

## A happy (and safe) New Year

As John Holleran said in the last SHEQ Bulletin, our health and safety performance in 2008 was excellent and demonstrated that Holleran had taken a step forward – something that we can all be proud of.

But as we start a new year we should stop to think, not of how few accidents we have had, but about those in our industry who went home injured.

Our continued focus on safety awareness and training is clearly seen in these SHEQ Bulletins and the Holleran Safety Training Bus



promises to make training easier and more flexible. Our key objective

for this year is to ensure all operatives undertake the Water Sector Health Safety and Environment Passport, known within the industry as the SHEA Passport.

Even though we are getting most of what we do right, there is still room for significant improvement and each of us needs to continue to make health and safety our priority.

Best wishes for a safe and prosperous 2009

**Jeff Jackson** SHEQ Director

# Quick Hitches – Take your time and don't cut corners

**Buckets or other attachments fitted to excavators and backhoe loaders are at risk of falling off and killing or injuring someone if the quick-hitch device is not used correctly.**

In fact being struck in this way is the most common cause of death or injury caused by excavators, along with being hit by a moving vehicle or swinging boom. Over half of accidents of this type result in death.

The main cause of these accidents is the failure to engage the quick-hitch properly because the operative is careless or in a hurry.



Other causes of accidents are:

- *The operator failing to actuate any secondary locking device.*
- *Either locking device failing due to wear or lack of maintenance.*
- *Overloading the quick-hitch or the attachment it is fitted to.*
- *Using the quick-hitch or the attachment for a purpose it was not intended for.*

Before undertaking this type of work you must be fully trained. If in any doubt ask your Supervisor

**Remember** – Take your time; make sure the quick-hitch is fitted correctly and use it and the attachment as intended.

## Holleran achieves BS OHSAS 18001 certification

Before Christmas Holleran passed another very stringent audit and as a result, we have now been certificated to the British Standard OHSAS 18001:2007 for Occupational Health and Safety Management.



This sets out the requirements for our relevant management systems and is very similar in structure to the ISO standards 9001 & 14001. Holleran now has a fully integrated management system for Quality, Environment and Health and Safety.

This demonstrates to our clients and customers our commitment to continual improvement and our long term objective to become the No.1 utility contractor.

## Customer care at its best

During a recent site inspection, on our first time sewer project at Bosham Hoe, John Fairless and Mike Dearsley of Southern Water both took time to speak to our team on-site, to recognise the excellent work that has been undertaken on this project.

Everyone involved has worked with great care, keeping disruption and damage to a minimum. This was also recognised by the Residents Associations for the Hoe Estate and Smugglers Lane who organised a 'Christmas Box' collection to show their appreciation.

Project Manager Geoff Flewin later said "I was delighted to give my approval (for the gift), as in my considerable experience, I have never come across such a pleasing gesture."



Disruption at Bosham Hoe was kept to a minimum

Once the £2.1m project is completed, 77 substantial detached houses, on the prestigious Bosham Hoe Estate and nearby Smugglers Lane, will be connected to mains sewerage for the first time.



## Watch out for changes to Rail PPE

Everyone working on rail projects must move towards all orange personal protective equipment as soon as possible as this will become a requirement by 1st April this year.

The requirement applies when on or near the line or on the lineside. This move is being made to increase the visibility of all operatives to train and machine drivers, particularly when they are working bending at the waist.

The term 'all orange' means you must wear both:-

- High Visibility (HV) orange upper body clothing (HV tabard)
- HV orange lower body clothing (HV trousers or HV over-trousers).

Before starting work make sure that you have the correct clothing and always make sure you wear it. If in any doubt you must check with your Supervisor



## What's a 'near miss'?

Usually a near miss is defined as an accident that almost happened. For example, this could be when someone trips and almost falls down the stairs but manages to grab the hand rail just in time or when an operative is almost hit by a reversing fork lift.

In these two examples there were no injuries but this was the result of good luck rather than good management.

### Why are near misses important?

When near misses occur they can be regarded as early warnings that something is wrong somewhere in the system. It is very important that we develop methods of working that allow us to take action before an injury takes place.

This year Holleran will implement our own Near Miss Reporting System and you may find that it is already a requirement on your current project.

Further information will be provided during the coming months and your support is essential if we are to make sure that everyone can go home at the end of each day free from accidents.



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