



## NJUG CASE STUDY

### CASE STUDY 39: “On Any Workday” Safety Training

#### *WINNER OF THE 2009 NJUG SAFETY AWARD*

The National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) is the UK industry association representing utilities on street works issues. The 37 companies<sup>1</sup> we represent work to deliver gas, electricity, water and telecommunications to both individual consumers and UK plc.

NJUG members need to continue to drive forward further improvements. We have therefore developed the NJUG Vision for Street Works, which revolves around six main principles:

1. Safety is the number one priority
2. Damage to underground assets is avoided
3. Utilities work together and in partnership with local authorities to minimise disruption
4. Utilities deliver consistent high quality
5. Utilities maximize use of sustainable methods and materials
6. Street works in the UK are regarded as world class

This case study is an example of NJUG delivering on these principles and turning the vision into reality.

#### **Overview:**

Following recent changes in the law, EDF Energy recognised a necessity to create and develop an all new training approach to update existing NRSWA license holders on regulatory developments. In particular, this need was identified following the implementation of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007:

*“An organisation is guilty of an offence of Corporate Manslaughter if the way in which any of its activities are managed or organised by its senior managers: Causes a person’s death and amounts to a gross breach of a relevant duty of care owed by the organisation to the deceased.”*

As a result, it was deemed necessary to develop a new concept of refresher training, through a dynamic DVD teaching aid. The combined efforts of the Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk Highway Authorities, EDF Energy’s own alliance contract partners and the Zero Harm Team all assisted in the production of the safety training DVD, titled “On any Workday”. The partnership of those parties involved in its creation was an essential element of the production process, without which the DVD could not have been created.

The initial interest generated by the safety training course and DVD has been so great that already a number of highway authorities and contractors are considering incorporating it as a part of their safety training program for their own people working on the highway.

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<sup>1</sup> NJUG’s current members are Energy Networks Association (representing electricity and gas), Water UK (representing all water and wastewater companies), National Grid, Openreach, and Virgin Media. Our associate members are Clancy Docwra, Skanska McNicholas, Balfour Beatty, Morrison Utility Services, Morgan Est, NACAP, PJ Keary, First Intervention, Carillion, Enterprise, Laing O’Rourke and AMEC. Including members through trade associations, NJUG represents thirty-seven utility companies, and twelve utility contractors.

## **Case Study:**

This training DVD has become a fundamental part of EDF Energy's new "Safety at Street Works" refresher training and is designed for both operatives and supervisors that already hold NRSWA certifications in units 2 and 10 signing, lighting and guarding. The powerful hard-hitting production is designed to convince the targeted audience that:

- Liability may fall upon individual members of staff and not the company;
- Criminal prosecution and imprisonment could follow, despite a previously reliable and responsible work record;
- Responsibility for safety at road and street works is everyone's responsibility and a number one priority.

Furthermore this refresher safety training course and DVD is an effective solution and provides a glossary of ideas for the viewing audience to share and learn from.

The DVD content is in two parts, allowing for a midway discussion for viewers to discuss and feedback and analyse the subject matter. Part One (just over nine and a half minutes) demonstrates a fictional but very realistic dramatised life-changing incident based on certain key factors:

- A contractor's excavation team had carried out the correct safety measures of positioning signs, guards and lighting - to conform to the Street Works Code of Practice within the Red Book;
- An unreported disturbance of those safety measures;
- An experienced Jointer failing to check that the safety measures have been disturbed;
- A fatal accident resulting directly from the lack of these safety measures;
- A pedestrian victim and driver who are entirely blameless;
- The subsequent actions taken by the police and investigation teams;
- The result of the criminal prosecution against the Jointer.

Part Two (with a running time of four and a half minutes) commences with the excavation team correctly performing and recording their safety checks before leaving the site. From this point on, there is an alternative sequence of events seen from the perspective of the Jointer in which he arrives on site and acts by-the-book, and not allowing distractions to interfere. He calls for assistance to restore the damaged signage and equipment and assumes control of the worksite using his initiative to avert any immediate danger and to assist pedestrians as, this time, the truck drives by the mother and child safely.

This refresher training course is packed with ideas and updates to improve and develop a safe hands-on attitude and Zero Harm practices that should be implemented to every day job roles.

- Firstly, looking at how our actions impact on and work with those around us, whether work colleagues, contractors, authorities or the general public;
- Secondly, as competent professionals we had to look internally at ourselves and the way that we think, operate and act regardless of distractions;
- Finally, is our duty of care to the public always being implemented and delivered?

Communicating and working with dedicated partners will always play a key part of safety, success and growth within the street works industry and for this reason EDF Energy are working on how this training package and DVD can be used by other utilities, contractors and authorities beyond those they currently work with.

