

The Hidden Hazard: 'Abuse Against Roadworkers'.

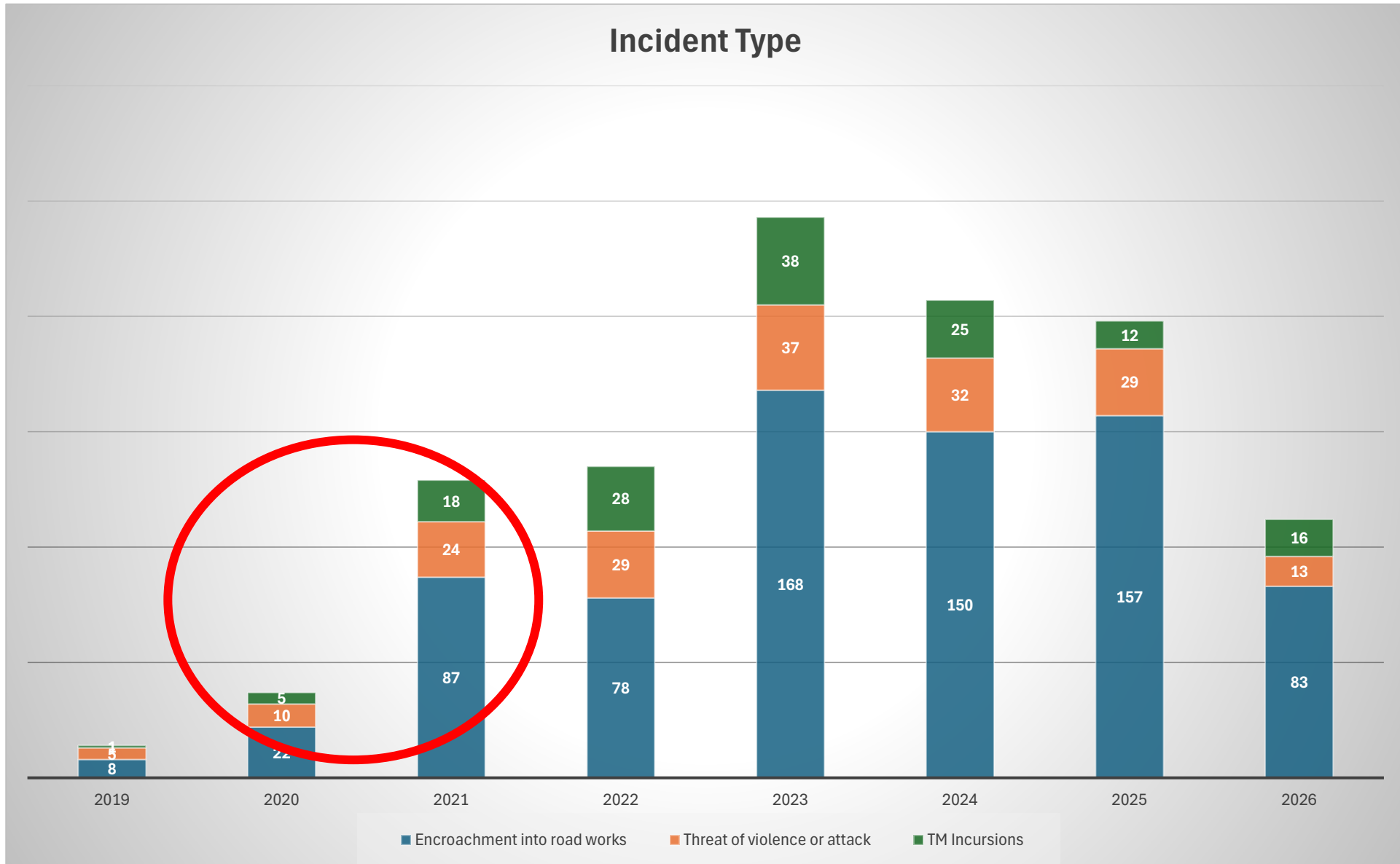
Richard Harris – Account Director, Staffordshire Highways

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Event Summary

Two arboricultural team members assaulted by member of public due to complaints of noise. Both team members sustained head injuries but not requiring medical attention. Member of public disappeared into apartments of an unknown address.



Encroachment into Roadworks

Encroachment into road works generally means a vehicle, pedestrian, plant item, or other object enters the actual works area where construction or maintenance activities are taking place.

