

# Press release: Highways England warns of litter risk in soaring temperatures

With dry conditions on roadside verges, items thrown from passing vehicles such as glass bottles, cigarette butts and plastic can spark fires.

There have been 56 fires recorded on grass verges across England in the past 10 days near to the motorway and major A-road network managed by Highways England.

Recently, on the M5 in the Midlands, Highways England worked with the emergency services to support a serious fire involving a HGV that was carrying hay. The incident took place on the southbound carriageway last Thursday afternoon between junction 7 (Worcester south) and Strensham Services.

As well as having to deal with the fire on the vehicle and one on the carriageway, crews also had to damp down the nearby woods and a field beyond that, highlighting the scale of the problem.

Highways England emergency planning officer, Frank Bird, said:

Smoke from roadside fires can drift across motorways posing a hazard to drivers. We've seen an increase in fires on grass verges near some of our motorways, for example on the M42 in the Midlands.

With the land being so dry, it often only takes a small spark to take hold. We'd urge people to avoid throwing any items from vehicles at any time, but particularly in these hot conditions. Please take all of your litter home with you or dispose of it in a proper manner.

West Midlands Fire Service Station Commander, Marc Hudson, said:

As people would have seen across the country fire services have been dealing with a large number of grass and outdoor fires, many of these are easily prevented by people taking extra care in these very dry conditions.

With the hot, dry weather, any glass object has the potential to refract the sun's light and it's so easy for a fire to start from a discarded cigarette.

Littering at the side of the road significantly increases the risk of fire and has the potential to tie up valuable resources that could be used elsewhere which in turn could put people's lives at risk.

While Highways England clears litter, picking it up close to fast-moving traffic puts road workers at risk. It is also unsightly as well as a risk to wildlife and the environment. The company urges road users to take their litter home and are working with partners such as Keep Britain Tidy to tackle the problem at source and make littering socially unacceptable.

Every year, Highways England removes about 200,000 sacks of litter from across our motorways. Clearing litter from busy roads such as motorways is a huge challenge costing time and money which could be better spent on other priorities.

Drivers travelling in this heat wave are being advised to:

- take a bottle of water with them before setting out to ensure they stay hydrated
- plan and leave plenty of time for their journeys
- check the weather forecast for their destination
- check travel conditions before setting out and, where it is safe to do so, during journeys
- ensure their cars are fit for the journey

Figures for fires on grass verges across England in the past 10 days near to the motorway and major A-road network managed by Highways England:

#### **East region – total of 12 incidents**

##### **Road Incidents**

M25 6  
A11 1  
M40 1  
A1M 2  
M4 2

#### **West Midlands region – total of 7 incidents**

##### **Road Incidents**

M42 2  
M5 3  
M6 2

#### **South East region – total of 11 incidents**

##### **Road Incidents**

M2 1  
M20 2  
M3 2  
M23 1  
A20 1  
A2 3

## **Road Incidents**

M25 1

### **North East region – total of 16 incidents**

## **Road Incidents**

M62 9

M621 1

M1 3

A180 1

A1M 2

### **North West Region – total of 2 incidents**

## **Road Incidents**

M60 1

M61 1

### **East Midlands Region – total of 4 incidents**

## **Road Incidents**

M1 2

A57 1

A1 1

### **South West Region – total of 4 incidents**

## **General enquiries**

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

## **Media enquiries**

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

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# **[Press release: Dover dredging application decision](#)**

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has approved an application from Dover Harbour Board (DHB) to carry out aggregate dredging at Area 521, known as the South Goodwin Sands.

The marine licence granted by the MMO gives DHB permission to extract up to 3 million tonnes of aggregate by trailer suction hopper dredging, which is proposed to be undertaken between September 2019 and September 2020. This follows an application [DHB originally made to the MMO in May 2016](#). The aggregate is required to provide fill material for the wider Dover Western Docks Revival project.

The decision follows extensive public consultation, during which over 1,300 specific representations from the public were received. Issues raised during this consultation were taken into account by the applicant, the MMO and its primary advisers in determining the application.

