

Personal Safety during civil unrest

Although many will have already been made aware of the recent civil unrest within the London area, the following is issued as a reminder to all staff working within the London region to remain vigilant and ensure that you:

- Prior to leaving places of rest consult the local media and avoid areas as indicated by them as being problem areas.
- Obey all road signage indicating problem areas and notify your line manager, so that you can be redeployed to alternative location.
- If you see an area where it appears there are problems stop turn around, go to a safe area and notify your line manager.
- Drive with doors locked and make sure your vehicle is secure when leaving it.
- Report any disturbances noted to the emergency services on 999 and if you find yourself in an area where you feel at threat, remove yourself from the location and report it immediately.

Calibrating Equipment & Certification

Resourcing Solutions maintain a PPE and Equipment procedure, which we are committed to complying with. The procedure details our obligations as an Agency to ensure that any equipment owned or hire and issued by Resourcing Solutions is deemed fit for purpose. Equally, a worker that owns and uses their own equipment for work when representing Resourcing Solutions must also be deemed fit for purpose.

Resourcing Solutions makes a lot of effort to log and track equipment used and ensure that the equipment used is deemed fit for purpose. Some equipment is of such importance, it needs to be calibrated. Copies of these calibration certificates must be held on file by Resourcing Solutions. Please can you ensure that you provide a copy of any calibration certificates that you have.

It is imperative that only safe equipment is used. Those workers that are unable to demonstrate that the equipment being used is not fit for purpose will be unable to utilise the equipment on any assignment. We have a host of options in order to help secure safe and reliable equipment, including calibration suppliers. If you have any questions or queries related to equipment and supporting certification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Giant Hogweed

The attached extract from a recent edition of the Scottish Daily Mail serves as a timely reminder about the risks associated with giant hogweed. The advice is avoid at all costs—please look out for it (it is particularly rife this year due to weather conditions), ensure that appropriate measures are taken to prevent contact with it (erect a barrier if necessary) and please remember to notify other contractors and the Client of its presence—report using the hazard reporting system in place on your project.

Page 32 Daily Mail, Saturday, July 23, 2011

Girl, 4, scarred by toxic plant in park

Brave Ciara shows off injuries to warn others

By Ann Blyth and Jim McBeth



WHEN Ciara Beattie's legs broke out in blisters after playing in the park, her mother thought she had been stung by nettles.

But when the burning red marks continued to grow, she took her to hospital - where it emerged she had survived a brush with a plant so toxic that simply touching it can cause permanent blindness.

Now the brave four-year-old is showing her injuries to highlight the dangers of giant hogweed, so that other children do not suffer the same fate.

The plant, a tall, innocuous-looking weed which has become a common sight around the country, grows wild in dense patches on waste ground and riverbanks.

But as well as crowding out all other vegetation around it, the giant hogweed poses a major health risk.

The sap of the plant contains a toxin which reacts with sunlight to cause photodermatitis - a severe inflammation of the skin resulting in burns and blisters.

Injuries can take months to heal, sometimes leaving permanent scars or long-lasting sensitivity to sunlight.

And if only a tiny amount of the sap gets into the eyes, it can cause blindness.

Ciara, from Irvine in Ayrshire, was playing in a park near her home when she came into contact with the plant.

When her blisters worsened, her mother Linsay, took her to Crosshouse Hospital in Kilmarnock.

She said: 'Ciara had been out with her gran and we thought she had been stung by nettles.'

'We went straight to the accident and emergency department of Crosshouse Hospital.'

'Ciara is not yet out of the woods as we are not sure of the extent of the damage.'

'We have to go back to the hospital because her blisters are bursting.'

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency yesterday warned the public to be wary of the plant, which has reddish-purple stems, spotted leaf stalks and leaves up to 5ft wide.

A spokesman said: 'The sap of Giant Hogweed contains toxic chemicals known as furanocoumarins.'

'When these come into contact with the skin in the presence of sunlight they cause a reddening of the skin, often followed by severe burns and blistering. The blisters can last for several months - and even once they have died down the skin can remain sensitive to light for many years.'

The spokesman also called on people to stick to native plant species in their gardens.

She said: 'We support the campaign "Be Plant Wise", which is being promoted by the Scottish Government to encourage aquatic plant suppliers and customers to avoid non-native plants that could spread out of garden ponds and damage local biodiversity.'

HAZARD: GIANT HOGWEED

GIANT hogweed, *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, was introduced from Japan into Britain in the 19th century as an ornamental plant.

It escaped domestication and began colonising waste land and river banks.

The plant typically grows to around 6ft and produces white flowers which generate up to 50,000 seeds per year.

Full protective clothing should be worn when cutting the plant by hand in order to prevent contamination.

