



Jason anchors the health & safety message

Kier Northern is using the assistance of Jason Anker, who was paralysed due to an avoidable incident on a construction site in 1994, to highlight the importance of listening to key behavioural safety messages when working on site.

Jason attended two roadshows in Warrington and Leeds and visited sites at ESSA Academy in Bolton and HMP Moorland in Doncaster. He gave a detailed presentation on the accident itself, the initial aftermath and how it has since affected his life and the lives of those around him. Feedback from the site teams has been very positive and Jason has since been booked to attend another Kier Northern site in May.

Kier Northern managing director Nigel Brook, who introduced Jason at the roadshows, said: "Jason has an incredible story to tell which touches people at all levels. Using Jason is a very effective way of getting the behavioural safety message across to everyone."

Jason commented that he enjoyed these two events as he was able to communicate both with the directors of the business and general site operatives about the impact this has had on his life and the importance of staying safe. He said: "You may think that being in a wheelchair is the worst that can happen. It isn't. My mistake is costing me 'a normal life' but far worse than that, my friends, my parents and my children are paying a heavy price."

Protecting the public

With the Easter holidays fast approaching we should all remember to ensure our sites are secure and members of the public are kept away from danger. In particular we need to consider children and young people who may be drawn to construction sites as exciting places to play. The following specific steps are particularly relevant to ensure child safety:

- Secure sites adequately when finishing work for the day
- Barrier off or cover over excavations and pits
- Isolate and immobilise vehicles (remove keys) and plant and if possible lock them in a compound
- Store building materials so they can not topple or roll over
- Remove access ladders from excavations and scaffolds
- Lock away hazardous substances.

For further advice on protecting the public please speak to your regional safety manager or advisor. Alternatively, 'Protecting the Public – your next move', is freely available to download from the Health and Safety Executive's website, www.hse.gov.uk.