

**Safety Alert**

**Back Strain**

Whilst attending an out of hour’s emergency call for a fuel spill, an incident involving a highway operative occurred. On arrival to the site, the operative cleared up the vehicle debris and put out warning signs of the fuel spill. Whilst accessing the signs from the vehicle, the operative left the side panel up and removed the signs from the vehicle bed and lifted them over the panel, walking down the side of the vehicle. During the lifting process the operative felt a stain in his back. He continued to work, but the following day he went to the hospital, resulting in him being signed off for 10 days.

This is the second manual handling reportable incident which has arisen within the division in recent months. All emergency call outs must have a site specific risk assessment completed to assess the risk.

Lone workers must be identified with effective control in place, and lone working high risk activities must be risk assessed out.

This safety alert has been prepared by the RSTA. Completed forms for adding to the RSTA website should be submitted to Clive Mitchell [clive@rsta-uk.org](mailto:clive@rsta-uk.org) For further information regarding this safety alert please email Clive or phone 07557529410

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