



HSE Prosecutions, Key Risks & Practical Site Controls

Newsletter

Welcome to this month's update, focused on recent HSE prosecutions, key site risks and practical controls.

HSE Prosecutions

Recent enforcement cases — work at height, temporary works, electrical risk, and workplace transport.

Plant & Pedestrian Safety

Workplace transport remains a leading cause of fatal incidents — barriers and segregation are essential.

What You Should Do Now

Practical steps to review, audit, and strengthen controls across your sites.

 Recent HSE prosecutions continue to reinforce a clear and consistent message:

Serious incidents are not caused by unknown risks — they occur when well-known hazards are not effectively controlled.

Recent HSE Prosecutions – Key Cases

Recent enforcement activity sends a clear and consistent message: failures in planning, supervision, and site control are leading to prosecution. The cases below highlight where things went wrong.

1

Work at Height

1. [Construction company fined after joiner suffers life-changing injuries in skylight fall](#)
2. [CCTV footage captures worker falling through roof](#)
3. [Uninsured business owner sentenced after man fell through roof](#)

Common failings:

No protection for fragile surfaces (e.g. skylights), lack of safe systems of work, inadequate supervision, failure to plan high-risk tasks.

2

Construction company fined £546,000 following death of employee
[Two firms fined after worker fractures neck during platform collapse](#)

Issues identified:

Poor design and assembly, lack of inspection and verification, inadequate competence.

3

Electrical Shock Resulting in burns and a £10,000 fine

[Fencing contractor fined after employee suffers electric shock and burns](#)

Failures:

Work carried out near live services without adequate controls, insufficient planning and hazard detection.



Work at height remains one of the most common causes of serious injury and death, with incidents almost always linked to missing basic controls.

Fatal Incident – Workplace Transport & Plant

This case again highlights one of the industry's most serious risks: workers being struck by moving vehicles or plant.

Recent Case

[Shipping company fined £146,700 after worker seriously injured by forklift truck](#)

Incidents involving plant are frequently linked to:

- Lack of segregation between pedestrians and vehicles
- Poor traffic management arrangements
- Inadequate control of pedestrian routes
- Poorly controlled reversing operations

The Core Issue

The underlying cause in these incidents is consistent:

- Pedestrians are exposed to moving vehicles
- Risks are not controlled through effective site design and planning
- Measures that should prevent contact between people and plant are absent or insufficient



HSE guidance is clear:

The most effective way to prevent incidents is to physically separate pedestrians and vehicles.

What Good Looks Like

Essential controls that must be considered where pedestrians and plant share a working environment.

Dedicated Pedestrian Routes

- Clearly marked and controlled crossing points
- Physical barriers and guard rails
- Segregated work areas at all times

Traffic Management

- One-way systems to minimise reversing
- Use of banksmen where required
- Active supervision of vehicle movements



! In many fatal cases, controls were simple and achievable — barriers or safe walkways were only introduced after the incident.

These incidents are therefore entirely preventable with the right planning and control.





What You Should Do Now

To protect your workforce and reduce enforcement risk, take a proactive and consistent approach across all of the following areas.



Learn from Incidents

Read the HSE articles linked in this newsletter.

Understand where failures occurred and share lessons across your teams.

- Introduce physical control measures where required (e.g. barriers, edge protection).
- Ensure controls are suitable, correctly installed, and maintained.



Review Your Processes

Review current risk assessments and systems of work.

Ask: are controls actually in place and working on site?

- Consistently supervise work activities and challenge unsafe behaviours immediately.
- Ensure site rules (e.g. use of pedestrian routes) are actively enforced.



Audit Your Sites

Carry out regular, structured site audits.

Focus on work at height, pedestrian/vehicle segregation, temporary works, and electrical hazards.

- Identify gaps between paperwork and reality on site.
- Do not allow standards to drift over time.



Need Support?

If you would like support strengthening your health & safety management arrangements, we can assist with practical, site-focused solutions.



Site Inspections

- Independent site inspections to assess compliance
- Identification of gaps between procedures and on-site practice
- Clear, actionable recommendations to improve standards



Construction Phase Plans (CPPs)

- Preparation and review of Construction Phase Plans
- Ensuring alignment with CDM requirements
- Practical, usable documentation tailored to your projects



Management System & Compliance Audits

- Full audits of your health & safety management systems
- Review of policies, procedures, and implementation
- Benchmarking against HSE expectations and industry best practice



Training & Competence Support

- Review of training arrangements and competency levels
- Identification of gaps in supervision and workforce capability
- Support in building a robust, compliant training framework



- Our focus is on helping you move beyond paperwork to achieve effective, practical control of risks on your sites.

If you'd like to discuss how we can support your business, please get in touch.