



# HEALTH & SAFETY ALERT

## SEVERE HIGH WINDS

### WHAT HAPPENED

#### Property damage following severe high winds

Over the past week, weather storms have been causing mass disruption throughout the UK. On the morning of Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022, storm Malik recorded 93mph gusts within certain parts of the UK. One site in particular seemed to face the brunt of such forces whereby the gusts managed to lift a full set of fitted joists and glued flooring from the blockwork, travel 50+ metres through the air and crash into an occupied house causing significant structural damage to the property and vehicles within the vicinity. Astonishingly, it is believed that the joists and flooring weighed numerous tonnes in total weight therefore shows the sheer strength of the gusts experienced on this day.

Fortunately, no one was injured although both the police and fire brigade attended site immediately to ensure no further risk within the vicinity.

### ACTION TO TAKE

#### WHO NEEDS TO TAKE ACTION: Contracts Managers, SMs/ ASMs, Site Agents and Site Teams

#### WHAT TO DO

Site management and site teams must monitor the weather and proactively react to any forecasted weather warnings that may effect their site, especially Amber and Red warnings issued by the Met Office.

After a weather warning from the Met Office has been received, the following action must be carried out as a matter of urgency:

- Assess whether all working at height needs to cease.
- Ensure that loose materials are secured, especially material such as plasterboard, flooring or sheets of plywood, remove any of this type of loose material from scaffolds and flat roofs.
- Ensure that skips are securely covered over.
- Remove materials that are stored on top of containers.
- Do not store any materials close to the perimeter fence.
- Do not use monoflex material on Herras fencing unless you have a wind loading design.
- Load out/weigh down exposed floors with materials such as packs of blocks (do not overload, follow the floor manufacture guidance). Consider strapping down the floor.
- Ensure that scaffold boards are suitably fixed.
- Ensure lightweight material such as Kingspan insulation or Claymaster polystyrene type material are secured and weighed down or stored inside a plot or container.