



Learning Event – Wind Damage to Fencing

Damage has been caused to temporary fencing on site by high winds. Temporary mesh fencing (i.e. Heras type fencing) was fitted with debris netting to screen off the demolition work area from a live school for aesthetic reasons and also to help control risks of debris blowing through the mesh fencing. No persons were injured as this happened over a weekend when the school was not occupied by staff or students.

At the point of failure, it is likely that components (fencing clips etc.) failed first, leading to the overall failure of the fence panels. Efforts had been made to increase the ballast weights of the fencing due to the forecasted wind speeds, but no formal Temporary Works design was in place to give definitive details on the required fencing components and amount of ballast.

Causes

- Debris netting increased the wind loading on the fence components and ballast weight ultimately leading to failure. The construction of the fencing was not suitable to cope with the wind loading experienced during the weekends weather.
- No formal Temporary Works design was in place for the application of the debris netting to this type of fencing.

Actions to be taken by all projects

Although the use of this type of fencing is common within the construction industry, there are significant temporary works considerations required for temporary fencing, especially where debris netting is to be applied.

- All Temporary fencing must be included on the project's temporary works schedule and a TW2 Design Brief developed (regardless of whether sheeting or netting is applied)
- Manufacturer's standard designs can be used if the configuration is in accordance with their design requirements.
- Where any sheeting or netting is applied, a bespoke temporary works design must be sought.

DO NOT AFFIX DEBRIS NETTING IF A TEMPORARY WORKS DESIGN IS NOT IN PLACE

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REFERENCE	ISSUED	DISPLAY UNTIL
SHE-ALT-2025_25	23/10/25	When relevant to current site risks