

BENCHPRESS

Text Alerts to Mobiles Weather Warnings and Safety Information Updates



Many of you will already be familiar with our new innovation of 'text alerts' which is our new system for alerting our site teams of adverse weather conditions and relevant safety information.

Currently these alerts are sent out when appropriate to all of our key operational people including Contracts Managers, Site Managers, Site Supervisors, Chargehands and leading hands on all our projects.

Every day, Vicky, in Hanwell, and Georgina, in Barnsley, check the Met Office website for the prevailing weather forecasts and then send a warning text out to the people on site so that they may take the necessary action to prevent an incident on our projects.

Peter Booth came up with the idea following a meeting with Jeremy James who was at the time UK Head of Health and Safety for Bovis Lend Lease. Jeremy, who has since moved on to become the Lend Lease Head of Health and Safety for the Athletes Village in Stratford, had challenged us to come up with a procedure to inform our people of potential issues due to the adverse weather, and this solution ticks the box.

We still needed a matrix to grade the level of alert and the required action that should be taken in advance of the weather condition and since Bovis were the catalyst for this procedure it seemed appropriate to use their grading matrix as the basis for the table displayed on this page for your information.

If you are not yet on the list to receive these alerts and think it would be beneficial to be added to the circulation please contact Vicky or Georgina to be included on the list in future.

We would be happy to see our competitors copy our initiative in introducing this system since imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Thanks to Jeremy for raising this challenge and to Peter for coming up with the answer.

Regards
Rob West – Managing Director

WIND ALERT LEVELS



READINESS CODE	AVERAGE WIND SPEED	GUST SPEED	BENCHMARK TEXT NARRATIVE
GREEN	BELOW 17 MPH 27 Km/h	25 MPH 40Km/h OR BELOW	NO TEXT REQUIRED
YELLOW	17 MPH OR ABOVE 27Km/h	26 MPH 42 Km/h OR ABOVE	NO TEXT REQUIRED
BLUE	23 MPH OR ABOVE 37 Km/h	35 MPH 56 Km/h OR ABOVE	WEATHER ALERT: 35 MPH WINDS OR ABOVE ON --/-- STOP ROOF SHEETING OR MONARFLEX WORK REMOVE OR SECURE ALL LOOSE MATERIALS
RED	AVERAGE 38 MPH OR ABOVE 61Km/h or AVERAGE 30 MPH 48 Km/h WITH GUSTS OF	45 MPH 71 Km/h OR ABOVE	WEATHER ALERT: 45 MPH GUSTS OR ABOVE ON --/-- CEASE CRANE & HOIST USE WHERE EXPOSED STOP ROOF SHEETING OR MONARFLEX WORK REMOVE OR SECURE ALL LOOSE MATERIALS INSPECT SCAFFOLD; CHECK TIES AND BOARDS
BLACK	AVERAGE 45 MPH 71 Km/h WITH GUSTS OF	50 MPH 80 Km/h OR ABOVE	WEATHER ALERT: 50 MPH GUSTS OR ABOVE ON --/-- CEASE ALL EXTERNAL OR EXPOSED ACTIVITIES REMOVE OR SECURE ALL LOOSE MATERIALS INSPECT SCAFFOLD; CHECK TIES AND BOARDS ONLY WORK IF SAFE TO DO SO

Benchmark have only one “Goal” in mind at Wembley City

Benchmark have been contracted by Prater to supply all the scaffolding on the Wembley W05 project which is situated next to Wembley Stadium.

The Developer is Quintain Estates and Developers PLC, and the main contractor is J Sisk Ltd.

There are two buildings, a 656 room student accommodation building and a Hilton Hotel.

The scheme comprises fully boarded access scaffolds to all external elevations and two large internal courtyards for curtain walling and render finish. There are also twelve loading bays, twelve full height (9 floors) Haki staircases, six hoist run off towers and other associated scaffold works.

The initial value of the contract is £613,000.

With the hard work of a strong team on site headed by our site manager Tom Venables Snr, our “Goal” is to give a first class service on the project in regards to ensuring we give the highest quality finished product, within programme, and have a good health and safety record throughout the the project, therefore putting Benchmark in prime position to win the next phase of the development which is W07.

