



Amey for Safe Dig Mentor

Winner of the Street Works UK Outstanding Contribution award 2017

Street Works UK is the UK industry association representing utilities solely on street works issues. Street Works UK represents some 56 utility companies and contractors engaged in the street works sector, and 18 specialist sub-contractors who provide equipment, materials and services supporting street works activities. Our members represent major contributors to economic growth and work to deliver gas, electricity, water and telecommunications to both individual consumers and UK plc. In order to continue this drive for further improvements within the industry – we have developed the Street Works UK Vision for Street Works, which revolves around seven main principles:

- Safety
- High Quality
- Minimise Disruption
- Keep the Public Fully Informed
- Sustainable Methods and Materials
- Avoid Damage to Underground Assets
- Innovation

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

Overview

Carl Flint has worked on the wastewater network for 19 years as a civils team leader. He has a wealth of experience in the industry and is considered a role model by many of his peers for his continuous drive to improve the way we work. Within Amey, we saw the opportunity to utilise Carl and his skills to positively impact and improve our performance across the operation.

What have we done?

Carl has renovated his van to enable demonstration of all aspects of safe digging practices, using a cat and genny specifically. Modifications have included:

- Laptop station added to enable Ecat 4+ data downloads live on site.
- Dummy lamp column to demonstrate genny connections.
- Mock site environment i.e. virgin media wall connections.





Carl is now working his way around our operations to act as a coach and mentor for safer, more effective ways of working. For example, his is currently undertaking a lot of work on the use of cat and gennys with all our teams. He is working with the teams to educate and enhance their existing knowledge in live site environments. Therefore, sharing best practice and ensuring our workforce remain safe. Whilst on site, Carl is able to download data from the Ecat 4+ and demonstrate and advise on improved usage. He can also explain what the data means in real terms, to help the workforce understand Amey's requirements.

What Impact has this had?

This is a new way of working which enables a full time resource to work with teams, speak to them at a level they understand and coach them into better practices. We found that operatives were much more engaged speaking to someone at their level, and this approach is resulting in a safer culture with the workforce. This is generating a real positive and live experience for all operatives to ensure the correct safety culture is driven throughout the business. Carl has the ability to answer and resolve any concerns highlighted in real time, and he is becoming a key point of contact for operatives regarding safe digging avoidance techniques.