

Safety is a core value for Uisce Éireann in all our work



Introduction – Maria O'Dwyer

*Director of Infrastructure
Delivery*

Welcome to the 16th
addition of the Uisce
Éireann IDD Safety
Newsletter.

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Safety Excellence Awards H1 '24



H1 Safety Excellence Awards winners from: (Top Row – L-R) Peter Flood (Mace), Damien McMullan (Coffey's), Patricia Lowry (UÉ), Andy Flynn (Walls Construction), Joe Grace (Glanua), Dermot Mulligan (JOD). (Bottom Row – L-R); Stephen Devine (JOD), Gerard McDonnell (AECOM), John Ward (Farrans), Rosie McGuinness (Ward & Burke), Kieran Neary (Shareridge)

***Missing from photos – James O'Gara (Murphys Ireland)**

Our Safety Excellence awards ceremony for H1 was held in regional offices and online. This biannual programme aims to recognise and reward individuals that go above and beyond to ensure safety is a priority, encouraging a positive and proactive culture-based safety approach to the safe delivery of infrastructure delivery projects.

We continue to see a great response to these Awards, demonstrating all of the good work that is being done around the country. We received in excess of 70 nominations and would like to congratulate all of the nominees and thank the nominators who took the time to make these submissions. The standard of nominations continues to impress us and is a real testament to the work being done in promoting a strong Safety Culture.

Am I SAFE? Safety Webinars

Uisce Eirean held two Webinars/Knowledge Shares in Q2.

Avoidance of underground Services webinar discussed the challenges with services we face on site with ESB, GNI and Sygma Solutions.

Our **Golden Rules** knowledge share discussed UÉ's key controls for critical risks that have been introduced and all other updates to our minimum H&S requirements.

We hope you all could attend these events and found them informative. We encourage all our Delivery Partners to attend these events and cascade the invites to your teams to attend where possible. There are further Webinars/Knowledge Shares planned for Q3 & Q4 which will be communicated in the near future.



Resident Engineers Safety Days

Safety Days organised by the framework participant ESPs and the IDD Construction Management team were held around the country throughout May and June.

The AECOM JOD group held interesting presentations and discussions on topics such as Blood donations and Dealing with Conflict. This was followed by a presentation from Matt Hazelton (Four Friends) who spoke about his experience of losing his work colleagues and brothers in a work fatality incident and dealing with the aftermath both from the official investigation and family experience.

Similarly, the RPS group had a wide ranging and engaging array of topics covering Safety Leadership, key UÉ Updates, the Am I SAFE Campaign and Carbon Management followed by an Interactive session covering Case Studies based on past experiences and lessons learnt on RPS Projects.

The Nicholas O'Dwyer team spend the AM covering a full session on Temporary Works training, while the afternoon focused on an interactive wellbeing session.

The AtkinsRéalis group focused on H&S updates on UÉ works, Critical Risks and the alignment with the Golden Rules. The day was combined with a session on nutrition and wellbeing, which offered some excellent advice and practical takeaways.

Thanks to all those who organised and participated in these events.

Lighthouse Charity Make It Visible Campaign

The Lighthouse charity recently visited the Glashaboy WTP Glanmire Co Cork site, organised by Uisce Éireann in conjunction with our delivery partner Glanua. Rob Muldoon & Ray Elliot of the Lighthouse charity shared their own stories that led them to the Lighthouse charity. Rob & Ray emphasised greatly the need to watch out for one another, and not to be afraid to seek help. Goodie bags were given to all that attended. If you or your family need support the Lighthouse Charity have a 24/7 Construction Industry Helpline which offers free and confidential support and advice on a huge variety of wellbeing issues. Link to their website [here](https://www.lighthousecharity.ie).

