



## SAFETY ALERT

### HIGH WINDS



The weather forecast for the end of this week predicts high winds. Although the forecast may change during the week it is important to plan and communicate the issues now. High winds can cause damage to property and injury as a result of:

- People being struck by flying objects/debris.
- Unsecured materials being blown from structures or other surfaces and impacting buildings and equipment.
- Objects being blown onto footpaths, carriageways, and railways.

Ensure all site activities are risk assessed, mitigations developed and communicated to take account of the risks presented by high winds. Local conditions can make gusts considerably stronger, particularly around the base of tall buildings, or at elevated and exposed positions. Conditions can change with little warning.

Suspend all crane lifting operations if the wind speed is higher than the wind allowance for the crane conducting the lift.

Loose materials that can be blown around must be stored securely, and not just at the end of a shift, but also during work activities if necessary.

Materials with a large surface area are more likely to be blown, such as boards, sheeting, hoardings, Heras type fencing (particularly if sheeted), sign boards, traffic cones and barriers. Even when laid flat, materials can be picked up by the wind and blown at speed. These must all be properly secured to minimise risk.

When finishing work at the end of a shift, allow sufficient time to clear away loose materials and rubbish, and securely store any items that are to be left in situ.

