covers the wind resistance test results for the barriers, those test results state (see extract below):

Wind Test Results - BS8442 A (58.83mph) B (39.37mph) C (19.46 mph)

Product	Empty weight* of barrier (kg)	Weight* inc water (kg)	Formation for test	Total test weight* (kg)	Test A	Test B	Test C
1m Uni Barrier	8.5	45	3 connected barriers	135	66.8 mph		
1m Uni Barrier c/w fence	14.3	52	3 connected barriers	156	55.6 mph		
2m Uni Barrier	25	186	2 connected barriers	372	59.8 mph		
2m Uni c/w fence	42	206	2 connected barriers	412	48.5 mph		

*weight values are from calibrated load cell

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