

## **SafetyAlert**

October 2018

As the weather changes and darker nights draw in we historically see an increase in the number of injuries related to these conditions.

Last week one of our colleagues slipped on leaves underfoot whilst climbing over the safety barrier and suffered a serious injury to their ankle. The barrier and immediate area were well maintained and in good condition, however there was an accumulation of leaves that caused unstable conditions underfoot.

Please be aware that leaves will be gathering on footpaths, roads, verges, and with the onset of winter, there is the potential that snow and ice will affect traffic routes.



In these types of conditions you should consider the risks associated with your journey – whatever the mode.

Think about the potential risks you may face when out and about. Do not hurry or rush when outside

## **Key considerations**

Ensure you check your immediate environment for obvious trip/slip hazards

Ensure your footwear has adequate tread and is appropriate for the conditions

Ensure that people responsible for buildings, depots and outstations have plans in place to clear excess leaves and grit paths and car parks

Ensure you maintain 3 points of contact when climbing over safety barriers

Ensure you allow adequate time when travelling between offices. Do not rush or run for trains etc

Report all unsafe conditions to FM and on AIRSWeb

Further hints and tips on slips, trips and falls can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-safety-for-major-road-schemes-slips-trips-and-falls

Check the weather before you travel

For further information please contact the National Health & Safety Division via: NH&ST@highwaysengland.co.uk