



## **SUBJECT:** Highway to Hell

**RECIPIENTS:** Highways

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### **£90k fine for putting public at risk during street works**

The company has been prosecuted by a local authority for putting the public at risk during street works.

During works, The company failed to properly sign and guard the work area and also used the wrong traffic management methods.

Despite repeated demands by the authority, the company also failed to take actions to improve the situation, leading to unsafe conditions for road users, pedestrians and cyclists.

The company pleaded guilty to the unsafe execution of street works, with significant risk to public safety, at Magistrates Court. It was fined £90,000 and ordered to pay a further £3,394 in court costs.

It is the second time in 12 months the authority has taken the utility company to court for unsafe working practices as part of its commitment to tackle poorly managed, or unsafe roadworks.

In passing sentence, the District Judge said: "There is clearly a disconnect between the company and its contractors, consistently resulting in a number of these breaches, which must be fixed to avoid future offences".

"It took over a day for the company to rectify these faults despite the works taking place in a busy part of the City with substantial impact on traffic. The response was unacceptably slow in my view and I hope that is reflected in my sentence."

The authority's director of network management, said: "The safety of the public and workers should be top priority when undertaking roadworks. We have prosecuted company for street works offences 47 times since 2010 and they still continue to breach the rules.

"It is absolutely vital that companies ensure safety on site and we will always push for the strongest possible action against those that put the public at risk.

Further details on Temporary Traffic Signs can be found in Chapter 8 Manual, click [here](#) to view.



**If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:**

**Corporate Health & Safety Advisers (see George section: Corporate > Information for Working > Risk Management > H&S Advisers)**