This phase comprises retail outlets, restaurants and bars with a large cinema on the top floor. Further phases are planned over the next eight years.

Eamonn Golledge
Senior Contracts Manager – London Region



“Scafflite”



“We are proud to introduce “Scafflite” our new lightweight, low carbon, low price scaffolding solution for the discerning buyer”.

This photograph was taken by Raj Bains of Irvine-Whitlock on one of his recent visits to the “Construction Innovations Exhibition” in India, and Raj knows a good scaffold when he sees one!

Keith Slight—Commercial Director



SG4:You

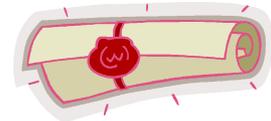
The user guide to SG4: 10

The NASC 'SG4:You' guidance is now available and has been distributed to all our scaffolders. It is the industry guidance for preventing falls in scaffolding. All the previous SG4 guidance notes have helped to dramatically reduce the number of scaffolder falls in the industry and, since the introduction of SG4:05, no fatalities were reported by NASC members. A statistic to be proud of! In the last five years the range and availability of fall protection equipment has developed greatly so now scaffolders are no longer at risk from a fall and should be within a safe zone when working on most structures. Unprotected traversing at an exposed edge is deemed as no longer acceptable by the enforcing authorities so fall protection must be in place. The industry is now the safest it has ever been and that has to be a good thing in such a high risk profession.

Billy Wood—Contracts Manager/SHE Advisor
Northern Region



Congratulations job well done



*Anthony James & Ahmed Khalil
have been awarded breakfast
vouchers for:-*

- ★ *the safety work they have completed on G2 roof*
- ★ *installing very good access to the raised areas*
- ★ *continually showing a good attitude towards Health & Safety*
- ★ *they are always very responsive when requested to help completed safety works.*

*Mark Colton—Senior Safety Advisor
CallifordTry—Athletes Village*



SAFETY AWARDS

December

Wayne Clarke won the Northern award whilst working on the Vinci, Bents Green School. He developed a safe system of work which enabled a temporary roof to be dismantled without the aid of a crane and minimizing the time working on the beams.

Simon Dabbs won the London award whilst working on Project Slam. As quoted by the Senior Site Manager: "he has supervised his team with safety first at all times. He has been on and off the project many times but his standard never diminishes".

January

Gary Davies won the Northern award whilst working on the Carillion, Jesse Boot School. When doors have been fitted with plastic opaque curtains, Gary pointed out to the Principal Contractor that this created a hazard, especially walking out into a scaffold. The Principal Contractor changed these for clear curtains.

Dave Isbell won the London award whilst working the Athletes Village. Other scaffolders (non BSL) had been instructed by others to alter BSL scaffolds. When Dave discovered this, he denied access to the scaffold and informed the Principal Contractor who started an investigation.

February

Dean Gardner won the Northern award on the Bardsley Construction, Blackburn site for managing a challenging site in respect of movement of materials. This task has to be done manually and Dean is ensuring this is done safely.

Chris Roberts won the London award on the Athletes Village for paying special attention to ensuring that the tasks are carried out using the correct safe system of works in accordance with the IIF ethos.



**our resident Welshman
& Commercial Manager
celebrating St. David's Day**

London Region



Jarvale Construction Northern General Hospital Clock Tower



The Hospital started out in 1878 as Fir Vale Workhouse, which also contained the Smilter Lane/Herries Road Children's Homes.

By 1967, the site contained two Hospitals which had developed from the Workhouse; Fir Vale Infirmary and the City General Hospital. This overall entity was then renamed as the Northern General Hospital

The building was built in 1878 and opened in 1881 as the Sheffield Union

Workhouse. The Clock Tower building was the main entrance - for staff and visitors, but (presumably) not for the inmates. The whole building was a quarter of a mile in length. The Clock Tower building is in use as offices and as an Art Gallery / Display Area and as such is open to the public.