Machine operators should take care to avoid skin contact with equipment contaminated with the toxic sap.

Hazard: Giant hogweed

Blistered: Mother Linsay shows Ciara's injuries

Eye Protection

You will be aware that Network Rail have initiated a new policy relating to the wearing of eye protection on track asset work sites. This policy came into effect on 01/09/11. The requirements of the policy have changed over the last few weeks and have now been agreed to be as specified in the attached email.

Please ensure that you go fully equipped with suitable eye protection and aware of the requirement to have the eye protection available to wear when the task requires.

You will also be alerted by the SACs to when signing in onto our work sites that they must carry with them onto site their eye protection.

Accident at Hither Green Depot

A lorry driver employed by Quattro was collecting a Road Rail Vehicle and trailer from the approach road at Hither Green Maintenance depot. The depot and the approach road are owned by Network Rail, however all areas, including the approach road, are also utilised by Thameslink Project, Balfour Beatty and DB Schenker. The Road Rail Vehicle had been left on the verge adjacent to Road Rail Vehicle access point, on Network Rail owned land, just outside access gate into depot. The Road Rail Vehicle and trailer had been loaded and it is understood that the driver was in the process of securing the load while standing on the roadway. An assistant, also employed by Quattro was working on the opposite side of the vehicle. Another lorry owned by Gatwick Group, having made a delivery to Balfour Beatty, exited the depot gates and passed the Quattro lorry.



From marks at the scene, it is believed the front offside wheel mounted the kerb, onto a grass verge. It is believed the rear wheel failed to follow the front and was constrained by the kerb. It is believed the rear of the moving lorry crushed the injured person against his lorry.

An ambulance was summoned immediately. The accident was attended by Metropolitan Police, British Transport Police, and Health & Safety Inspectors from the Office of the Rail Regulator and the Health & Safety Executive, together with Network Rail managers. The injured person was airlifted to hospital and underwent an operation for a punctured lung. All of his ribs are broken. He remains in the Intensive Care Unit, in a drug induced coma and on a ventilator.

- All employees and contractors are to be briefed on the circumstances of this accident and reminded of the risks in and around depots and access roads from moving vehicles.
- All employees must consider and implement a safe system of work when working on the off side of a vehicle on the public highway.
- When using Road Rail Vehicles, employees must consider the arrangements in place for delivery/collection of the Road Rail Vehicle.

Agency Worker Regulation

The Agency Workers Regulations will come into force in England, Scotland and Wales on 1 October 2011. In Northern Ireland the Agency Workers (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2011 will come into effect on 1 December 2011. The Regulations will give agency workers the right to the same basic working and employment conditions they would receive if they were engaged directly by an end user client to do the same job; this is limited to conditions that relate to pay and working time. Agency workers will also be entitled to access on-site facilities that an end user client provides to its own workers and to be advised by a client of vacancies which arise in the client's business.

The Agency Worker Regulations define an Agency Worker. A broad definition of an agency worker is the individual typically supplied by employment businesses to a client to work under the client's direction and supervision. If you fall within the wider definition of an Agency Worker as detailed within the Regulations, you will be deemed within the scope of the Regulations and entitled to the same basic working and employment conditions they would receive if they were engaged directly by an end user client to do the same job. The Regulations do not apply to: workers who have found a "perm" job with a client, even if they were introduced by an agency; workers who are genuinely in business on their own account (i.e. genuinely self-employed) will not be within scope. Workers engaged via umbrella companies or other intermediaries will be in scope unless they are genuinely self employed. If you require more information on the Agency Worker Regulations, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Bribery Act

The Bribery Act 2010 came into force on July 2011. The Act creates an offence which can be committed by commercial organizations which fail to prevent persons associated with them from committing acts of corruption on their behalf. The Act introduces a new crime of "failure to prevent" bribery, which means that companies unable to demonstrate that they have implemented "adequate procedures" to prevent corrupt practices within their ranks, or by third parties on their behalf, could be exposed to unlimited fines as well as other collateral consequences. Resourcing Solutions values its reputation for ethical behaviour and for reliability and have developed a host of documentation and practices to ensure compliance and reduce the risk of bribery. If you recognize any forms of bribery, then please report it via the On Call Management System.

Timesheet Signatures

Following a recent incident, we believe it is important to reiterate the importance of ensuring that your timesheets are signed by an appropriate and authorizing person either on site or in line with the supporting process dictated by Resourcing Solutions or the client.

Under no circumstances shall a forged signature be acceptable for payment or acceptable to Resourcing Solutions as a code of practice. If you have difficulties securing an appropriate signature on your timesheet for the work you have undertaken, then please contact the Payroll Team at Resourcing Solutions and they will help you.