

**Red Alert: High Priority**

# Health, Safety, Security & Environmental Protection (HSSE)

**This is a Red HSSE Alert. It's high priority and must be shared within 48 hours.**

HSSE reference number: SA-2025-22

Date issued: 16/12/2025

## Lost Time Injury – Slip, Trip & Fall

### Background

Last week a Yorkshire Water colleague slipped while descending a metal staircase at Blackburn Meadows STW and fell, striking their head. The fall resulted in a serious head injury requiring stitches, facial lacerations, and severe concussion. The emergency services were called and the injured person was transported to hospital where they were kept in overnight for observation.

The colleague was working alone at the time of the incident, completing their weekend duties, but assistance was provided by another colleague from a separate area of the site, after the Duty Manager was alerted to the incident, by the Injured Person.



## Immediate Action Taken

- Ambulance requested and site access coordinated by the Duty Manager.
- Nearest colleague was dispatched to administer First Aid.
- The staircase and surrounding area were inspected to confirm the condition of the steps and to identify any potential slip or trip hazards.
- Incident recorded on YW HSE Management System.

## Further Actions Required

### Managers

- Brief your teams on this Safety Alert within one week to ensure colleagues understand the risks associated with stairways.
- Review stairways and access routes at your sites for:
  - Condition – Inspect for wear, corrosion, damage. Ensure handrails are in place and secure.
  - Hazards – Trip hazards or obstacles nearby that could contribute to a fall.
  - Visibility – Adequate lighting.
- Remind your teams of the required safe behaviours – including the importance of using handrails, avoiding distractions (e.g., mobile phone use), and not carrying items that block vision when using stairs and/or prevent them from holding the handrail.
- Ensure colleagues who undertake lone working have access to the appropriate lone work device or mobile application and are actively using them whenever lone working is required.
- Confirm that your team's emergency contact information is up to date in SAP.

### Colleagues

- Always use handrails when ascending or descending stairs.
- Avoid distractions (e.g., mobile phones) and do not rush.
- Do not carry items that obstruct your view or prevent you from holding the handrail.
- Report any hazards such as poor lighting, obstructions or damaged steps.
- Ensure lone worker devices/applications are active when you are working alone.
- Ensure your emergency contact details are accurate and up to date in SAP.

## Further Questions

If you have any further questions, please refer to MP 67 Site Minimum Standards & MP 05 Lone Work in the first instance. If your questions are still unresolved, please email:

[yw.health.and.safety@yorkshirewater.co.uk](mailto:yw.health.and.safety@yorkshirewater.co.uk)

The person who delivers this SA to their team should now record its completion using this link <https://forms.office.com/e/WUhQL67c0i>, or the QR code (scan it with your work mobile phone). If you are asked for log in details, use your short email address, e.g., [bloggsj@yw.co.uk](mailto:bloggsj@yw.co.uk) and the password you use to log into your work computer.