Our good friends at Jarvale invited us to price the front of the clock tower building, the job was to be erected in phases in order to release the car parking spaces we were using for our materials. The job is erected in 2m lifts for the cleaning of the brickwork, general repairs & re-roofing. All finished off in reinforced plastic sheeting.

The clock tower itself was a rather hard nut to crack, we used 750 Haki-Tech alloy beams drill fixed into the brickwork & "punched up" in order to gain access to all 4 sides.

A big thanks goes out to Martin Clarkson who supervised the job, Gary Davies (his right hand man), Johnny Boothroyd & Gavin "Digger" Dixon who have done an astounding job & not forgetting Bob Young & Alan Abraham for their excellent designs.

Mark Knitter
Estimator Surveyor
Northern Region



A Twin bundle of joy!

London Region

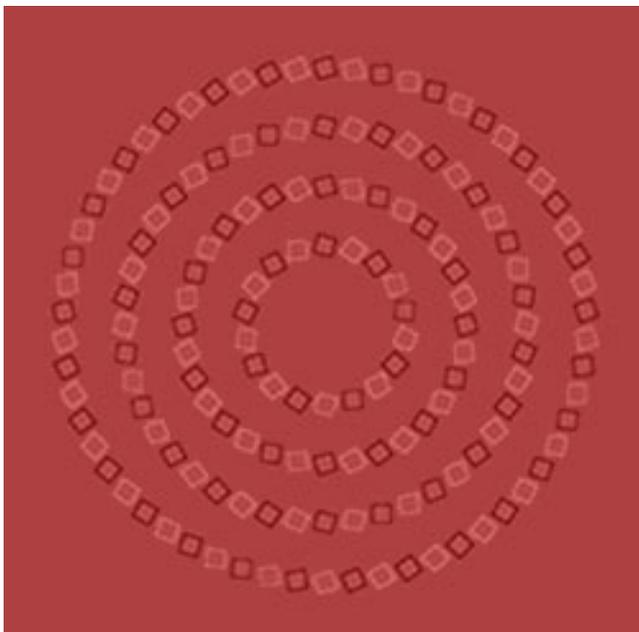
Eamonn Golledge has become the proud grandad to identical twins Xanthie Lulu 6 pound 8 ounces and Beatrice Lola 5 pound 15 ounces. Natalie, Eamonn's eldest daughter was taken to hospital at 6am on 27th February and they were born at 11.00am, 5 minutes apart. Mother and babies are all doing fine, but dad Andrew is worried about the cost of weddings in 20 years time. They already have another daughter Isabella aged 4. Eamonn's other daughter, Sophie, gave birth to Evan last October. Add these 4 grandchildren to Eamonn's fiancée Lynda's 4 grand children and Christmas is about to get a lot more expensive in the Golledge household.



HOW DO THE CIRCLES APPEAR?

- *Crossed?*
- *Parallel?*
- *Both?*

Things aren't always what they appear so take extra care in snow and ice or you might not live to regret it!!!



Billy Wood—Contracts Manager/SHE Advisor
Barnsley Region

Answers

to the dingbats quiz from
the Winter Edition

Left to Right

Coffee break, Bits & Bobs, 1 step forward 2 steps back,
Big/Great Misunderstanding, Little house on the prairie, Big bang, Mutiny on the
high seas, Feed back, Gross injustice, Blue movie, Split personality, Tool box.

If you've recently had a new addition to your family,
or a birthday coming up
send us a photo to the Barnsley office
and we'll make sure we show them in the next edition
or you could email us

barnsley@benchmarkscaffolding.com

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Kiera and Ella Lane spent the whole of
Christmas in Cinderella, a Panto with
Gillian Taylforth from The Bill
and Eastenders!

Barry Lane—Site Manager
London Region

Our *vision* is to be the scaffolding contractor
of choice to our customers and employer of
choice to our people.

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Our *mission* is to not only "Set the Standards"
but to progressively and continuously raise
them across all aspects of our business.

Meet our little pussy-cat Macie Lea
Bradbury aged 4 dancing on the big
stage, on her own, in her local dance
festival in the February half-term
holidays. She was also in the local
pantomime Jack & the Beanstalk in
January.

Georgina & Mark Bradbury
Northern Region



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