



## Did you know? ...

### Safety Critical Work

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In some activities within the construction industry the consequences of a worker suddenly becoming ill could not only affect their own health and safety but also that of others. The term "Safety Critical Work" (SCW) has been used for such activities.

**Within the CBH standards SCW is defined as:**

**"Where the ill health of an individual may compromise their ability to undertake a task defined as safety critical, thereby posing a significant risk to the health and safety of others."**

Jobs such as mobile plant operators, asbestos licensed workers, tunnellers or working in specific situations, for example rail trackside, high speed road, working in a confined space or working at height where collective preventative measures to control risk are not practicable have all been described as SCW.



Also a suitable risk assessment should identify whether the activity has a safety critical nature and in the event of worker incapacity would it be likely to result in a significant risk of harm to the worker doing the job or to others.

It is therefore important that those doing SCW should not be suffering from medical conditions, or be taking medical treatment that is likely to cause sudden loss of consciousness or incapacity, impairment or awareness, concentration, balance or co-ordination or significant limitation of mobility. Some of those questions you can ask yourself are:

- Is your eyesight good enough to do your job safely?
- Can you hear the warning sounds?
- Diabetes can lead to collapse – have you been tested?
- There are no symptoms of high blood pressure – how do you know if yours is within safe limits
- Are you sure your colleague's health won't affect your own health and safety?
- Be safe – have a health check!



### **In other words**

If a worker is unaware of suffering with really high blood pressure, or having developed diabetes, it is possible that he or she could collapse without warning. For this reason CBH recommends regular health checks of workers undertaking SCW to protect their own health and safety and that of others. By doing so the individual can receive the appropriate treatment and accidents can be prevented.

### **What should I do if I am worried about my health?**

Speak to your manager or the occupational health nurse or doctor, for general advice you can contact CBH on 0845 873 7726