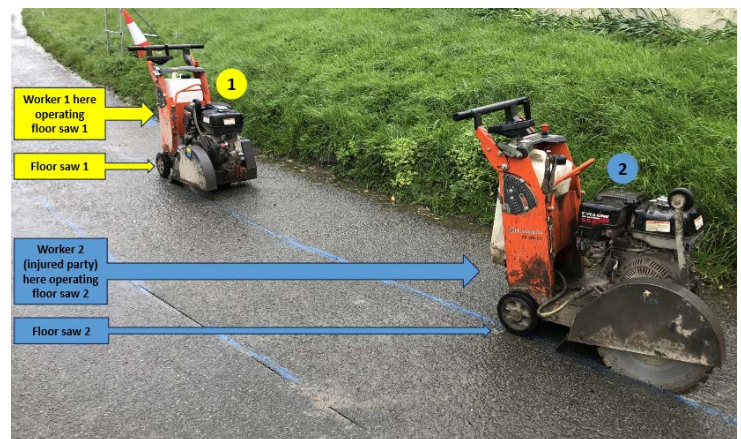


Road Saw Injuries

Since the beginning of 2024, there have been two incidents reported on Infrastructure Delivery projects involving road saws. Both of these incidents resulted in serious injury with the injured operatives requiring surgery and an extended period of absence from work.

A safety alert has been issued by UÉ on this. Please be aware of the actions recommended to prevent reoccurrence.

We would appreciate it if you could distribute and communicate the findings of this Safety Alert if not done already.



Gas Pipe Strike and Unauthorised Repair

A gas service was damaged, and an unauthorised repair was attempted when a contractor's Find & Fix crew, while investigating for a water leak, pierced a 25mm Gas service. An unqualified operative(s) carried out repair work using water fittings which led to a Gas leak at the residence. No notice was given to GNI about the damaged service.

A flash alert has been issued by UÉ on this but a full investigation is pending. Upon its completion, a Safety Alert may be issued.

Never attempt to repair a damaged gas service, it is illegal and puts you and others at serious risk.

When excavating never assume, or expect, that a service is not live.

GNI emergency services number **1800205050**.

Code of Practice For Avoiding Danger From Underground Services [Link here](#)

GNI Dial before you dig **1800427747** or email dig@gasnetworks.ie

Dial Before You Dig

A quick-reference safety guide for farmers, landowners, tenants and contractors



Electrical Panel Arc Flash

The rerouting of a cable from an electrical panel disturbed an incoming live cable from the terminal resulting in an arc flash exposing 2 people in the immediate vicinity. No injuries occurred as a result of this incident.

The investigation found that these works were insufficiently planned or supervised by the PSCS.



Key Learnings:

The scope of the works changed from the initial scoping from non-invasive works to invasive without the works being stopped and re-assessed.

Historical incident which resulted in arcing was not acknowledged during the planning element of the works.

No defined process for requesting a plant shutdown and risks not adequately assessed within Electrical Risk Assessment.

Clear Interface agreement was not made with the entity in control of the site.

GMC Confined Space Stand Down

In light of a recent incident in Hong Kong where two operatives working in a sewer were overcome by Hydrogen Sulphide gas and died. GMC held a safety stand down for crews, site supervisors and Uisce Éireann's RE's involved in sewer rehabilitation works in Dublin, to remind them of the hazard posed by Hydrogen Sulphide and the controls that must be implemented to keep everyone safe.



Veolia Warm up Wednesdays

Veolia launched Warm Up Wednesday following lessons learned from a Manual Handling Incident. Veolia, with their partner Back in Action, designed this to help provide guidance on easy ways to reduce the risk of someone injuring themselves at work as accidents that occur during the 1st hour of a shift, is thought to be linked to the fact that many of us don't warm up before we start work.



UÉ Delivery Partner Events

SHARERIDGE SKIN CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

Shareridge believe skin cancer awareness week is crucial for worker safety. With the sun's harmful UV rays, outdoor workers are at a higher risk. Providing shade, promoting sunscreen use and encouraging regular skin checks can make a big difference. Educating works about the importance of early detection can save lives. Shareridge believe prevention is key in protecting against skin cancer in the construction industry. Shareridge held talks throughout the country to their crews. It was an important message we can all use when being in the sun.



GLANUA SAFETY DAYS

Glanua had a busy and informative safety week on a number of sites across the country, training pieces covered a large range of topics. Just to mention a hand full of events – Trench collapse scenario, confined space rescue, lifting operations, mental health talks and breakfast mornings.

The events covered by Glanua will play a massive role in ensuring front line workers are safe. The training will provide knowledge, skills and experience to ensure Glanua's work force are as competent as possible. We would like to thank Glanua for inviting UÉ to all of these events.

Contact us

If you have any suggestions about topics or events that you would like to see covered in future issues of this newsletter, please forward your suggestions to: amisafe@water.ie