- The vehicle continues beyond the protected zone and enters the actual work site where operatives, machinery, or excavations are present.
- This is generally considered the more serious event because it directly threatens workers and equipment.



Traffic management incursion usually means a vehicle enters the area protected by the temporary traffic management (cones, barriers, lane closures, tapers, signs, etc.) without authorization, whether or not it reaches the active work zone. An incursion is commonly defined by the highways industry as an unauthorized entry into temporary traffic management.

- A driver passes through the cones and enters the closed lane.
- They may stop or return before reaching workers.
- This is still an incursion because they entered the temporary traffic management area.



Threat of Violence or Attack

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VRN: FE22XHP
Location: Bettys Lane, Cannock, WS11 9, United Kingdom
Speed: 0 MPH
Lat/Lon: 52.66585 -1.97305







21/04/2026 19:09:47 (Europe/London)

Report, Educate, Communicate



Social Media

 **Lindon Talbot** · 7w ·  by author
Nobody should be abused for doing their job, other employers from other companies won't put up with it so why do a lot of people think it's ok to abuse people if they work for the council

Reply  9  

 **Lisa Bellamy** · 7w ·  by author
Awful behaviour and not acceptable! It's not going to speed up the work being done either is it 🙄


Reply  2  


 **Karen Coker** · 7w ·  by author
The number of posts that seem to suggest that this is not ok BUT it's probably due to X, Y & Z is a worry. There's never an excuse for these sorts of actions.


Reply  7  

View 1 reply



Staffordshire County Council 

28 Apr · 

We have zero tolerance for abuse towards our roadworkers 

As our road repair season gets under way across #Staffordshire, we're seeing a worrying rise in dangerous driving and abuse towards the people working on our roads.





This includes drivers ignoring road closure signs, squeezing past works and putting lives at risk.




In one recent incident, a member of road crew fell after being clipped by a car and then threatened by the driver. Since the start of the year, dozens of similar incidents have been recorded 🙄

We understand roadworks can be frustrating, but there is no excuse for abuse, threats or dangerous behaviour. Incidents are being recorded and passed to the police, and we will always support our crews.




These workers are real people. They could be your neighbour, someone's mum or dad, or even a grandparent, simply doing their job to keep everyone moving safely.

Everyone deserves to feel safe at work. Abuse is not okay and it never will be!

  You and 509 others  556 comments  58 shares

 Like  Comment  Share

 **Russell Smith** · 7w
Maybe they did the jobs quicker and not take months for a simple job there would not be any abuse to throw at them but when you see them gossiping and messing around it's deserved

Reply  3  



 **Mark Beardmore** · 7w
Might get less abuse if they actually sorted the roads out, granted it's not the workers fault but Staffordshires roads are a disgrace

Reply  4  

View 6 replies

 **Harrietofthehall** · 7w
We've suffered these potholes for months and months, now they decide to repair them when the cost of fuel is sky high, due to diversions I've done over 240 extra miles, thanks SCC where do I claim my fuel costs back? Council tax gone up, road tax gone up, now I have to divert 42 miles a day, (7 miles x 6 journeys) when my journey should be 15 miles per day. These road works have gone on for the past 4 weeks!

No notice given for the last 2 weeks.
No wonder people are p****ed off!!

Reply  6  

Body & Dash Cameras

- All our >3.5t vehicles are fitted with 360° cameras recording constantly.
- All teams have at least 1 body camera.
- TM teams mandated to wear body cameras
 - Up to 12 Hours of Continuous Night-vision Capabilities
 - Pre-Record



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Staffordshire Police – We will act against anyone found to be breaking the law at roadworks. The evidence of witness statements alone is usually not enough to prosecute; however, camera footage is the easiest way to provide reliable evidence in a court of law.



The critical national statistics and insights include:

- **Verbal Abuse:** Up to 88% of road workers report being subjected to verbal abuse, with 50% facing it on a weekly basis.
- **Physical Abuse:** Approximately 1 in 10 operatives experience physical assault annually, and 1 in 5 report having objects thrown at them.
- **Incursions:** Major road networks average nearly 300 incursions and abuse incidents per week as reckless drivers mount pavements or ignore coned-off closures.
- **Under-reporting:** Although industry groups—such as the ‘Stamp it Out’ campaign—record thousands of incidents every year, up to 80% go unreported due to the normalization of abuse as an "occupational hazard".



Questions