The MMO believes it was appropriate to grant the licence because it is satisfied, on the basis of the evidence provided, the assessments that have been undertaken and on advice from its primary advisers, that sufficient measures were proposed to protect the marine environment, prevent interference with legitimate users of the seas and mitigate impacts to any other relevant matters. These measures have been captured in the marine licence conditions.

John Tuckett, Chief Executive of the Marine Management Organisation, said:

“We understand the strength of feeling surrounding this development, both for and against. As a regulator that has to balance and manage competing uses of the marine environment we accept that not everyone will be happy with the decisions we make.

“However we are entirely impartial in our marine licencing process and consider and are satisfied that this decision is based on the best available evidence and is proportionate and complies with relevant policy.”

The MMO is committed to transparency and helping people to access the evidence on which it bases its decisions. Details about this case, including the MMO’s decision report and Marine Conservation Zone assessment are available online via the public register of marine licence applications (case reference MLA/2016/00227) and via a [page on the MMO’s website](#).

Companies wanting to carry out commercial aggregate extraction may also need other permissions, such as from the Crown Estate as the owners of the seabed. More information is also available on the [Crown Estate’s website](#).

It is now up to DHB to decide whether they proceed with the dredging project.

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**[Press release: Dover dredging](#)**

# application decision

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## **Press release: Bexley attackers to spend longer in jail after Solicitor General's referral**

Two men who attacked a man outside his home will spend longer in prison after the Solicitor General, Robert Buckland QC MP, referred their sentences to the Court of Appeal for being too low.

Greg Wenham, now 36, and Jack Siksny, now 23, approached their victim as he stood outside a local Crayford pub. They took some of his belongings and threw them on the floor before giving chase when he attempted to flee. Wenham and Siksny then attacked the victim as he tried to get into his house, repeatedly punching and kicking him in the head and genitals. They dragged him into the street and continued this attack even after the victim had fallen unconscious, ignoring shouts from a neighbour, and did not stop until the police arrived.

The victim suffered multiple fractures to his face which required permanent metal implants; and he continues to suffer emotionally from the attack.

Wenham and Siksny were originally sentenced at Woolwich Crown Court in May, where they were imprisoned for 3 years 9 months and 4 years 6 months respectively. Today, after the Solicitor General's referral, the Court of Appeal increased their sentences. Wenham will now serve 6 years and Siksny 5 and a half years.

Commenting after the hearing, the Solicitor General said:

"Wenham and Siksny carried out a sustained attack against their victim, failing to stop either when called out by witnesses or when their victim fell unconscious. I am pleased that the Court of Appeal has today agreed with my referral, and hope this brings some comfort to the victim."

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## **News story: Suspension of Veterinary Medicines containing the excipient Diethanolamine (DEA)**

Suspension of Veterinary Medicines containing the excipient Diethanolamine (DEA) – GOV.UK

The VMD has suspended products for food-producing animals that contain the excipient diethanolamine (DEA).



A list of these products is below:

<b>Product</b>	<b>Vm Number</b>	<b>MAH</b>
Allevinix 50 mg/ml Solution for Injection for Cattle, Pigs and Horses	15052/4144	Ceva Animal Health Ltd
Cronyxin Injection, 5% w/v Solution for Injection	12597/4014	Cross Vetpharm Group Ltd
Dugnixon 50 mg/ml Solution for Injection for Cattle, Pigs and Horses	36167/4005	Global Vet Health S.L.
Finadyne 50 mg/ml Solution for Injection	01708/4582	Intervet UK Ltd
Flunixin 50 mg/ml Solution for Injection for Cattle, Horses and Pigs	02000/4170	Norbrook Laboratories Limited
Meflosyl 5% Solution for Injection	42058/4085	Zoetis UK Limited
Norixin 5% Solution for Injection	02000/4137	Norbrook Laboratories Limited
Pyroflam 50 mg/ml Solution for Injection for Cattle, Horses and Pigs	02000/4253	Norbrook Laboratories Limited
Tribrissen 48% Suspension for Injection	01708/4593	Intervet UK Ltd

The VMD has done this in the light of the [scientific opinion of the Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use](#) (the scientific advisory committee to the European Medicines Agency) that there may be a risk to humans from consuming food from animals treated with products containing DEA.

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Thank you for your feedback